

2 August 2001

Further information on UA 189/01 (AMR 28/017/2001, 26 July 2001) - Death threats / fear for safety**ECUADOR****Human Rights Defenders:**

Alexis Ponce (m)

New names: Pablo de la Vega (m)

Elsie Monje (f)

Ines Espinoza (f)

Teresa Orrego (f) and her husband

Yanet Yanez (f)

Jonhy Jimenez (m)

Other human rights defenders, especially those working for *Frente Ecuatoriano de DDHH (FEDHU)*; *Servicio de Paz y Justicia (SERPAJ)* and *Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos (INREDH)*

On 30 July a number of Ecuadorian human rights organizations received a death threat via email. Referring to many human rights organizations in Ecuador, the e-mail said that "their days are numbered and their activities will be watched. We will forgive them nothing... unless they obey our orders and resign from their organizations, which have become shelters and recruitment centres for national and international subversion (*tendran contados sus dias y vigilados sus actos. Nada les perdonaremos ... si desacatan la orden de renunciar ... esos espacios convertidos en centros de reclutamiento y encubrimiento subversivo nacional e internacional*)".

The email was addressed to the *Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos (INREDH)*, Regional Foundation for Justice and Human Rights. It was copied to *Frente Ecuatoriano de DDHH (FEDHU)*, Human Rights Ecuadorian Front. The e-mail specifically mentioned those named above, but the threat was directed at the entire human rights community in Ecuador. The message calls human rights defenders drug traffickers and accuses them of organising ideological centres financed by Cuba, China, Russia and drug dealing.

The organization that sent the email also claims to be responsible for the threatening calls made to Alexis Ponce only days ago (see original UA). Other human rights organizations have also been threatened in recent months, including organizations from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community (see UA 73/01, AMR 28/010/2001, 29 March 2001 and follow-ups). Amnesty International is concerned that a pattern is emerging of widespread threats towards human rights defenders. The Ecuadorian authorities have to act swiftly and appropriately on these threats if they are serious about protecting and promoting human rights in the country.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of all the people and organizations named above;
- asking the authorities to do everything necessary to protect them, so they can continue their legitimate activities in safety;
- asking the authorities to order a prompt and effective investigation into the threats they have been subjected to, with the findings made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- reminding the authorities of their duty to ensure that human rights violations are investigated and punished;
- urging the Ecuadorian government to adhere to its obligations regarding human rights defenders, as laid out in the UN Declaration of Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups, and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally

Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the Organisation of American States (OAS) Human Rights Defenders in the Americas resolution.

APPEALS TO: *Please note that it can be difficult getting through to fax numbers in Ecuador. Please be patient and keep trying. If a voice answers, ask "Por favor, me puede dar tono de fax."*

Minister of the Interior and Police

Dr. Juan Manrique Martínez
Ministerio de Gobierno y Policía
Benalcázar y Espejo
Quito
ECUADOR

Fax: + 593 2 580 067

Telegram: Ministerio de Gobierno, Quito, Ecuador

Salutation: Señor Ministro/ Dear Minister

Congressional Human Rights Commission

Dr. Bolívar Sánchez Ribadeneira
Presidente de la Comisión Especializada
Permanente de Derechos Humanos
del H. Congreso Nacional
Luis Saá y Sodiro
Edificación Daniel Cadena, 1° Piso, oficina 108
Quito
Ecuador

Fax: + 593 2 504 295

Salutation: Señor Presidente

Head of the National Police

Ing. Jorge Guillermo Molina Nuñez
Comandante General de la Policía Nacional
Ramírez Dávalos 612 y Av. 10 de Agosto
Quito
Ecuador

Fax: + 593 2 508 724 / + 593 2 506 066

Telegram: Comandante General Policia Nacional, Quito, Ecuador

Salutation: Señor Inspector General/Dear Chief Inspector

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organizations

Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos del Ecuador (APDH)

E-mail: apdhec@hotmail.com

Centro de Documentación en DDHH - CSMM

Email: montesdh@hotmail.com

Comisión Ecuménica de DDHH, CEDHU

Email: cedhu@ecuanex.net.ec

Fundación Regional de Asesoría en DDHH, INREDH

Email: inredh@ecuanex.net.ec

and to diplomatic representatives of Ecuador accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 September 2001.