

9 May 1996

Further information on UA 125/95 (AMR 23/21/95, 2 June 1995) - "Disappearances"
/ Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA	Aura POLINARA CASTRO (f))	
	Mercedes MUÑOZ SÁNCHEZ (f))	
	Nelly ROCÍO DÍAZ MUÑOZ (f))	
	Arly Patricia DÍAZ MUÑOZ (f))	killed in
	Cielo MARÍA VÁSQUEZ BENÍTEZ (f))	Pueblo Bello
	Juan Carlos HERNÁNDEZ)	
	Humberto RAMOS)	
	and two unidentified people)	
	Martha LOIAZA GRACIANO (f))	
	Francisco RIVERA MORALES)	killed in
	Manuel HERNÁN LONDOÑO)	Alto de Mulatos
	and four unidentified people)	

On 5 May 1996 16 people were killed in the villages of Pueblo Bello and Alto de Mulatos, municipality of Turbo, in the Urabá region of Antioquia department, reportedly by members of the armed opposition group *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC), Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

The massacre further increases Amnesty International's fear for civilians in the region as the pattern of killings and reprisal killings there continues with the government failing to act to end the violence.

According to information received, the massacre was carried out by two FARC guerrilla fronts: the 5th and 58th. The 5th Front went to the village of Alto de Mulatos, while the 58th Front went to Pueblo Bello. The FARC guerrillas dragged the victims out of their beds, bound them and forced them onto the floor. The victims, named above, were hacked to death with machetes or shot dead with shots to the head. The victims' houses were set alight. Some of the corpses were incinerated to the point that their identification has been impossible.

The killings follow guerrilla threats against the civilian population. According to one Alto de Mulatos inhabitant: "*Los guerrilleros nos habían amenazado diciendo que iban a entrar aquí a quemar a Alto*", "The guerrillas had threatened us saying that they were going to come and burn Alto de Mulatos down". It is believed that the massacre was carried out in retaliation for the massacre of 10 people in the Policarpa district of the town of Apartadó, department of Antioquia, on 1 May 1996, reportedly by a paramilitary group allied to the security forces. After this massacre guerrilla leaflets were reportedly circulated in the Urabá region announcing a future massacre. The leaflets reportedly stated that for every person killed the guerrilla would kill four people.

Since late 1994 a large-scale paramilitary advance, supported by the security forces, has pushed southwards through the Urabá region committing widespread killings of people perceived to be guerrilla members or sympathizers. Guerrilla forces have retaliated by committing massacres of people considered to be paramilitary members or collaborators. The area surrounding Pueblo Bello and Alto de Mulatos has been dominated by paramilitary forces since mid-1995, it is believed that the killings on 5 May took place during a period where

paramilitary forces were patrolling outside the two communities. (For details of human rights violations committed by paramilitary forces in the Pueblo Bello area see UA 125/95). In the last year, in the Urabá region, there have been 15 massacres committed by either the paramilitary and guerrilla forces which have resulted in the deaths of 157 people.

The Colombian authorities, to date, have failed to take action to dismantle paramilitary groups and bring those members of paramilitary groups responsible for human rights violations to justice. Similarly insufficient action has been taken to defend the civilian population against guerrilla abuses.

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

- expressing serious concern for the safety of the inhabitants of the communities of Pueblo Bello and Alto de Mulatos, in the department of Antioquia;
- urging that the Colombian authorities take sufficient measures to defend the population from further paramilitary and guerrilla actions;
- urging the authorities to undertake full and impartial investigations into all political killings and other abuses in the region, that the results be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1. President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Carrera 8 No. 7-26
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Samper Pizano, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 289 3377/286 7434

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2. Minister of Defence

Dr. Juan Carlos Esguerra Portocarrero
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
 Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa , Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes:+ 57 1 288 4906

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

3. Minister of the Interior

Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe
 Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2
 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

COPIES TO:

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

Señores

ASFADDES

AA 011446

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 4 July 1996.