

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 387/94 (AMR 23/83/94, 27 October 1994) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA                      Luis Guillermo PÉREZ CASAS, human rights lawyer  
                                    Katia Karina NIÑO VANEGAS, his wife

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Human rights lawyer Luis Guillermo Pérez and his family have again been subjected to intimidation. Amnesty International reiterates its concern for their safety.

On 27 October 1994, Amnesty International expressed concern for Luis Guillermo Pérez and human rights lawyer Pedro Mahecha following a series of intimidatory incidents. Luis Guillermo Pérez reported that he and his family were being followed by unidentified individuals on an unmarked motorcycle.

Both men are members of the Lawyers' Collective, "*La Corporación Colectivo de Abogados*" (CCA), which is working on numerous high-profile cases of human rights violations in which members of the security forces are implicated.

In the course of his work, Luis Guillermo Pérez has singled out members of the security forces responsible for human rights violations and has represented political prisoners. He is currently representing several prisoners accused of being guerrilla leaders. The CCA states that they have met many times with government authorities to discuss concerns about their own safety and have presented practical suggestions for measures which would offer them more protection.

Following the expression of international concern, Luis Guillermo Pérez was provided with an escort, *escorta*, by the state security service "*Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS)*", whose responsibilities were limited to escorting Luis Guillermo Pérez to work in the morning and his wife and son to his son's school. None of the requested measures for the protection of the other members of the CCA were provided.

On 8 November, Luis Guillermo Pérez's escort did not arrive. That morning, he and his wife were followed to his office by two men on a black motorcycle with the license plate YNI-33. When their tail realized that they had been noticed, they increased the intimidation, drawing up alongside the vehicle and staring through the passenger window at Katia Karina Niño Vanegas. After dropping off Luis Guillermo Pérez, another motorcycle with license plate number OD-168 followed Katia Karina Niño Vanegas to her son's school. She was also followed later in the day by unknown individuals on unmarked motorcycles.

Since last year, Luis Guillermo Pérez has denounced on numerous occasions the surveillance and harassment he has suffered at the hands of the security forces and the fact that his telephone has been tapped.

The intensification of harassment suffered by Luis Guillermo Pérez and his family, coincidental with the failure of the DAS escort to arrive, strongly suggests that the security forces are indeed responsible for the harassment and surveillance to which Luis Guillermo Pérez and his family have been subject.

**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 Luis Guillermo Pérez Casas, a human rights lawyer working for the lawyers collective "*Corporación Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo (CCA)*", and his family following reports that they are still being intimidated;
- urging that these reports be investigated, the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging that concrete measures, deemed appropriate to those concerned, be taken to protect the lives of those working for the CCA and their families in line with the commitment made by President Samper to ensure the safety of human rights workers.

#### APPEALS TO

##### 1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio de Nariño  
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Samper Pizano, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939/284 7186**

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

##### 2) Procurator General:

Dr. Orlando Vásquez Velásquez  
 Procurador General de la Nación  
 Procuraduría General  
 Edificio Banco Ganadero  
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

**Faxes: + 57 1 342 9723/281 7531**

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

##### 3) Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento  
 Fiscal General de la Nación  
 Fiscalía General de la Nación  
 Apartado Aéreo 29855  
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

**Faxes: + 57 1 288 2828/211 6678**

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

##### 4) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño  
 Defensor del Pueblo  
 Defensoría del Pueblo  
 Calle 35 No. 7-25 piso 5  
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Lawyers' Association:

Corporación Colectivo de Abogados

AA 44456

Santa Fé 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 23 December 1994.