

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/064/2001

27 June 2001

Further information on UA 138/01 (AMR 23/057/2001, 5 June 2001) - Fear for safety/Possible "disappearance"

COLOMBIA Kimy PERNIA DOMICO

Other members of Embera-Katio indigenous communities living along the rivers Sinú and Verde in the department of Córdoba

Another indigenous leader has reportedly been abducted and murdered by army-backed paramilitaries, after he campaigned for the safe return of Kimy Pernia Domico. The Embera-Katio communities of Córdoba department are in great danger.

Pedro Alirio Domicó was the governor of the *Resguardo Indígena del Río Esmeralda*, Esmeralda River Indigenous Reserve, in Tierralta municipality. He took part in an indigenous demonstration in Tierralta, demanding the safe return of Kimy Pernia, who was abducted on 2 June. He had been among a group of indigenous leaders who met with the Minister of the Interior and the Governor of Córdoba, to discuss action by the authorities to protect the Embera-Katio communities in Córdoba.

Pedro Alirio was reportedly abducted by the *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC), United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia, during the weekend of 23-24 June. His body was reportedly found on 26 June in Tierralta. Before he was killed, he had been accused of collaborating with guerrilla forces. Others accused of collaborating with the guerrillas have frequently been abducted or killed by the security forces and their paramilitary allies.

In recent years, several Embera-Katio indigenous communities campaigning against the construction of the Urrá Dam, which will destroy much of their ancestral lands, have been targeted by paramilitary forces working in alliance with the security forces. Community leaders have also been killed by guerrilla forces, who have accused them of siding with the paramilitary or security forces.

There is no further news of Kimy Pernia.

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

- expressing concern at the news that indigenous leader Pedro Alirio Domico has been killed, apparently by army-backed paramilitaries, and urging the authorities to order a full and impartial investigation into the killing, with the results made public and all those responsible brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of Kimy Pernia Domico, who has "disappeared" since he was abducted on 2 June;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation to establish his whereabouts, and asking for him to be released immediately, if he is in custody;
- urging that those responsible for his abduction be brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of other members of the Embera Katio communities along the rivers Sinú and Verde, urging that all measures deemed appropriate by the communities themselves are taken to guarantee their safety from paramilitary or guerrilla attack;
- 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 Córdoba 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 Andrés Pastrana Arango
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Carrera 8 No.7-26
Santafé de Bogotá
COLOMBIA

Faxes:+ 571 336 2109 / 337 1351

Salutation: Dear President / Excmo. Sr. Presidente

Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez,
Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,
Diagonal 22B 5201, Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé de Bogotá
COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 571 570 2022 (If the call is answered, say "Fax, por favor" and wait for the signal.)

Salutation: Dear Dr. Gómez Méndez / Estimado Dr.

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, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 341 9583 / 334 3960 / 286 8025 / 342 3201 / 281 5884

Salutation: Dear Minister / Sr. Ministro

Governor of Córdoba

Gobernador del Departamento de Córdoba
Sr. Jesús María López Gómez
Gobernación de Córdoba
Palacio de Nain
Calle 27, No. 3-28, P-3
Montería, Córdoba, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Gobernador Córdoba, Montería, Colombia

Fax: +57 47 826060/823729

Salutation: Señor Gobernador/ Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

National Human Rights Ombudsman

Dr. José Fernando Castro Caicedo
Defensor del Pueblo
Defensoría del Pueblo
Calle 55, No. 10-32/46
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 8 August 2001.