

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/42/96

19 July 1996

Further information on UA 241/95 (AMR 23/63/95, 19 October 1995) and follow-ups (AMR 23/21/96, 24 April 1996; AMR 23/23/96, 26 April; AMR 23/27/96, 20 May; AMR 23/33/96, 17 June) - Fear for safety

COLOMBIA Civilian population of Remedios and Segovia, Antioquia

Paramilitary threats against residents of Segovia and Remedios continue, despite the announcement of new security measures and the increased presence of members of the security forces in the two communities.

On 10 May 1996 the Governor of the department of Antioquia, Alvaro Uribe Vélez, issued decree 2035 by which Segovia and Remedios have been declared *Zonas Especiales de Orden Público*, Special Public Order Zones. The decree has resulted in the imposition of an evening curfew and restrictions on freedom of movement of residents amongst other measures. As a result of the curfew, only security force patrols are present in the town's streets at night.

Despite these measures, on the evening of 15 July walls in the main streets were daubed with graffiti signed by the paramilitary group *Muerte a Comunistas y Guerrilleros* (MACOGUE), Death to Communists and Guerrillas. One slogan reads: *Porque amamos a nuestro pueblo, estamos con el ejército, Fuera Guerrilleros de Segovia*, "Because we love our community, we are with the army, Guerrillas get out of Segovia".

The appearance of the graffiti follows the killing of 14 people, wounding of 15 people and "disappearance" of two other people in Segovia by a paramilitary group operating with the support of the security forces. (See original UA and previous updates for details).

Appeals based on earlier updates may continue, and in addition:

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or in your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of the civilian population of Segovia and Remedios, northeast Antioquia, in view of the paramilitary slogans on the walls of the main streets of Segovia;
- expressing concern that these slogans appeared despite an increased presence of the security forces on the streets of Segovia;
- urging the government to immediately fulfil its commitment to disband paramilitary forces presently operating as auxiliaries of the armed forces or with armed forces' complicity, and for members of such forces responsible for human rights violations to be brought to justice.

**if possible also:**

- urge that there be full and impartial investigations into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Remedios and Segovia and that those members of the security forces responsible for supporting such groups be brought to justice;

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Samper, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 289 3377/286 7434**  
**Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper**

2) Governor of Antioquia  
Sr. Alvaro Uribe Velez  
Gobernador del Departamento de Antioquia  
Gobernación de Antioquia  
Calle 42B, # 52-106  
Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia  
**Telegrams:Gobernador del Departamento, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia**  
**Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor**

3) Minister of the Interior  
Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Carrera 8a, No.8-09, Piso 7  
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA  
**Telegrams: Ministro del Interior Serpa, Bogota, Colombia**  
**Telexes:45406 MINGO CO**  
**Faxes:+ 57 1 286 6524/286 0485**  
**Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

4) Bomboná Batallion  
Captain Rodrigo Cañas  
Bomboná Batallion of the XIV Brigade  
Segovia, Antioquia, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Capitán Rodrigo Cañas, Segovia, Antioquia, Colombia**  
**Salutation: Sr. Capitán / Dear Captain**

**COPIES TO:**

Alternative Legal Association  
SEMBRAR, AA 34692, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 September 1996.