

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/57/90  
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Date: 2 November 1990

## *DEATH THREATS AGAINST DOCTOR*

**Dr Walter JARAMILLO GONZÁLEZ  
COLOMBIA**

Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of Dr Walter Jaramillo González, a medical doctor, who has received threats against his life following his work on behalf of victims of human rights violations in Cali, capital of Valle del Cauca department, in south-west Colombia.

According to reports, Dr Walter Jaramillo González has received telephoned death threats and is being followed by both uniformed and men in plain clothes, some of whom have been identified as members of Cali's Metropolitan Police.

Dr Jaramillo has recently been actively involved in the search for three community leaders from Cali who "disappeared" on 12 October 1990 whose mutilated bodies were found on 16 October. Dr Jaramillo had assisted in the removal and identification of the bodies.

In his free time, Dr Jaramillo is an instructor at a kung fu centre in Cali. According to reports, the martial arts centre had recently been the object of illegal searches by members of the security forces.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The bodies of Francisco Sapizábal, Luis Cuazquer and Jorge Ocampo, all community leaders who "disappeared" on 12 October 1990, were found in the Cauca river near Santander de Quilichao, department of Cauca, on 16 October, bearing signs of torture and with several gunshot wounds. Their faces had been burned with acid. Despite the severe disfiguration, relatives were able to positively identify their loved ones on 19 October.

The community leaders from Cali's Aguablanca district, were seized on a street in Cali by a group of armed men. Some of the witnesses allege the group included members of the police. The detention was denied by the security forces. Cali has been particularly affected by "disappearances" in recent months. While not always being in a position to establish responsibility for each individual disappearance, evidence available to Amnesty International leads it to conclude that many such abuses are carried out by members of the Colombian security forces or civilians working under their command.

Amnesty International is urging the Colombian government to vigorously investigate the three killings and to guarantee the physical safety of Dr Jaramillo.



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To: Belgian (Fr), Canadian, Danish, Dutch, Ecuadorian, French, German, Swiss, US,  
Uruguayan medical groups  
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Americas  
Date: 2 November 1990

**LIMITED MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION**

**Dr Walter JARAMILLO GONZÁLEZ  
COLOMBIA**

**KEYWORDS**

Theme: death threats/disappearance/EJE/torture

Profession/association: doctor

**SUMMARY**

Dr Walter Jaramillo has been the target of telephoned death threats following his role in the search for three missing community leaders and the subsequent identification of their bodies. AI is urging the Colombian authorities to assure his safety, while at the same time vigorously investigating the deaths of the three men.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Telexes, faxes, express letters from medical professionals, preferably written in good Spanish or your own language, should be sent to the addresses below [we suggest up to four letters per group to each address]:

- expressing grave concern at the threats made against the life of Dr Walter Jaramillo which you believe result from his role in searching for three "disappeared" community leaders, and subsequently identifying their bodies;
- urging that the deaths of three community leaders, Francisco Sapizábal, Luis Cuazquer and Jorge Ocampo, be fully and impartially investigated and those found responsible be held accountable under the law

The purpose of this action is to ensure that the government knows that there is international attention being paid to this case. We therefore need only a limited number of appeals at the present time.

**ADDRESSES**

President César Gaviria Trujillo  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Narino  
Bogotá, Colombia

President  
Fax: +57 1 286 7324  
Telex: 44281 P-ALP CO

General Oscar Botero  
Ministero de Defensa Nacional  
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
Bogotá, Colombia

Minister of Defense

Fax: +57 1 222 1874  
Tel: 42411 INPRE CO  
or 44561 CFAC CO

Comandante de la Policía  
Comando de Policía  
Calle 21N, No. 1-25  
Cali  
Colombia

Police Commandant

**COPIES TO:**

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Edificio Banco Ganadero  
Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
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Procurator General

Tel: 41224 PRGEN CO  
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CSPP  
A.A. 4296  
Cali  
Colombia

Comité de Solidaridad con  
los Przos Políticos

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country