

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/67/00

5 September 2000

Further information on UA 258/00 (AMR 23/63/00, 30 August 2000) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA Mónica MADERO VERGEL, human rights defender  
Other CREDHOS members

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A paramilitary death list has reportedly been circulated since CREDHOS secretary Mónica Madero Vergel received telephone death threats, calling for all CREDHOS members to be killed. Amnesty International believes that all members of the organisation are now in grave danger.

The death list, which targets 20 people and organizations, including CREDHOS members and popular activists, is reportedly being circulated by paramilitaries in the Magdalena Medio region. The Office of the Attorney General (*Fiscalía General de la Nación*), is reported to have recently warned the Commander of the Colombian Armed Forces, General Tapias Stehelin, and the *Batallón Nueva Granada*, Nueva Granada Battalion, based in Barrancabermeja, of the existence of this list.

An anonymous caller rang Mónica Madero Vergel on 26 August, warning her that she and other CREDHOS workers would be killed if they did not leave Barrancabermeja.

The Colombian authorities have so far failed to take action against paramilitary groups operating in the region. Amnesty International believes that until they do, civilians, peasant farmers and community leaders will face further attacks.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Mónica Madero Vergel and other CREDHOS workers after reports that they are named on a paramilitary death list circulating in the Barrancabermeja region;
- urging a full and impartial investigation into the threats against CREDHOS, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to guarantee the safety of CREDHOS members, so they can continue their work;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Barrancabermeja and the surrounding area, 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

**Fax: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939/284 2186/289 3377/337 1351**

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

Vice-President of the Republic

Señor Vicepresidente Gustavo Bell Lemus  
Alto Consejero Presidencial para asuntos de Derechos Humanos y lucha Contra  
la Corrupción  
Cra. 8 #7-26,  
Palacio de Nariño,  
Santafé de Bogotá

**Fax: + 57 1 337 1351**

**Salutation: Dear Vice-President / Excmo. Sr Vicepresidente**

Minister of Defence

Dr. Luis Fernando Ramírez Acuña  
Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874**

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

**COPIES TO:**

CREDHOS

AA 505

Barrancabermeja

Santander, 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 October 2000.