

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/89/98

17 November 1998

**Further information on UA 122/98 (AMR 23/22/98, 20 April 1998) - Fear for Safety/
Extrajudicial execution**

COLOMBIA **Eduardo Umaña Mendoza**

On 14 November 1998 three people were detained in connection with the killing on 18 April 1998 of human rights lawyer, Eduardo Umaña Mendoza. Amnesty International welcomes this important development in the investigation. However, the organization reiterates its concern that any investigation must be complete and result in bringing to justice all those who planned as well as perpetrated this crime.

The three suspects were reportedly arrested by agents of the *Cuerpo Técnico de Investigación* (CTI), Special Investigations Unit, of the *Unidad de Derechos Humanos de la Fiscalía*, Human Rights Unit of the Attorney General's Office.

Amnesty International has welcomed other similar positive steps in high profile investigations into killings of human rights defenders (see UA62/98, AMR 23/12/98, 2 March and follow up AMR 23/73/98, 21 September 1998; also UA 146/97 AMR 23/31/97 20 May 1997 and follow up AMR 23/77/97, 4 November 1997). The advances made so far have been due in large part to the efforts of members of the CTI and other officials of the *Unidad de Derechos Humanos de la Fiscalía*. The lives of those investigating these cases are under constant threat and it is therefore important to welcome the progress made, while simultaneously calling on the Colombian Government to provide all necessary support to enable the *Unidad de Derechos Humanos de la Fiscalía* to complete its investigations and bring to justice all those responsible for such crimes.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please e-mail/send faxes/express/ airmail letters in Spanish or in your own language:

- welcoming the detention of three suspects in connection with the killing of Eduardo Umaña Mendoza as a positive advance in the investigation;
- calling on the Government to provide the *Unidad de Derechos Humanos de la Fiscalía* with all the necessary support to complete the investigation;
- reiterating calls for the investigation to be full and impartial and for all those responsible for the crime to be brought to justice;
- asking to be kept informed of any developments in the investigation;
- asking to be informed of any concrete steps taken by the authorities to guarantee the safety of human right defenders.
- reminding Colombia's new government of the country's commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia:

Presidente Andrés Pastrana

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8, No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

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Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Pastrana

Attorney General

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Salutation: Estimado Dr./Dear Dr.Méndez

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Nestor Humberto Martínez, Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2
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Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organization

Coordinación de Organización No Gubernamentales de Derechos Humanos
Avenida Jiménez No. 8-49 Oficina 1001, 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 29 December 1998.

*"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."
Article 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

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