

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/008/2005

11 April 2005

**Further Information on UA 78/05 (AMR 23/005/2005, 1 April 2005) and follow-up (AMR 23/006/2005) -
Fear for safety/death threats/abduction**

COLOMBIA Danilo Rueda (m)
Enrique Chimonja (m)
Edwin Mosquera (m)
Johana López (f)
Mónica Suarez (f)
Fabio Ariza (m)
Other members of the non-governmental human rights organization *Comisión Intereclesial Justicia y Paz*, Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission

The five human rights activists abducted on 31 March were released unharmed on 8 April. However, Danilo Rueda and other members of the *Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz*, Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission, have been followed, and watched by gunmen.

Enrique Chimonja, Edwin Mosquera, Johana López, Mónica Suarez and Fabio Ariza had been abducted by the guerrilla group *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC), Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

In the past few days, unidentified individuals have kept watch on the *Justicia y Paz* offices in the capital, Bogotá. Activists with the organisation have been followed by cars with tinted windows.

On 3 April at about 3.45pm, two men in a car with tinted windows reportedly followed Danilo Rueda, who was on foot at the time, along several streets. He managed to get away from them.

At around 10.30 pm that day, he and another *Justicia y Paz* activist, Abilio Peña, were reportedly followed by another vehicle as they travelled by bus. They managed to get away.

The next day a lawyer working with the organisation, Rafael Figueroa, was followed by two men, one of them apparently armed, after he left the office. He had boarded a bus at 10pm, and realized he was being followed. He got off the bus and the men ran after him, but he managed to escape.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Danilo Rueda and other members of *Justicia y Paz* were followed by gunmen on 3 and 4 April;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the death threat delivered to the organisation on 29 March, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate and effective action deemed appropriate by those under threat, to ensure that members of *Justicia y Paz* can carry out their legitimate and important work for the defence of human rights in safety;
- reminding the authorities of their obligations to human rights defenders, as laid out in the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Organization of American States Human Rights Defenders in the Americas resolutions and in repeated recommendations made to them by the UN;

- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and UN recommendations.

APPEALS TO:

President

Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez

Presidente de la República, Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-2, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 337 5890

+ 57 1 342 0592

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

Vice-President

Vicepresidente de la República de Colombia

Dr. Francisco Santos Calderón

Vicepresidencia, Carrera 8A No 5-57, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 565 7682

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Vicepresidente/ Dear Vice-President

Attorney General

Dr. Luis Camilo Osorio

Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,

Diagonal 22B 52-01 (Ciudad Salite), Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 570 2000 (you will hear a message in Spanish asking you to enter extension 2017)

Salutation: Dear Dr. Osorio / Estimado Dr. Osorio

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental human rights organization

Comisión Intereclesial Justicia y Paz

Calle 50 No13-19 Oficina 203

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 23 May 2005.