

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/032/2006

30 June 2006

Further Information on UA 177/06 (AMR 23/031/2006, 22 June 2006) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA **Gloria Amparo SUÁREZ (f)**
Other members of *Organización Femenina Popular*, (OFP), Popular Women's Organization

New Name: **María Jackeline ROJAS CASTAÑEDA (f), broadcaster and human rights defender**

Another member of the *Organización Femenina Popular*, (OFP), Popular Women's Organization, María Jackeline Rojas Castañeda, has received an anonymous threat, thus heightening concerns for the safety of members of this non-governmental human rights organization.

At around 10am on 21 June, the controller of Radio Uno, a regional radio station linked to a national radio network, received an anonymous telephone call. The caller allegedly said: "*Dígale a esa perra hijueputa de la Mohana que la estamos oyendo y que prepare un cajón para la lengua*", ("Tell that bitch from Mohana that we are listening to her and that she should prepare a coffin for her tongue"). The death threat was directed at María Jackeline Rojas Castañeda, who broadcasts a daily 10 minute radio programme for the OFP called Mohana about women's human rights concerns.

Jackeline Rojas has been threatened previously by army-backed paramilitary groups as a result of her human rights work with the OFP (See UA 38/01, AMR 23/017/2001, 9 February 2001, and follow-ups). The wording of this latest threat is similar to a written death threat to human rights defenders and social activists in the municipality of Barrancabermeja, allegedly issued by army-backed paramilitaries earlier in June. This similarity heightens concerns for the safety of all members of the OFP.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that María Jackeline Rojas Castañeda received a death threat on 21 June 2006 in relation to her work for the *Organización Femenina Popular* (OFP);
- expressing concern that this is the second threat directed against a member of the OFP, following the threat received by Gloria Amparo Suárez on 12 June 2006;
- noting the similarity between the latest threat and the recent threat made against other human rights and social activists, which was allegedly made by army-backed paramilitary groups;
- expressing concern for the safety of María Jackeline Rojas Castañeda, Gloria Amparo Suárez, their families and other OFP activists;
- urging the authorities to take effective action, deemed appropriate by María Jackeline Rojas Castañeda, Gloria Amparo Suárez, their families and other OFP members, to protect them and ensure that OFP can continue its legitimate and important work in the defence of human rights in safety;
- calling on the government to investigate all threats against human rights defenders and to bring those responsible to justice;
- calling on the authorities to produce policy and plans, in conjunction with human rights defenders, to guarantee their safety according to the principles of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, and to make these plans public.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez, Presidente de la República, Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 337 5890

Salutation: Excmo. Sr. Presidente Uribe/ Dear President Uribe

Minister of the Interior and Justice

Sr. Sabas Pretelt de la Vega, Ministro del Interior y de Justicia, Ministerio del Interior, Av. Jiménez No 8-89, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 560 4630

Salutation: Dear Sir / Sr. Ministro

Attorney General

Dr. Mario Iguarán, Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación, Diagonal 22B 52-01, Edificio C Piso 4, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 414 9108

Salutation: Dear Dr Iguarán / Estimado Dr. Iguarán

COPIES TO:

Human Rights NGO

Organización Femenina Popular, Cra 22 No 52B – 36, Barrancabermeja, Santander, 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 11 August 2006.