

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/051/2001

21 May 2001

Further information on UA 66/01 (AMR 23/032/2001, 19 March 2001) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIAMatías ZAMBRANO

José JUSTO ZAMBRANO

Civilian population of La Pedregosa, Santa Catalina and other communities of
the municipality of Cajibío

The paramilitary forces who abducted Matías Zambrano and José Justo Zambrano on 16 March are consolidating their position in the municipality of Cajibío. The people of Cajibío have repeatedly asked the authorities to take action against the paramilitaries, but they have done nothing.

On 11 May paramilitaries went into five communities: San José (part of El Carmelo) and El Cidral, Jalaya, San Antonio and Santa Catalina (part of La Pedregosa). Soldiers from the regular army reportedly went into La Pedregosa at the same time.

On 19 May the paramilitaries were reportedly still in the area, and local people are seriously concerned that they are preparing to kill people in the communities, despite the presence of the army.

Army units stationed very nearby have been told repeatedly about the paramilitaries active in the region, but have reportedly done nothing to confront them. Soldiers from these units have reportedly accused local people of being guerrilla collaborators, and in the past such accusations have frequently been followed by serious human rights violations.

The army units are from the *Brigada III*, (III Brigade), from the *Batallón Contraguerrilla No3 de Numancia* (Numancia Counter-guerrilla Battalion No.3) and the *Batallón de Infantería No.7 General José Hilario López* (General José Hilario López Infantry Battalion No. 7).

There is no news of Matías Zambrano and José Justo Zambrano, who were abducted by paramilitaries on 16 March in Santa Catalina.

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

expressing concern for the safety of civilians in the municipality of Cajibío, including the inhabitants of La Pedregosa and El Carmelo, following reports that paramilitaries are consolidating their position in the municipality;

- urging the authorities to take appropriate measures to protect the civilian population, and reminding them that if they fail to do so, it will seem that the paramilitaries are operating with the complicity of the security forces;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Cauca Department, urging that the results are made public and those found responsible for supporting and participating in such groups are brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and United Nations recommendations.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana Arango
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Carrera 8 No.7-26
Santafé de Bogotá
COLOMBIA

Faxes: + 571 336 2109 / 337 1351

Salutation: Dear President / Excmo. Sr. Presidente

Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez,
Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,
Diagonal 22B 5201, Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé de Bogotá
COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 571 570 2022 (If the call is answered, say "Fax, por favor" and wait for the signal.)

Salutation: Estimado Dr. / Dear Dr. Gómez Méndez

Commander of the Colombian Armed Forces

Comandante General de las Fuerzas Militares
General Fernando Tapias Stahelin
Avenida El Dorado - Carrera 52
Santafé de Bogotá,
COLOMBIA

Fax: + 571 222 2096 / 221 3653

Salutation: Sr Comandante General / Dear Commander-in-Chief

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Ombudsman

Defensor del Pueblo
Sr. Eduardo Cifuentes
Defensoría del Pueblo
Calle 55, No. 10-32/46
Santafé de Bogotá
COLOMBIA

Non-governmental human rights organization

Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos (CSPP)
(Apartado Aéreo 22803)
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 3 July 2001.