

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/07/96

1 February 1996

Further information on UA 68/95 (AMR 23/11/95, 16 March 1995) and follow up AMR 23/62/95, 16 October 1995.

COLOMBIA Josué GIRALDO CARDONA, President of the Meta Civic Human Rights Committee
and other members of the Civic Human Rights Committee

new names: Islena REY (f)
Orlando OCAMPO, union leader

Amnesty International continues to be concerned for the safety of members of the *Comité Cívico por los Derechos Humanos del Meta*, Meta Civic Human Rights Committee, following renewed death threats.

On 14 January 1996 Josué Giraldo Cardona, President of the Civic Human Rights Committee, was reportedly followed home and to his workplace in Villavicencio, in the Department of Meta, by unidentified individuals travelling in unmarked vehicles. On 17 January, Josué Giraldo received a written death threat.

On Saturday, 27 January, Islena Rey, also a member of the Civic Human Rights Committee, was threatened by an anonymous telephone caller. Orlando Ocampo, a member of the *Unión Nacional de Trabajadores Bancarios* (UNEB) - National Union of Bank Workers, together with a member of the *Confederación Unitaria de Trabajadores*, United Confederation of Workers, were also threatened in the same telephone call. The caller asked for Orlando Ocampo and stated: "*Perro H.P. le vamos a dar a usted, a Islena Rey y al otro de la CUT ... si no le damos a usted le damos a su familia*": "Son-of-a-bitch we're going to get you, Islena Rey and that other one from the CUT ... if we don't get you we'll get your family".

Orlando Ocampo had received a telephoned death threat on 26 January at his home. The caller had threatened him by saying: "*Perro H.P. lo vamos a matar*": "Son-of-a-bitch, we're going to kill you". On the evening of 27 January and 28 January, Orlando Ocampo's house was reportedly kept under surveillance by unidentified men, heightening fears for his safety.

These latest threats against Islena Rey and Josué Giraldo have heightened concern for the safety of all members of the Civic Human Rights Committee. Since the Committee was founded in December 1991, its members have been subject to threats and other human rights violations. Four of its members have been killed and one was "disappeared". In March 1995, as a result of death threats, the Committee closed its office in Meta, but members have continued to work ...

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

- expressing serious concern at the death threats against Josué Giraldo and Islena Rey, members of the Meta Civic Human Rights Committee and against Orlando Ocampo, a trade union leader, on 17, 26 and 27 January 1996;
- expressing concern that death threats against members of the Civic Human Rights Committee continue despite repeated appeals to the Colombian authorities to take effective measures to secure the safety of members of the Civic Human Rights Committee;

- urging that there be an immediate and thorough investigation into this and previous threats against members of the Committee, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging that all possible measures, deemed appropriate by those working with the Committee, be taken to protect their lives.

APPEALS TO:

1. President of Colombia

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Samper Pizano, Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2. Procurator General

Dr. Orlando Vásquez Velásquez
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Procurador General Vasquez, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 1 342 9723/281 7531

Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la Nación/Dear Dr. Vásquez

3. Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento
Fiscal General de la Nación
Fiscalía General de la Nación
Apartado Aéreo 29855
Santafé de Bogotá
Colombia

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

Faxes: + 57 1 245 5292 or 288 2828

Salutation: Estimado Valdivieso/Dear Dr. Valdivieso

4. Advocate for the People

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
Defensor del Pueblo
Defensoría del Pueblo
Calle 35 No. 7-25 piso 5
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo, Bogota, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 1 346 1225/285 6908

Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/Dear Dr. Triviño

COPIES TO:

Hermana Nohemy
Pastoral Social de la Diócesis de Villavicencio

AA 3470
Villavicencio
Meta, 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 1996.