

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 315/92 Possible Extrajudicial Executions/
Fear of Extrajudicial Executions

9 October 1992

COLOMBIA: Héctor Audelo CHAPARRO, 48)
Reynaldo RIVEROS CHAPARRO, 46) Construction Workers
Ismael AMAYA)

Rosa ALVARADO (female)

Manuel ABELLA

Humberto PRECIADO

Dario BONILLA

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killings of Héctor Audelo Chaparro, Reynaldo Riveros Chaparro and Ismael Amaya on 2 October 1992, in the community of Toquilla, municipality of Aquitania, Boyacá department in circumstances suggesting they were extrajudicially executed.

According to reports, on the evening of 2 October a military patrol from the army's Tarqui Battalion based in the city of Sogamoso arrived in the community of Toquilla with a list of ten people from the community who they intended to capture. Several houses were reportedly searched by the army patrol without the required judicial authorization. When the patrol arrived at the house of Hector Audelo Chaparro, whose name appeared on the list, he was reportedly beaten in the presence of his family and accused of guerrilla activities before being taken from his home by the soldiers. His body was later found 100 metres from his home with his throat cut.

Reynaldo Riveros Chaparro and Ismael Amaya were detained in their homes, where they were also beaten and accused of collaborating with the guerrilla. Their bodies were found about one kilometre from Reynaldo Riveros' house. Both men had been shot in the head. Before leaving the community the patrol reportedly painted slogans claiming that the killings were carried out by the guerrilla organization, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia. Local inhabitants who witnessed the operation have, however, denounced that those responsible were members of the Colombian army from the Tarqui Battalion.

Héctor Audelo Chaparro, Reynaldo Riveros Chaparro and Ismael Amaya were employees of a construction company, Murillo-Loboguerrero, which is constructing a road in the area.

There is concern for the safety of the remaining seven people named on the list in the possession of the army patrol. These include Rosa Alvarado, Manuel Abella, Humberto Preciado and Dario Bonilla, who were not in their homes at the time of the operation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Despite repeated pledges by the government of President César Gaviria Trujillo to protect human rights, Amnesty International continues to receive reports of widespread violations committed by members of the Colombian armed forces and paramilitary groups working with them. In areas where guerrilla forces are active, members of the local population are often perceived by the armed forces as potential guerrilla collaborators and have, as a result, been subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution by army personnel and paramilitary forces. The majority of human rights violations are committed with impunity. Only exceptionally have investigations of human rights violations led to the trial and conviction of those responsible.

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

- expressing concern at the alleged extrajudicial executions of Héctor Audelo Chaparro, Reynaldo Riveros Chaparro and Ismael Amaya by a patrol of the army's Tarqui Battalion;

- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into their deaths, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;

- urging the Colombian authorities - and specifically the military commanders - to take all necessary measures to protect the lives of civilians, particularly those living in conflict areas, and to ensure that they are able to carry out their lawful activities;

- requesting the Colombian government to take steps to guarantee the physical integrity of Rosa Alvarado, Manuel Abella, Humberto Preciado and Dario Bonilla

APPEALS TO

1) Brigade Commander:

Coronel F Naranjo
Comandante Batallón Tarqui
Sogamoso
Boyacá
Colombia

Salutation: Sr. Comandante / Dear Sir

Telegrams: Comandante Batallon Tarqui, Sogamoso, Boyaca, Colombia

2) President of the Republic:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño, Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr Presidente
Dear Presidente Gaviria**

Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 3066, + 571 286 7324, + 57 1 287 7937

3) Minister of Defence:

Dr Rafael Pardo Rueda
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Salutation: Sr Ministro /
Dear Minister**

Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874

4) Procurator General:

Dr Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla
Procurador General de la Nación
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No 15-80
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la Nación /
Dear Dr. Arrieta**

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41212 pgndp co
Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Lawyers' Association:
Corporación Colectivo de Abogados
AA 44456
Santa Fe 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 20 November 1992.