

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/038/2005

27 October 2005

**Further Information on UA 272/05 (AMR 23/037/2005, 17 October 2005) - Fear for Safety/Possible "disappearance"**

**COLOMBIA**      **Orlando Valencia (m)**  
**Other members of the Afro-descendant communities of the Jiguiamiandó and Curvaradó River Basins**

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The body of Orlando Valencia was found on 24 October. He had been shot in the head. He had reportedly been abducted by army-backed paramilitaries on 15 October. Other members of the Afro-descendant communities of the Jiguiamiandó and Curvaradó River Basins are now believed to be in even greater danger.

The body was found in the Leon River at a place known as Bocas de Zábalo, 30 minutes by road from the municipality of Chirigorodó, Antioquia Department. It was only identified two days later, after a finger-print test. Orlando Valencia had been shot in the forehead, and his wrists had marks from being tied. According to forensic investigations of the body, Orlando had probably been killed and thrown into the river by the paramilitaries who abducted him several days before his body was found.

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

- urging the authorities to conduct a full and impartial investigation into the killing of Orlando Valencia;
- expressing concern for the safety of other inhabitants of the communities of the Curvaradó and Jiguiamiandó River Basins, who have recently been threatened with a paramilitary raid, and urging the authorities to take all measures deemed appropriate by the communities themselves to protect them, in line with repeated IACHR resolutions;
- urging that all those responsible for killings or disappearances in the area be brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Chocó, urging that the results are made public and those found responsible for supporting and participating in such groups are brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with United Nations recommendations.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic

Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez

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

**Fax: + 57 1 337 5890**

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

Attorney General

Dr. Mario Germán Iguarán, Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,

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

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

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dra. María Carolina Barco Isakson, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Calle 10 No 5-51, Palacio de San Carlos, Bogotá, COLOMBIA

**Fax:** +57 1 562 7822  
**Salutation:** Sra Ministra/Dear Minister

**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 8 December 2005.