

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/50/96

1 October 1996

Further information on UA 74/96 (AMR 23/17/96, 19 March 1996) and follow-ups (AMR 23/26/96, 9 May; AMR 23/43/96, 23 July; AMR 23/45/96, 15 August) - Fear for Safety / Possible Extrajudicial Executions / "Disappearance"

COLOMBIA Eliseo NARVAEZ CORRALES
Eder NARVAEZ CORRALES

Miriam CONTRERAS (f)
Wilmer AMARIS

Eliseo and Eder Narvaez Corrales, two peasant farmer leaders involved with families forcibly displaced from the Bellacruz Ranch, department of Cesar, by a paramilitary group (see original UA and updates), have been killed in circumstances suggesting they were extrajudicially executed.

According to information received, members of a paramilitary group forced their way into the house of Eliseo Narvaez in the town of Pelaya, department of Cesar, at about 10pm on 28 September 1996. Eliseo Narvaez was not in the house at the time and the paramilitaries detained his nephew, Wilmer Amaris, and forced him to take them to Eliseo and Eder Narvaez. Wilmer Amaris took them to a farm called La Cabaña, municipality of Pelaya, belonging to the Corrales family. The paramilitary group forced Wilmer Amaris to call to Eliseo and Eder Narvaez to come out of the farmstead. As the two brothers came out of the house they were shot dead by the paramilitary group. Miriam Contreras, Eliseo Narvaez's wife, was injured.

Eliseo Narvaez had played a prominent role representing peasant farmers forcibly evicted from the Bellacruz Ranch in negotiations with the Colombian authorities to secure the safety of the families and their safe return to lands on the ranch. Reportedly as a result of the prominent role he played in these negotiations Eliseo Narvaez had received several paramilitary death threats.

ACTION AS OUTLINED IN PREVIOUS UPDATE MAY CONTINUE (NO NEW INFORMATION) AND FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the apparent extrajudicial execution by members of a paramilitary group of Eliseo and Eder Narvaez on 28 September 1996, in the municipality of Pelaya, department of Cesar, and at the wounding of Miriam Contreras;
- calling for full and impartial investigations, for the results to be made public and those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for immediate measures to guarantee the safety of Miriam Contreras, Wilmer Amaris and peasant farmer families forcibly evicted from land on the Bellacruz ranch, who are now living in the *Casa Campesina*, communities neighbouring the Bellacruz ranch, or displaced in the capital Bogotá and of those who have been supporting them;

Also if possible:

- urge the government to immediately fulfil its commitment to disband paramilitary forces presently operating as auxiliaries of the armed forces or with armed forces' complicity. Members of such forces responsible for human rights violations should be brought to justice;
- urge that outstanding arrest warrants issued against members of paramilitary groups responsible for human rights violations be carried out.

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

2) Attorney General
Dr. Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento
Fiscal General de la Nación
Fiscalia General de la Nación
Apartado Aéreo 29855
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams:Fiscal General Valdivieso, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia
Faxes:+ 57 1 287 0939 or 288 2828
Salutation: Estimado Dr. Valdivieso/Dear Dr. Valdivieso

3) Minister of Defence
Dr. Juan Carlos Esguerra Portocarrero
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa , Bogota, Colombia
Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO
Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874
Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Alternative Legal Association
MINGA
AA 40303
Santafé de Bogotá
Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia accredited to your country.

ALSO: Human rights violations against families forcibly displaced from the Bellacruz Ranch has been brought to the attention of several governments. It would be useful to express your concern at the events related above, to your own government, urging it to use its good offices to urge in turn that the Colombian authorities take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of the displaced families, to ensure that immediate action is taken to dismantle paramilitary groups operating in the region, and to bring those responsible for human rights violations to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 November 1996.