

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 341/93 (AMR 23/55/93, 29 September 1993) - and follow-up: AMR 23/77/93, 2 December 1993- Possible Extrajudicial Execution /Death Threats

COLOMBIA:Members of the Community Action Movement - CAM (*Movimiento de Acción Comunitaria*), Aguachica.

Killed: Erminso SEPULVEDA SARABIA, Secretary to the town council  
Death Threats: Sixto PACHECO, Transport Director, Aguachica

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Amnesty International has learned with serious concern of the apparent extrajudicial execution of Erminso Sepulveda Sarabia on 28 January 1994 in the municipality of Aguachica, Cesar department. The organization has also learned of death threats directed against Sixto Pacheco who, like Erminso Sepulveda, is a member of the Community Action Movement - CAM (*Movimiento de Acción Comunitaria*). Amnesty International is concerned by this further evidence of an apparent campaign of systematic elimination of the members of the CAM, a civic political movement which holds a majority in the municipality of Aguachica, Cesar department.

According to reports, on 28 January 1994 Erminso Sepulveda Sarabia was in the San Roque restaurant, situated opposite the Aguachica Town Hall, when 5 unidentified individuals burst in shooting Erminso Sepulveda and wounding another man, Noel Omeara. A pick-up truck belonging to an elite combined military and police unit (UNASE) arrived on the scene immediately after, but made no attempts to pursue the gunmen. Similarly, security forces who keep a permanent presence in the vicinity of the Town Hall, made no attempt to challenge the gunmen. Erminso Sepulveda was taken to the local hospital, where he died soon after.

Erminso Sepulveda Sarabia had most recently denounced threats to his life to the municipal ombudsman's office (*Personería Municipal*) just three days before his death. On 21 January the Mayor's office received two telephone calls informing them that there would be an attack on the life of the Mayor and that the next victim would be his Private Secretary: Erminso Sepulveda. Erminso Sepulveda had also received threats previously. Reportedly, Erminso Sepulveda had on various occasions denounced the UNASE military and police unit and the Commander of the 2nd Mobile Brigade (*Brigada Móvil No.2*), whose base is situated 6 kilometres away at Aguas Claras, as being responsible for the threats and harassment against both his life and against other members of the CAM.

During recent months there has been a series of death threats and acts of harassment against members of the CAM and their families. The latest of these is reportedly against Sixto Pacheco, who has recently been named as the new Director of Transport of the municipality of Aguachica. He received a telephone call 5 days before he was due to start his new job, saying that "if you take up your post as Director of Transport, we will fill you with lead" ("*si se posesiona como Director de Tránsito, lo vamos a llenar de plomo*").

The CAM is a new political party that recently won the municipal elections in Aguachica, defeating the traditional parties, and whose members now hold many of the municipal offices. Since they were elected to office last year a number of their members have been killed or wounded and many others have

received threats. On 21 September 1993, Victor Gaudia Castañeda was killed in his home by unknown gunmen. On 29 November 1993, Gonzalo Cárdenas Alfonso was shot and seriously wounded as he came out of Aguachica Town Hall. In October 1992, Carlos Emiro Galviz, another member of the CAM and Secretary of the town council housing office was killed by unidentified gunmen. These events have been repeatedly denounced to the authorities, but to Amnesty International's knowledge nothing has been done to protect the lives of CAM members or their families.

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

- expressing concern about the apparent extrajudicial execution of Erminso Sepulveda on 28 January 1994 in Aguachica, Cesar department by 5 unidentified gunmen;
- urging that there be an immediate inquiry into his death, its results made public, and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that the inquiry look into the apparent systematic campaign against members of the Community Action Movement (CAM), and that it establish how such a campaign can be allowed to go on with the apparent acquiescence of the security forces;
- urging that there be an immediate inquiry into the death threats and intimidation directed against Sixto Pacheco, and that the inquiry look into the complaints of harassment and death threats to other members of the CAM;
- urging that the authorities take all possible measures to protect the life of Sixto Pacheco and other members of the CAM and their families, who reportedly are subject to a continuing campaign of victimization.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio de Nariño, Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Fax: + 57 1 286 7324/7434; 287 7937**

**Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Gaviria**

2) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla  
 Procurador General de la Nación  
 Procuraduría General  
 Edificio Banco Ganadero, Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472**

**Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación/Dear Dr. Arrieta**

3) Governor of Cesar Department:

Dr. Lucas Segundo Gnecco  
 Gobernación del Departamento de Cesar  
 Calle 16, No.12-120, Valledupar, Cesar, Colombia

**Telegrams:Sr. Gobernador Gnecco, Valledupar**

**Salutation: Estimado Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor**

4) Commander of UNASE:

Comandante del UNASE

Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
CAN, Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Sr. Comandante del UNASE, Ministerio de Defensa, Bogotá**

**Salutation: Sr. Comandante/Dear Comander**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Human Rights and Educational Organization:

MINGA

Apartado Aéreo 40303

Bogotá, Colombia

**Faxes: +57 1 334 3765**

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 15 March 1994.