

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 56/94 Fear for Safety

17 February 1994

COLOMBIA: Efraín VIVEROS FILIGRANA, trade union leader

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Amnesty International fears for the safety of trade union leader Efraín Viveros Filigrana following an attempt on his life on 9 February 1994 at his home in the city of Cali, Valle del Cauca department.

According to the information received, Efraín Viveros was preparing to leave his home in the district of Colseguros, Cali when, at 7 am, two heavily-armed men shot him repeatedly in various parts of his body, seriously wounding him.

Efraín Viveros is now receiving treatment in hospital. Local metropolitan police agents stated that the arms used in the attack are used exclusively by the Colombian armed forces.

Efraín Viveros has received repeated death threats and, following this attempt on his life, concern for his safety has further increased. He has been politically active for many years, as a local trade union leader and member of the left-wing coalition party *Unión Patriótica (UP)*, Patriotic Union, for whom he stood as candidate to the Senate in the last elections. He has also acted as advisor to UP leader Aida Abella, herself the victim of continual harassment and death threats.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearance", torture and arbitrary arrest. Particular targets have been members of left-wing parties, trades union and community leaders. The majority of such abuses have been attributed by the Colombian authorities to armed opposition groups or to civilian "death squads" which it claims it is unable to control. Amnesty International is not always in a position to establish responsibility for each individual "disappearance" as perpetrators are often not fully identified. However, on the basis of available evidence, the organization concludes that many such abuses are carried out by members of the Colombian armed forces or civilians working under their command or with their support.

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

- expressing concern at the attempt to kill Efraín Viveros Filigrana on 9 February 1994 in Cali, Valle del Cauca department by two men using weapons of the Colombian armed forces;

- urging that there be an immediate and thorough investigation into this near-fatal attack and also into the death threats received by Efraín Viveros, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;

- urging that the government take all possible measures to protect trade union leaders and members of opposition parties so that they can carry out their lawful activities.

#### APPEALS TO:

1) President of Colombia:  
Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo

Presidente de la República  
 Palacio de Nariño  
 Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá,  
 Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434**  
**287 7939**

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

**Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472**

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

3) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño  
 Defensor del Pueblo  
 Defensoría del Pueblo  
 Calle 35 No. 7-25 piso 5  
 Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams:Defensor del Pueblo Trivino,  
 Defensoria del Pueblo  
 Bogota, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 288 6683**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/Dear Dr. Triviño**

4) Governor of Valle dept.

Señor Carlos Holguín Sardi  
 Gobernador del Departamento de Valle del Cauca  
 Gobernación de Valle del Cauca  
 Carrera 6ª, Calles 9ª y 10ª  
 Cali  
 Valle del Cauca

**Telegrams:Gobernador Holguín Sardi  
 Gobernación de Valle, Cali, Colombia**

**Faxes: +57 23 810414**

**Salutation: Estimado Sr. Holguin Sardi**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Andean Commission of Jurists

Comisión Andina de Juristas  
 AA 58533  
 Santa Fe de Bogotá  
 Colombia

2) Human Rights and Educational Organization

Señores  
 CINEP

AA 25916  
Santa Fe 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 31 March 1994.