

PUBLIC

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Fear for

COLOMBIA

Huberney GIRALDO

José Evelio GALLO

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**Killed: community leader, name unknown; schoolteacher, surname Parra**

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The two men named above, members of the political party *Corriente de Renovación Socialista* (CRS), Socialist Renovation Movement, were abducted by paramilitaries in the northwestern department of Antioquia on 23 January 2000. Their whereabouts are now unknown, and Amnesty International is concerned for their safety and that of other CRS members.

The two men were reportedly abducted by members of the paramilitary group *Autodefensas Unidas de Córdoba y Urabá* (ACCU), Peasant Farmer Self-Defence Groups of Córdoba and Urabá, at a farm, La Galleta, worked by CRS members.

The paramilitaries apparently accused José Evelio, Huberney Giraldo and two other men of being guerrilla collaborators. They later released the other two, but said they were going to put José Evelio and Huberney Giraldo on "trial" ("a juicio"). They forced the men into a vehicle and left in the direction of the municipality of Abejorral.

When the paramilitaries arrived at the farm, in the municipality of Montebello, at about 6am, they were already holding two people, a schoolteacher named Parra and a community leader whose name is not known. Their bodies were later found near the farm.

The CRS is a breakaway faction of the armed opposition group *Ejército de Liberación Nacional* (ELN), Army of National Liberation. It became a legal movement after signing a peace agreement with the government in 1994. The security forces and their paramilitary allies have frequently accused former guerrillas, such as CRS members, of being guerrilla collaborators or sympathizers, accusations which have often led to "disappearances", killings and other serious human rights violations.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Members of the Colombian army and security forces and their paramilitary allies commit serious human rights violations with virtual impunity. Over the past five years paramilitary groups have killed several thousand civilians. In 1989 the Colombian government suspended the constitutional legal base for the formation of paramilitary organizations and issued directives to the armed forces to combat and disband such groups, yet they continue to work with the support of the security forces in many areas of the country.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of José Evelio Gallo and Huberney Giraldo, who were reportedly abducted by paramilitaries on 23 January 2000;
- calling on the authorities to open an immediate and comprehensive investigation to establish their whereabouts and bring those responsible to justice, with the results made public;
- expressing concern for the safety of other CRS members on the La Galleta farm and urging that all measures deemed appropriate by them be taken to guarantee their safety;

- calling for full and impartial investigations into the reported killing of a schoolteacher named Parra and a community leader close to the La Galleta farm, urging that the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups in the department of Antioquia, for the results to be made public and for those responsible for supporting and participating in such groups to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and recommendations made by the UN and other intergovernmental organizations.

**APPEALS TO:**President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana, Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434/ 284 2186/ 337 1351**

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Pastrana**

Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez,

Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,  
Diagonal 22B 5201, Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes: + 571 570 2022** (If the call is answered, say "Fax, por favor" and wait for the signal.)

**Salutation: Estimado Dr./Dear Dr. Gómez**

Governor of the Department of Antioquia

Dr. Alberto Builes Ortega, Gobernador del Departamento de Antioquia  
Gobernación de Antioquia, Calle 42B, # 52-106, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

**Telegrams: Gobernador de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia**

**Fax: + 574 381 1342**

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

**COPIES TO:**Corporation of Popular Development

IPC

Apartado Aéreo 9690

Medellín

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 7 March 2000.