

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Threats

15 October 1991

COLOMBIA:

Antonio SANGUINO, community worker aged 25

Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of 25 year-old Antonio Sanguino who has received anonymous threats to his life and the lives of his family.

Antonio Sanguino, a sociologist, works as leader and counsellor with the Bucaramanga (Santander department) section of a national community youth organization called La Juventud Trabajadora Colombiana (JTC), Labour Youth of Colombia. The organization's stated aims are to encourage community leadership in young people and their involvement in community development projects. The JTC works in cooperation with both state bodies and non-government organizations.

Antonio Sanguino, in a letter to the regional procurator, states that on 30 September 1991 anonymous persons left threatening material at two addresses. This material was addressed to him and consisted of sufragios, religious notes inviting him to a mass following his own funeral and a note, made up of letters cut from newspapers, threatening him in the following crude language. **"Perro guerrillero sabemos que quiere minar al norte con milicias populares reclutando jovenes en la hp JT. No vamos a permitir subversivos en ciudad norte y menos en Villa Rosa. Piérdese de aqui".** "Guerrilla dog we know you want to mine the north with people's militias recruiting young people in the bastard JT. Get out of here." The note also insulted Antonio Sanguino's wife and threatened his young daughter. **"Cuide a su hija y a la perra de Marta si quiere verlas vivas"**, "look after your daughter and the bitch Marta if you want to see them alive". Following the receipt of the threats, he has abandoned his work and left Bucaramanga, in fear for his life.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In recent years Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports of human rights violations in Colombia including extrajudicial executions and "disappearances". Principal targets have been people associated with legal left-wing parties, civic and community movements and trade unions. The majority of abuses have been attributed by Colombian authorities to civilian "death squads" which it claims it is unable to control. However, independent investigations, including judicial inquiries, have concluded that many such groups operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian armed forces.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern for the safety of Antonio Sanguino and his family, following the receipt of threats to their lives;

- urging that there be an immediate investigation into the death threats in order to identify those responsible and bring them to justice;

- urging the Colombian authorities to take all possible measures to protect community workers and ensure that they are able to carry out their lawful activities.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic:

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

**Salutation: Excelentísimo
Sr. Presidente**

Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 283 3066 / + 57 1 286 7324 / + 57 1 287 7937

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

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador
General de la Nación**

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

Defensor del Pueblo (Advocate for the People):

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
Defensor del Pueblo
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Salutation: Sr. Defensor del
Pueblo**

**Telegrama: Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, c/o Procuraduria
General, Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia**

Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

Minister of Defence:

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

Salutation: Sr. Ministro

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes: +57 1 222 1874

COPIES TO:

Señores

Salutation: señores

CINEP

AA 25916

Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia (Human Rights and Educational Organization)

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 26 November 1991.