

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/063/2001

18 June 2001

Further information on UA 128/01 (AMR 23/053/2001, 24 May 2001) - Fear for Safety / Death Threats

COLOMBIA José Gilberto OLMOS CARDOZO; Héctor Manuel VANEGAS; Alfonso NARANJO; Olga Lucia ARIAS; Raquel SALINAS; Gilberto OLMOS; Erley CADAVID; Emma GÓMEZ DE PERDONO (previously called Ema GÓMEZ); Cenelia VASQUEZ; Adriana OLMOS  
Other ANTHOC union activists

New names: Diana PERDONO and other relatives of ANTHOC members

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Two gunmen have attempted to assassinate Emma Gómez de Perdono and her daughter. The attack heightens Amnesty International's concern for their safety, and that of other members of ANTHOC, the health worker's union in the city of Honda, Tolima department.

On 13 June Emma Gómez de Perdono and her daughter, Diana Perdono, were shot outside their home in Honda by two unidentified gunmen, who are believed to be paramilitaries, travelling on a motorcycle. They each received two gunshot wounds. Emma Gómez de Perdono sustained injuries to her chest and collar bone. It is thought that Diana sustained less serious injuries.

In recent weeks, army-backed paramilitaries under the command of paramilitary commander Ramón Isaza have threatened to kill ANTHOC trade union members working at Honda Hospital, including Emma Gómez de Perdono and those mentioned above. They have ordered the union activists to attend paramilitary meetings or be killed, and have told them that they know where they live.

The threats have come at a time where many public sector workers are striking against economic reforms. The security forces and their paramilitary allies often label trade unionists as guerrilla collaborators, using this as an excuse for targeting them. In the past, they have committed serious human rights violations against trade unionists.

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

- urging the authorities to take immediate and effective action to guarantee the safety of Emma Gómez de Perdono, her daughter and the other ANTHOC union activists named above;
- calling for an immediate, impartial and full investigation into the assassination attempt against Emma Gómez de Perdono and her daughter, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for the paramilitary threats against ANTHOC union activists to be investigated, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- asking the authorities what measures they are going to take to guarantee the safety of those at risk;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and recommendations made by the UN and other intergovernmental organizations.

**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  
**Fax: + 57 1 336 2109 / 337 1351**  
**Salutation: Dear President / Excmo. Sr. Presidente**

Minister of Interior  
Sr. Armando Estrada Villa  
Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior, Palacio Echeverry  
Carrera 8a, No.8-09, piso 2o., Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams:Ministro Interior, Bogota, Colombia**  
**Fax: + 57 1 341 9583 / 334 3960**  
**Salutation:Dear Sir / Sr. Ministro**

Governor of Tolima department  
Gobernador del Departamento de Tolima  
Sr. Guillermo Alfonso Jaramillo  
Gobernación de Tolima  
Calle 10 y 11, Carrera 3  
Ibagué, Tolima, Colombia  
**Faxes: +57 82 638588**  
**Salutation:Dear Governor / Sr. Gobernador**

**COPIES TO:**

Human rights organization  
CSPP  
AA 22803  
Bogota  
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 30 July 2001.