

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/04/00

2 February 2000

Further information on UA 18/00 (AMR 23/03/00, 25 January 2000) - Fear for Safety / Possible "Disappearances"

COLOMBIAHuberney GIRALDO]Members of the political party  
José Evelio GALLO]Corriente de Renovación Socialista (CRS), Socialist  
Renovation Movement

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On 24 January 2000, relatives of Huberney Giraldo and José Evelio Gallo were told that the men's bodies had apparently been found in the municipality of El Carmen de Víbora, Antioquia Department, where they had been taken to the morgue.

The men had been abducted the day before by the paramilitary group *Autodefensas Unidas de Córdoba y Urabá* (ACCU), Peasant Farmer Self-Defense Groups of Córdoba and Urabá, with the apparent acquiescence of the Colombian armed forces. They were abducted at a farm, La Galleta, worked by members of the *Corriente de Renovación Socialista* (CRS), Socialist Renovation Movement - a legal political party.

On 25 January the commander of the army's Second Division reported that two guerrillas had been killed in a battle between the army and an armed opposition group. From the descriptions given by witnesses the bodies of the dead "guerrillas" seen in the morgue appear to be those of Huberney Giraldo and José Evelio Gallo. The security forces often describe victims of extrajudicial executions as "guerrillas killed in combat".

The battle supposedly took place in the village of La Madera, municipality of El Carmen de Víbora, some distance from La Galleta, which is in the municipality of Montebello. It involved the army's *Batallón Mecanizado Juan del Corral*, Juan del Corral Mechanized Battalion, and the armed opposition group *Frente Carlos Alirio Buitrago del Ejército de Liberación Nacional* (ELN), Carlos Alirio Buitrago Front of the National Liberation Army.

On 26 January the bodies of the two men were stolen from the morgue by an unidentified armed group.

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

- calling on the authorities to immediately launch a comprehensive and impartial investigation into the deaths of Huberney Giraldo and José Evelio Gallo, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the armed forces and illegal 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;
- 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;
- 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**

**Faxes: + 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 15 March 2000.