

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/016/2004

02 April 2004

Further Information on UA 306/03 (AMR 23/069/2003, 29 October 2003) Fear for safety/ Death threats

COLOMBIA Yaneth Montoya Martínez (f), journalist

New Name: Ademir Luna (m), journalist, her husband

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Ademir Luna, who works as a journalist for the non governmental human rights organization CREDHOS. This follows an attack against another man who was mistaken for him and his home being watched by unknown individuals in the city of Barrancabermeja, Santander Department.

In a case of mistaken identity, on 29 March at approximately 11:15 am Fabián Correa was attacked as he drove a taxi belonging to Ademir Luna's father, Eduardo. Two men entered the taxi and forced Fabián Correa to drive into a dead end street. One of the men reportedly asked: "You are Ademir Luna, aren't you? We are going to kill you" (*Usted es Ademir Luna, cierto? Lo vamos a matar*). They then doused him in petrol whilst he sat at the steering wheel and attempted to set fire to the vehicle, but their lighter did not work. As they left the scene, they said: "You know, fat son of a bitch, we are already praying for you. Tell that gonorrhoea to take care of himself, because we will kill him". (*Sabe qué, gordo hijo de puta?, usted está rezado. Dígale a esa gonorrea que se cuide, que lo vamos a matar*). Fabián Correa has reported the attack to the police.

Previously, on 3 February at around 9:00 pm, Ademir Luna noted that his house was being watched by several unknown men. His wife and fellow journalist Yaneth Montoya Martinez, who had been threatened by army-backed paramilitaries in October 2003, was forced to flee the city of Barrancabermeja in November 2003 and had to resign from her job on the regional newspaper, *Vanguardia Liberal*.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Army-backed paramilitaries control entire areas of Barrancabermeja, despite the presence of large numbers of security forces.

Journalists are frequently harassed, tortured and killed by armed groups in the Columbia's internal conflict who accuse them of collaborating with their enemies. Colombia is one of the countries with highest levels of violence against journalists.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Ademir Luna and Yaneth Montoya Martínez following a failed attempt against him on 29 March 2004 in which Fabián Correa was mistakenly attacked;
- calling for an immediate, impartial and full investigation into the attack against Fabián Correa and the death threats against Ademir Luna, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of Ademir Luna and his family, in accordance with his wishes;
- expressing concern that the government has taken no effective action against paramilitary groups in the Barrancabermeja area, despite UN recommendations to combat and dismantle these groups;

- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in the department of Santander, urging that the results are made public, and that those responsible for supporting and participating in such groups are brought to justice.

**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 1 342 0592 / 337 5890**

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

Governor of Santander Department

Sr. Hugo Heliodoro Aguilar Naranjo

Gobernador del Departamento de Santander

Gobernación de Santander

Calle 37, No. 10-30

Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

**Fax: + 57 76 842 843**

**Salutation: Dear Governor Aguilar Naranjo / Sr. Gobernador Aguilar Naranjo**

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 2022 / 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

CREDHOS

AA 505

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 14 May 2004.