

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/093/2002

22 August 2002

Further information on UA 156/02 (AMR 23/060/2002, 27 May 2002) - Fear for safety/Abduction

COLOMBIAN Nidia Correa Velásquez (f)

Members of the displaced community in Tulúa, Valle del Cauca Department

Amnesty International remains seriously concerned for the safety of the forcibly displaced community of Tulúa, Valle del Cauca Department, following the appearance of a death list naming 300 people, including community and social leaders who have been declared paramilitary targets.

On 13 and 14 August, a death list signed by the *Bloque Calima*, Calima Block, of the paramilitary group *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC), United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia, was circulated in the municipality of Tulúa. Copies of this list were fixed to very visible places in the municipality, such as shops and bus stations. The list called for "Social Cleansing", *Limpieza Social*, and "for a Tulúa without parasites", *Por una Tulúa sin parásitos*. Next to the women's names included in the list was written, "for being bitches", *por perras*.

These threats raise grave concerns of an imminent incursion of army-backed paramilitaries into the municipality. The presence of army-backed paramilitaries has reportedly increased in the last few days. According to information received, in the neighbouring municipality of Bugalagrande four pick-up trucks were seen transporting 200 heavily armed men wearing the distinctive arm-bands of the AUC.

Between 14 and 16 August eight people named on the list were killed, and others on the list had written death threats pushed under the doors of their homes.

According to local sources, the local authorities have been informed about the situation but to date no effective action to protect the civilian population has been taken. Local authorities allegedly told members of the community that there was nothing left to do but pray.

There is no further information on the whereabouts of Nidia Correa Velásquez, abducted on 16 May.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of the inhabitants of the municipality of Tulúa, in Valle del Cauca department;
- asking the authorities what measures, deemed appropriate by those under threat themselves, they are going to take to guarantee the safety of those at risk;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into these threats, for the results to be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- expressing concern about the increasing army-backed paramilitary presence in the region and urging the authorities to take action to protect the civilian population;
- reminding the authorities that if they fail protect the civilian population, it will seem that the paramilitaries are operating with the complicity of the security forces;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Valle del Cauca department, urging

that the results 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 Álvaro Uribe Vélez

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño

Carrera 8 No.7-26

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegram: Presidente de la República, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 566 2071 / 571 3420592

Salutation: Dear President Uribe / Excmo. Sr. Presidente Uribe

Minister of the Interior and Justice

Dr. Fernando Londoño Hoyos

Ministro del Interior y Justicia, Ministerio del Interior y Justicia,

Palacio Echeverry, Carrera 8a, No.8-09, piso 2o.,

Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegram: Ministro Interior, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 599 8404/ 571 5664573

Salutation: Dear Sir / Sr. Ministro

Human Rights Ombudsman

Sr. Eduardo Cifuentes Muñoz, Defensor del Pueblo, Defensoría del Pueblo,

Calle 55, No. 10-32/46 office 301,

Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegram: Defensor del Pueblo, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 640 0491

Salutation: Dear Mr. Cifuentes Muñoz / Estimado Sr. Cifuentes Muñoz

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental Human Rights Organization

Sembrar

Apartado Aéreo 18621,

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 3 October 2002.