

PUBLIC

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Fear for Safety/Possible "Disappearance"

COLOMBIA

Antonio José Carvajal (m)  
His family

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Antonio José Carvajal has not been seen since 11 March. His whereabouts are unknown and it is feared that he may have "disappeared". Amnesty International is concerned for his safety and that of his family.

At 12.30pm on 11 March, masked gunmen reportedly entered Antonio José Carvajal's house in the Robledo Aures district of northeast Medellín, Antioquia department and forcibly abducted him. Later the same afternoon, the gunmen allegedly returned to the house and ordered Antonio José Carvajal's family to hand over his identity papers. The men threatened the family when they discovered the abduction had already been reported to the police.

The human rights organization, *Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos de Colombia*, (ASFADDES), Colombian Association of the Families of the Detained-Disappeared, is pressing for an investigation into the abduction. The police told ASFADDES that they had been to the area where the abduction took place but had been unable to find Antonio José Carvajal. Subsequently Antonio José Carvajal's family have received unconfirmed reports that his body may be in a mass grave located in north-eastern Medellín.

Antonio José Carvajal is a member of the *Unión Patriótica* (UP), Patriotic Union Party, and of the *Partido Comunista Colombiano*, (PCC), Colombian Communist Party. UP and PCC members and activists have frequently been labelled guerrilla sympathizers and collaborators by the security forces and their paramilitary allies. Antonio José Carvajal and his family had reportedly been forcibly displaced from the municipality of Turbo, department of Antioquia. They had initially sought refuge in the La Cruz district of north-eastern Medellín, but after security personnel raided the family's house three times, the family moved to the Robledo Aures district.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Members and activists of the UP and PCC have frequently been labelled guerrilla sympathizers and collaborators by the security forces and their paramilitary allies. Such accusations have frequently been followed by serious human rights violations including extrajudicial executions and "disappearances". Over 3,000 members of the UP have been killed since the party was formed in 1985. The security forces and paramilitaries have been blamed for the majority of these killings.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Antonio José Carvajal, who has not been seen since being abducted by masked gunmen on 11 March;
- urging the authorities to conduct a full and impartial investigation to establish his whereabouts, and calling for his immediate release, if he is in detention;
- urging that those responsible for his abduction be brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of Antonio José Carvajal's family, urging that all measures deemed appropriate by the family themselves are taken to guarantee their safety;
- urging that all those responsible for killings or disappearances in the area be brought to justice;

- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Medellín, 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 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

Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegram:      Presidente de la República, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Fax:             + 57 1 342 0592/ 337 58 90**

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

Minister of the Interior and Justice

Sr. Fernando Londoño Hoyos,

Ministro del Interior y de Justicia

Ministerio del Interior

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

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegram:      Ministro Interior, Bogota, Colombia**

**Fax:             + 57 1 566 4573**

**Salutation:    Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

Attorney General

Dr. Luis Camilo Osorio,

Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,

Diagonal 22B 52-01

Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegram:      Fiscal General de la Nación, Bogota, Colombia**

**Fax:             + 57 1 570 2022 /2017 if someone answers say “me da tono de fax por favor por Dr Osorio”)**

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

**COPIES TO:**

Colombian Association of the Families of the Detained-Disappeared

ASFADDES - Nacional

AA 011446

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 28 May 2003.