

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 28/18/99

28 June 1999

Further information on UA 51/99 (AMR 28/13/99, 22 March 1999) - Death treats/Fear for safety

**ECUADOREdgar Ponce Iturriaga (trade unionist)
His daughter (unnamed) (aged 1)**

Edgar Ponce Iturriaga, a trade unionist and one of 11 people whose names appeared on a death list earlier this year, has received a further death threat. In an anonymous letter dated 21 June 1999 he was told that unless he stopped his trade union activities by the end of June he would be killed and his one-year-old daughter could be abducted.

The following is a fragment of the letter he received:

"This time it's not just a question of frightening you. We're giving you one last warning. If you do not retire [from your work] before 30 June 1999...you are not going to see your younger daughter grow up...she could be abducted. We have a map and a timetable of your activities. In one of these places you will be killed...with two bullets in your head...just like Hurtado from the MPD or...Cañar." (*"Esta vez no se trata de causarte un susto, se trata de advertirte por una sola y única vez que si no te jubilas hasta el treinta (30) de junio de 1999...no vivirás ni para criar tu última niña que...también correría peligro de desaparecer. Tenemos un mapa y horario de tus "actividades" y en uno de esos lugares aparecerás muerto .. con dos tiros en la cabeza...como...Hurtado del MPD o...Cañar."*)

"Hurtado" and "Cañar" in the above death threat refer to the assassination of Jaime Hurtado Gonzalez, a parliamentarian representing the *Movimiento Democrático Popular* (MPD), Democratic Popular Movement (see UA 28/99, AI Index: AMR 28/04/99, 19 February 1999) and the death of Saúl Cañar, a prominent trade unionist (see *Ecuador: The death of Saúl Cañar Pauta*, AI Index: AMR 28/03/98, December 1998).

The other ten people listed on the original action are not known to have received any further death threats.

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

- expressing concern at the reported death threat received by trade unionist Edgar Ponce Iturriaga on 21 June 1999 and the threatened abduction of his one-year-old daughter;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of Edgar Ponce Iturriaga;
- calling on the authorities to conduct a prompt and independent investigation into the death threats, make public the findings, and to bring those responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Government and Police
Vladimiro Álvarez Grau
Ministro de Gobierno y Policía
Ministerio de Gobierno y Policía
Espejo y Benalcázar
QUITO

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Ecuador

Telegrams: Minister of Government and Police, Quito, Ecuador

Fax: + 593 2 580 067

Salutations: Dear Minister/Estimado Sr. Ministro

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organization

Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos

Av. 10 de Agosto 2655

Edif. Tauro, Of. 802

QUITO

Ecuador

and to diplomatic representatives of Ecuador accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.