

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/46/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 208/94

Fear for Safety

1 June 1994

COLOMBIA

Isabel Cristina RINCON BRAVO (f)

---

Isabel Cristina Rincón Bravo is being intimidated and harassed by members of the Colombian armed forces, apparently because she has been helping with the investigations into the killing of her husband in which the security forces are implicated. Given that witnesses and relatives of victims are systematically harassed, threatened and even killed in Colombia to stop them testifying in investigations, Amnesty International is seriously concerned for Isabel Rincón's safety.

At about 11am on 20 May 1994 a group of soldiers forced their way into "El Veinte", a restaurant in El Carmen de Atrato, Chocó department, and demanded to know where Isabel Rincón was. After interrogating the restaurant's clients, the soldiers, believed to be from the Cacique Nutibara battalion, *Batallón Cacique Nutibara*, and/or the Granaderos battalion, *Batallón Granaderos*, left in the direction of the town of Tutenendo.

"El Veinte" had been owned by Isabel Rincón's husband, Henry Humberto Molina, who was killed on 7 September 1992 in what may have been an extrajudicial execution. Currently under investigation for the killing are officials and subofficials attached to the *Cacique Nutibara* battalion and police based in the town of El Carmen de Atrato. Isabel Rincón has been helping with the investigations.

On 23 May an unknown vehicle was parked outside "El Veinte". The vehicle's occupants appeared to be making a reconnaissance of the area and of those entering and leaving the restaurant. Those living and working close by have reportedly been visited by personnel from the Judicial Police (*SIJIN*), whose base is in the capital of Chocó, Quibdó.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearance", torture and arbitrary arrest. President César Gaviria Trujillo has repeatedly pledged his government's commitment to protect human rights. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity. When cases of human rights violations do reach the courts, witnesses have been systematically harassed and even killed to prevent them from testifying. Relatives and friends of victims, lawyers and human rights defenders are threatened or killed if they persist with their denunciations.

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

- expressing concern at the reported intimidation of Isabel Rincón by members of the Colombian security forces, particularly in view of the current investigations into her husband's killing in which they are implicated;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough investigation into the reports of intimidation, the results of which should be made public and those found responsible brought to justice;
- urging that all possible measures be taken to protect the life of Isabel Rincón so that she can carry out her lawful activities in safety.

**APPEALS TO**1. President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio de Nariño  
 Santafé 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  
 Santafé 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  
 Santafé 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. Minister of Defence

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda  
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 13 July 1994.