

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/21/96

24 April 1996

Further information on UA 241/95 (AMR 23/63/95, 19 October 1995) - Fear for safety and new concern: Apparent extrajudicial executions

COLOMBIA Civilian population of Segovia and Remedios, Antioquia

Killed: Wilson ALEJANDRO LOAIZA, Octavio de JESÚS GARCÍA (14), César DARIO VALLE (16), Fabio ALONSO LOAIZA, Omar MORENO, Carlos MONTOYA, Ricardo OCHOA PUERTA, Gabriel JARAMILLO PALACIO, Jesús EVELIO PÉREZ, Pedro POSADA, León DARIO OSPINA, Carlos ZAPATA, Nicolás ALVAREZ, Carlos ARTURO AGUDELO

Injured: David LOZANO, Farlán ANDRÉS PALACIO, Jorge OROZCO, Gabriel VARGAS, Alberto ANTONIO HURTADO, Jaime CARDONA, Albeiro ANTONIO RUIZ, Jorge ENRIQUE GÓMEZ, Dany ECHAVARRÍA, Luis ABEL MORENO, Fernando SEPÚLVEDA, Danuber RESTREPO and at least three others

Fears for the safety of the civilian population of the towns of Segovia and Remedios in the department of Antioquia have been heightened following the massacre by members of a paramilitary group of 14 people and the wounding of another 15 people on 22 April 1996 in Segovia.

On 17 April, members of the police and the *Batallón Bomboná*, Bomboná Battalion, of the army based in the municipality of Segovia reportedly simulated an armed confrontation, prompting the town's inhabitants to return to their homes. In the early hours of 18 April, taking advantage of the fact that the town's streets were completely deserted, leaflets were posted to homes and shops in Segovia. The leaflets were signed by a paramilitary group calling itself *Dignidad por Colombia*, Dignity for Colombia, and threatened the inhabitants, shopkeepers and transport workers with death if they were to participate in a strike reportedly called by guerrilla organizations for the 18 and 19 April.

On 22 April a group of heavily-armed men travelling in two vehicles made their way to bars and ice-cream parlours in the La Paz, Tigrito and Borbollón districts of Segovia. According to information received, the armed men entered a bar in the El Tigrito district, forced the people in the bar to lie face down, and shot them, killing four and seriously injuring several others. In the La Paz district they entered another bar where again they forced those inside to lie face down and shot five people dead and left another seven seriously wounded.

In total 14 people were killed in the three districts and at least another 15 people were wounded. The three districts are inhabited mainly by peasant farmer families who have fled violence in the countryside and have often been labelled as guerrilla sympathizers by members of the armed forces.

According to reports received, the massacre took place at a time when security force presence in Segovia has increased: the group of armed men escaped Segovia, passing freely through the security force checkpoints: the Segovia Military Base; the La Trampa Military Base in the Cambabolo sector and the Remedios Police Station checkpoint.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned that the failure of the Colombian authorities to bring those responsible for previous human rights violations in Segovia and Remedios to justice, including the massacre in Segovia of 43 people on 11 November 1988 by members of a paramilitary group operating with the support of the security forces, has fuelled continued human rights violations in the region. Immediate action should be taken to end the climate of impunity and those responsible for the massacre on 22 April and previous human rights violations brought to justice.

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

- expressing deep concern at the apparent extrajudicial execution of 14 people and wounding of a further 15 in Segovia on 22 April 1996;
- calling for a prompt, full and impartial investigation, for the results to be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the reported distribution of paramilitary leaflets threatening members of the Segovia population, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for immediate measures to guarantee the safety of the civilian population of Segovia and Remedios, including those injured in the events of 22 April;

if possible also:

- urge that there be full and impartial investigations into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Remedios and Segovia and that those members of the security forces responsible for supporting such groups be brought to justice;
- urge that the Colombian authorities take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups operating in Remedios and Segovia. Such a move would be in line with the governmental commitments to dismantle paramilitary groups.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Samper, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 289 3377/286 7434

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2) Governor of Antioquia

Sr. Alvaro Uribe Velez
 Gobernador del Departamento de Antioquia
 Gobernación de Antioquia
 Calle 42B, # 52-106
 Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

Telegrams:Gobernador, Departamento de Antioquia, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor

3) Minister of the Interior

Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe
 Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Carrera 8a, No.8-09, Piso 7
 Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior Serpa, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 45406 MINGO CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 6524 / 286 0053 / 286 0485

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

4) Bomboná Batallion

Captain Rodrigo Cañas

Bomboná Batallion of the XIV Brigade

Segovia, Antioquia, Colombia

Telegrams: Capitán Rodrigo Cañas, Segovia, Antioquia, Colombia

Salutation: Sr. Capitán / Dear Captain

COPIES TO:

Alternative Legal Association

SEMBRAR, AA 34692, 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 12 June 1996.