

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/052/2001

23 May 2001

Further information on UA 125/01 (AMR 23/050/01, 21 May 2001) - Fear for Safety/Possible "Disappearance"

COLOMBIAVictoria DELGADO (f)
Inhabitants of El Paraíso, municipality of San Pablo, department of Bolívar

Victoria Delgado, who had been abducted by paramilitary forces on 16 May, has been released, following appeals locally as well as internationally.

There is still serious concern for the safety of civilian inhabitants in the municipality of San Pablo after paramilitary forces entered the community of El Paraíso on 16 May, burning down 26 houses and abducting Victoria Delgado. 150 families (approximately 1500 people) fled after the attack and have sought shelter in neighboring communities.

Following the attack, paramilitaries reportedly threatened to attack the neighbouring communities of Agua Sucia, La Unión, Cañabral Alto and La Fría, raising further concerns for the security of the civilian population of the municipality of San Pablo. The security forces have still not taken decisive action to confront paramilitary groups in the region, despite repeated calls on the Colombian authorities to do so.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of inhabitants of El Paraíso, municipality of San Pablo, and urging the authorities to take all measures deemed appropriate by the community themselves to guarantee their safety;
- expressing concern for the safety of other civilian communities in the area reportedly threatened by paramilitaries;
- calling for full and impartial investigations into the paramilitary incursion and threats against the inhabitants of El Paraíso, the killing of Uriel Arrieta, and the abduction of Victoria Delgado;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Bolívar Department; urging that the results of the investigation 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: + 57 1 336 2109 / 337 1351 / 286 7434 / 286 6842 / 284 2186

Salutation: Dear President / Excmo. Sr. Presidente

Minister of Defence

Dr. Luis Fernando Ramírez Acuña
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegram: Ministro de Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia
Telex: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO
Fax: + 57 1 222 1874/288 4906
Salutation: Dear Minister / Sr. Ministro

Commander of the V Brigade
Comandante de la V Brigada
General Martín Orlando Carreño Sandoval
Calle 14, Carrera 33
Bucaramanga, Santander,
COLOMBIA
Faxes: +57 76 359 189 / 334 390
Salutation: Dear Commander / Sr. Commandante

COPIES TO:

National Advocate for the People
Sr. Defensor del Pueblo
Eduardo Cifuentes Muñoz
Defensoría del Pueblo
Calle 55, N°10-32/46
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 4 July 2001.