

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 348/92 Possible Extrajudicial Execution

10 November 1992

COLOMBIA: Pedro JARAMILLO RUEDA, *campesino*

Humberto JARAMILLO RUEDA, *campesino*

Mario Lozado ORTIZ, *campesino*

Pedro GUEVARA, millworker

Fredy PRADA VARGAS, millworker

José Eugenio MORALES, millworker

and one other (name not known to Amnesty International)

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Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killing of seven men, the six named above and one whose name is not known to Amnesty International, on 17 October 1992 in Campo Alegre, Huila department in circumstances suggesting they may have been extrajudicially executed.

According to the information received by the organization, at 3 pm on 17 October Pedro Jaramillo Rueda, Humberto Jaramillo Rueda, Mario Lozado Ortiz and another man, *campesinos* (peasant farmers) and Pedro Guevara, Fredy Prada Vargas and José Eugenio Morales, workers at the La Perla mill, Molina La Perla, were taken forcefully from their homes by men carrying automatic weapons and reportedly wearing armbands identifying them as agents of the Department of State Security, Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS). Several eye-witnesses state that they were forced into a van which left in the direction of the departmental capital of Neiva, on a road on which there are military controls. On 22 October the bodies of all the men were found close to the community of Aipe, Huila. They reportedly showed signs of torture.

The killings have been denounced to the Procurator General's office. There is concern for the safety of those who witnessed the detentions and denounced the killings, as in many previous cases witnesses to detentions and possible "disappearances" have also subsequently become victims of possible extrajudicial execution or "disappearance" themselves.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In September 1991 the Procurator General's office produced an official report which stating that more than 2,300 complaints had been lodged against the army and police in the last two years for human rights violations. President César Gaviria Trujillo, on presenting the report, stated:

***"No puede el Gobierno desconocer la gravedad de las acusaciones que se hacen en forma reiterada y masiva contra sus agentes, ni ignorar hasta que punto reina la impunidad por violación de derechos humanos."***

***"The government cannot fail to recognise the seriousness of the accusations made constantly and on a massive scale against its agents, nor ignore the extent of impunity in cases of human rights violations".***

However, despite the government's declared commitment to uphold respect for human rights, members of the Colombian armed and security forces continue to commit serious abuses, including torture, extrajudicial execution and "disappearance" with virtual impunity.

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

- expressing concern at the killing of the above seven men between 17 and 22 October 1992 in circumstances suggesting they were victims of extrajudicial execution following their reported detention by armed men wearing armbands which identified them as agents of the DAS;

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- urging that there be an immediate and thorough investigation into the killings, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;

- urging that the government take all possible measures to protect witnesses of human rights violations from reprisals.

**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 1 283 3066, + 57 1 286 7324, + 57 1 287 7937**

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

2) Director of the Department of State Security:

Dr. Fernando Brito  
Director  
Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad  
Carrera 28, No. 17A-00  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

**Telegrams:Director, Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes:43363 JEDAS**

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

3) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño  
Defensor del Pueblo  
Defensoría del Pueblo  
Calle 34, Carrera 5  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes:41213 PGNDP CO**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472**

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

4) Attorney General:

Dr. Gustavo de Greiff  
Fiscal General  
Fiscalia General  
Hotel Orquidea Real  
Carrera 7, No 32-16  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff / Dear Dr. de Greiff**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

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 22 December 1992.