

UA 140/01

Fea.

**COLOMBIA**Astrid MANRIQUE CARVAJAL (f), human rights defender**Her family****Other members of the *Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos* (ASFADDES) in Popayán**

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Human rights defender Astrid Manrique Carvajal, her family and members of the organization she works for are being threatened and harassed. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety.

On 3 June two men reportedly smashed all the windows at Astrid Manrique Carvajal's house. She and her family have been threatened repeatedly in the last few weeks. On 25 May she and her 14-year-old daughter, Tatiana, were followed by approximately six unidentified men on their way to a nearby dentist. At the end of April, unknown men came to the home of Astrid Manrique's sister, Sandra, and asked for her sister "the pretty girl who works with kidnap victims or the "disappeared" or something to do with human rights" ("*la muchacha monita que trabaja con Secuestrados o Desaparecidos o algo que tiene que ver con Derechos Humanos*"). Sandra told them that she was an only child and moved house. Despite this, on 1 May Sandra saw various unidentified men keeping her new home under surveillance. Astrid was previously threatened in May 2000, when a man with a police identity card said he would kill her and her daughter (see UA 117/00, AMR 23/032/00, 12 May 2000).

The ongoing threats appear to be directly connected with Astrid Manrique's work for the Popayán branch of the *Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos* (ASFADDES), Association of Relatives of the Detained Disappeared, a non-governmental organization working to bring to justice those responsible for "disappearances" during the ongoing conflict in Colombia. ASFADDES has received numerous threats and is supposed to receive emergency protection from the police. However, ASFADDES received no immediate help on 1 June when they called the police to report that an unknown man was acting suspiciously at an ASFADDES event organized to mark raise awareness of the "disappeared". The police officer responsible for the security of ASFADDES had apparently turned off the emergency phone and was therefore unable to send a police car to the scene until the unknown man had gone.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

ASFADDES is a non-governmental organization made up of relatives of people who have "disappeared" during the ongoing conflict in Colombia. It aims to discover what has happened to the "disappeared" and bring those responsible to justice. ASFADDES members, together with other human rights defenders and witnesses of human rights violations, have endured death threats, killings and disappearances at the hands of the security forces and their paramilitary allies. In October 2000, Angel Quintero and Claudia Monsalve of the Medellin branch of ASFADDES "disappeared" (see UA 259/00, AMR 23/081/00, 9 October 2000). Their whereabouts remain unknown.

Astrid Manrique has been an active member of the ASFADDES branch in Popayán, Cauca department, since the "disappearance" of her partner. She is now on the organization's executive council (*Consejo Directivo*).

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

- expressing concern that Astrid Manrique Carvajal, her family and ASFADDES members in Popayán are being harassed;
- urging the authorities to take appropriate measures to guarantee their safety, so they can continue their work of promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with international human rights standards;;
- calling for a full investigation into the threats, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging the Colombian government to adhere to its obligations regarding human rights defenders, as laid out in the *UA Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*, the *Organization of American States Human Rights Defenders in the Americas* resolution [AG/RES. 1671 (XXIX-O/99)], and in line with repeated recommendations made by the UN to the Colombian government to take measures to guarantee the safety of human rights defenders.

**APPEALS TO:**President of the Republic

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana Arango  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio de Nariño  
 Carrera 8 No.7-26  
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogota, Colombia****Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939/284 2186/289 3377****Salutation: Dear President / Excmo. Sr Presidente**Minister of Interior

Sr. Armando Estrada Villa  
 Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior, Palacio Echeverry  
 Carrera 8a, No.8-09, piso 2o., Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Bogota, Colombia****Fax: + 57 1 341 9583 / 334 3960****Salutation: Dear Sir / Sr. Ministro**Governor of Cauca department

Gobernador del Departamento de Cauca  
 Sr. Floro Alberto Tunubalá Paja  
 Gobernación de Cauca  
 Carrera 7, Calle 4ª, piso 3  
 Popayán, Cauca, COLOMBIA

**Telefax: + 57 28 243 597 (if a voice answers say "tono de fax, por favor")****Salutation: Dear Governor / Sr. Gobernador****COPIES TO:**Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

ASFADDES - Seccional Popayán  
 AA 0403  
 Popayán, Cauca, 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 17 July 2001.