

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/56/92

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UA 333/92 Fear of "disappearance"/  
fear of extrajudicial execution

27 October 1992

COLOMBIA: Amparo TORRES VICTORIA, female, trade union leader

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Amparo Torres Victoria, who was reportedly abducted by armed men at 9pm on 22 October 1992 whilst on her way home from Santiago University, Cali, (Valle department), where she worked.

According to eye-witnesses, Amparo Torres was leaving the university in a car with two companions when their vehicle was intercepted by armed men in several vehicles. Amparo Torres and her companions were asked for identification papers and Amparo Torres was then reportedly taken from the car by the armed men who beat her and forced her into one of their vehicles, before driving her to an unknown destination. Her detention has not been acknowledged and her whereabouts remain unknown.

Amparo Torres is an executive (*Fiscal*) of Santiago University's workers union, Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Universidad Santiago, (SINTRAUSACA). For several months members of the Union's Executive had reportedly been receiving death threats.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. Trade unionists, peasant and community leaders and members of legal left-wing parties have been particular targets. The majority of such abuses have been attributed by the Colombian authorities to armed opposition groups or to civilian "death squads", which it claims it is unable to control. However, independent investigations have concluded that many such groups operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian armed and security forces.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Amparo Torres Victoria and requesting a full investigation to establish her whereabouts;

- urging that if she is in detention, her legal situation be clarified and that she be treated humanely and allowed full access to family and to lawyers;

- urging that if in detention, that she be released unless charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought before a competent court.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of Colombia:

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

**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

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

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Gaviria**

2) Procurator General:

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

**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472**

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

3) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño  
Defensor del Pueblo  
Defensoría del Pueblo  
Calle 34, Carrera 5  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/Dear Dr. Triviño**

4) Attorney General

Dr. Gustavo de Greiff  
Fiscal General  
Fiscalía General  
Hotel Orquídea Real  
Carrera 7, No 32-16  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes: + 57 1 287 7480**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff/Dear Dr. de Greiff**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

Señores

ASFADDES

AA 011446

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 8 December 1992.