

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Extrajudicial Executions / Fear for safety

20 January 1994

COLOMBIA: Luis Antonio Enciso  
Luz Amelia Enciso, aged 15 (f)  
Manuel Guillermo Enciso

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Amnesty International has learned with concern of the apparent extrajudicial execution of three members of the Enciso family in the first week of January 1994 in San Juan de Río Seco, Cundinamarca department. The organization is also concerned for the safety of surviving members of the Enciso family and witnesses to the events surrounding the killings.

According to reports, an army platoon arrived at the farm of Luis Antonio Enciso on 4 January, searching for the kidnapped industrialist Carlos Upegui Zapata, believed to have been kidnapped by FARC guerrillas in August 1993. In their attempts to obtain information as to the industrialist's whereabouts, the military had visited the farm previously and threatened farm workers there.

On this occasion, Luis Antonio Enciso reportedly went to their defence and as a result was asked by the platoon leader to accompany him to the local military base to clear up the matter with his superiors. Luis Antonio accepted in the belief that it would put an end to the repeated harassment of himself and his farm workers. Believing that he would not be away long, he asked his 15 year old daughter, Luz Amelia, to accompany him. Neither returned home that night.

On 5 January Manuel Guillermo Enciso, Luis Antonio's father, and a friend, reportedly went to the military base, worried by rumours that Luis Antonio and Luz Amelia had both been tortured. Manuel Guillermo Enciso was allowed into the base while the friend waited outside. Three hours later, the friend asked why they had not come out and was told that "for his own safety" ("*por su seguridad*") he should go home, and that within the next hour or two Manuel Guillermo would come out.

On 6 January, the bodies of Luis Antonio, Luz Amelia and Manuel Guillermo Enciso were found by local farm workers.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, arbitrary arrest, "disappearance" and extrajudicial executions. President César Gaviria Trujillo has repeatedly pledged his government's commitment to protect human rights. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity. Peasant farmers and the local population living in areas where guerrilla forces are active are often perceived by the armed forces as potential guerrilla collaborators and have, as a result, been subjected to extrajudicial execution and other abuse. Only exceptionally are perpetrators

brought to justice; the vast majority of members of the armed forces responsible for gross human rights violations remain in active service.

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

- expressing concern about the killing of Luis Antonio, Luz Amelia and Manuel Guillermo Enciso, who were last seen alive at the military base in San Juan de Río Seco, Cundinamarca department, on 4 January 1994;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into these killings, its results made public, and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that the authorities take all possible measures to protect the lives of the surviving members of the Enciso family and the witnesses to the events surrounding these killings.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio de Nariño  
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324/7434/287 7937**

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

2) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla  
 Procurador General de la Nación  
 Procuraduría General  
 Edificio Banco Ganadero  
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472**

**Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación/Dear Dr. Arrieta**

3) Minister of Defence

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda  
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
 Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

4) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño  
 Defensor del Pueblo  
 Defensoría del Pueblo  
 Avenida 39, No. 16-42  
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

**Faxes:+ 57 1 232 4640**

Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/Dear Dr. Triviño

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Colombian Workers Confederation:

Sra. Amelia Molina

CTC - Confederación de Trabajadores de Colombia

Apartado Aéreo 4780

Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Fax: +57 1 286 85 76**

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 3 March 1994.