

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/76/00

25 September 2000

Further information on UA 285/00 (AI Index: AMR 23/73/00; 18 September 2000)
- Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA

Confirmed releases: Alvaro RUBIANO, Miguel DOMICO GARCÍA, Agustín PERNIA, Irenia DOMICO CHARA (f), Loliria DOMICO (f), Rubén DOMICÓ and others not named in the original Urgent Action.

Still detained: Efraín CHAMARRA, Elkin RUBIANO, Amado DOMICO, Rigoberto DOMICO, Rubit DOMICO, Saúl BAILARÍN, Oraime DOMICO, Martín CASAMA, Algarín DOMICO, Domicilio GUASARUCA, Luis Alberto CABRERA, Diana DOMICO (f), Maritza DOMICO (f), Horacio BAILARÍN, Germán DOMICO, Maximiliano DOMICO, Miguel BAILARÍN and possibly several others.

(All names given to the best of our current information)

New cases: members of the indigenous communities of Kiparadó, Zorandó, and other communities of the indigenous reserve of the Alto Sinú.

Several of the indigenous people abducted on 16 September 2000, allegedly by army-backed paramilitary forces, have been released. Concern remains for the others still held captive and for members of other indigenous communities in the area.

Information just received indicates that 33 Embera-Katio indigenous people and peasant farmers (not 22 as stated in the original UA) were abducted by paramilitary forces on the river Verde, department of Córdoba, on 16 September. So far it is confirmed that 12 of these have been released and it is believed that another three indigenous people and three peasant farmers, who had also been abducted, have now also been released.

There is serious concern for those who remain captive and for the safety of indigenous communities in the Alto Sinú indigenous reserve in the department of Córdoba. During paramilitary incursions in recent days indigenous leader Januario Cabrera was reportedly killed in the community of Zorandó by gunmen thought to be members of a paramilitary group. This led to the forced displacement of 20 families from the community who fled to the neighbouring department of Antioquia. Gunmen reportedly threatened to kill five other members of the displaced community.

There is also serious concern for the indigenous community of Kiparadó, also in the indigenous reserve of Alto Sinú, as paramilitaries are reportedly heading towards them, and, on 20 September, 14 people were reportedly killed in the nearby community of Naín.

There is still no news on the whereabouts of Miguel Bailarín, abducted by four gunmen in Tierralta, department of Córdoba on 16 September.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the members of the Embera-Katio communities of the Alto Sinú indigenous reserve and in particular for the communities of Zorandó and Kiparadó, Miguel Bailarín who has not been seen

since he was abducted in Tierralta and the remaining captives whose whereabouts also remain unknown;

- urging the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to guarantee their safety and that of the other members of the indigenous communities of the Alto Sinú reserve;

- urging the authorities to carry out full and impartial investigations into the abduction of 30 indigenous people and three peasant farmers in the indigenous reserve of Alto Sinú, to make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;

- urging full and impartial investigations into the killings detailed above, apparently carried out by members of a paramilitary group, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;

- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in the department of Córdoba, urging that the results are made public, and that those responsible for supporting and participating in such groups are brought to justice;

- urging the authorities to take immediate and decisive action to combat and dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with repeated 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:+ 571 286 7434, + 571 287 7939, + 571 284 2186, + 571 289 3377 or + 571 337 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, Colombia

Fax:+ 571 337 1351

Salutation:Dear Vice-President / Excmo. Sr Vicepresidente

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Humberto de la Calle, Ministro del Interior

Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2

Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministerio del Interior, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes:45406 MINGO CO

Fax:+ 57 1 286 8025 / 281 5884 / 342 3201

Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC)

Apartado Aéreo 32395

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 6 November 2000.