

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 142/91 (AMR 23/26/91, 26 April 1991) - Possible Extrajudicial Execution

**COLOMBIA: Julio Daniel HURTADO, journalist
Jorge Enrique TORRES NAVAS, photographer**

Amnesty International has received information from the Colombian Presidential Adviser on Human Rights that the Colombian President, César Gaviria Trujillo, has publicly condemned the killing of Julio Daniel Chaparro Hurtado and Jorge Enrique Torres Navas.

Daniel Chaparro and Jorge Torres were killed on 24 April 1991, whilst on assignment for the Colombian daily newspaper El Espectador in the town of Segovia, Antioquia department. They had reportedly gone to Segovia as part of an investigation into the origins and effects of political violence.

According to the Presidential Adviser, President Gaviria referred to the killings as an attack on the freedom of the press. He has reportedly personally ordered that the investigations into the killings be prompt and thorough and has requested that the Procurator General (who has a human rights monitoring role in Colombia) appoint a special agent who will monitor the investigations and be responsible for ensuring that they are impartial.

Amnesty International welcomes this news, although there is continued concern that although many such investigations are carried out in Colombia, only exceptionally do they lead to the identification and prosecution of those responsible for the human rights violations.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- continuing to express concern at the killings of Julio Daniel Chaparro Hurtado and Jorge Enrique Torres Navas in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution;

- welcoming the President's intervention and reiterating his concern that the investigations into the killings should be thorough and impartial and urging that the results should be made public.

APPEALS TO:

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

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Procurador General de la Nación
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and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 31 July 1991.