

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/122/2001

6 December 2001

Further information on UA 309/01 (AMR 23/121/2001, 3 December 2001) - Fear for Safety/possible "disappearance"

COLOMBIA

Killed: Aury Sará Marrugo (m), President of Union Sindical Obrera (USO), Oil Workers' Trade Union, Cartagena Section
Enrique Arellano (m), his bodyguard

Trade Union leader Aury Sará Marrugo and his bodyguard, Enrique Arellano were found dead on a road outside Cartagena on 5 December. They had been shot several times.

Both were kidnapped on 30 November by members of the army-backed paramilitary group *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC), United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia, though it was not known until the day before the bodies were found, that Enrique Arellano had also been kidnapped.

The AUC reportedly admitted to the abduction of Aury Sará Marrugo, whom they said would face a paramilitary trial for his alleged membership of Colombia's second largest armed opposition group, the *Ejército de Liberación Nacional*, (ELN), National Liberation Army.

The security and armed forces as well as their paramilitary allies often accuse trade unionists of being guerrilla sympathizers or auxiliaries. At least 147 trade unionists have been killed so far this year.

Many thanks to all who took action on this case. If possible, please send a final round of appeals, in Spanish or in your own language:

- urging the authorities to order an independent, impartial and conclusive investigation into the killing of Aury Sará Marrugo and Enrique Arellano and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of USO and other trade union activists in Cartagena and nationally following the killing of Aury Sará Marrugo and Enrique Arellano;
- 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;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and recommendations made by the UN and other intergovernmental organizations.

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia

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

Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 44281 PALP CO

Fax: + 57 1 566 20 71

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President

Attorney General

Dr. Luis Camilo Osorio

Fiscalía General de la Nación

Apartado Aéreo 29855
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA
Telegrams:Attorney General, Bogotá, Colombia
Fax: +57 1 570 2000
Salutation: Estimado Dr./Dear Dr.

Governor of the Department of Bolivar
Sr. Luis Daniel Vargas Sánchez
Gobernación de Bolívar
Calle 34 No. 4-21
Cartagena, Bolívar, COLOMBIA
Telegrams:Governor, Bolívar, Colombia
Fax: +57 5 365 1594
Salutation: Estimado Sr.Gobernador/Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Trade Union Confederation
CUT, Nacional, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Colombia
Calle 35 N° 7-25, Piso 9
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 17 January 2002.