

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 26/94 Extrajudicial Execution/Fear for Safety 25 January 1994

**COLOMBIA: José Severo RUBIANO CRUZ, peasant farmer - killed
Severo RUBIANO CRUZ, peasant farmer, aged 60 - fear for safety**

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the apparent extrajudicial execution of José Severo Rubiano Cruz allegedly by members of the Colombian army on 27 December 1993 in the village of Payacal, municipality of La Mesa, Cundinamarca department.

According to reports, in the early hours of 27 December José Severo Rubiano Cruz and his father Severo Rubiano Cruz were awoken by dogs barking and got up to investigate. Soldiers, who had surrounded the house, opened fire without warning, killing José Severo Rubiano Cruz. Severo Rubiano Cruz fled and hid in the coffee plantation, from where he witnessed the soldiers destroying his house by throwing a grenade into it.

Severo Rubiano Cruz denounced these events to the judicial and public ministry authorities. However, so far no action has apparently been taken to identify those responsible and bring them to justice, although the military and police authorities are said to have been aware of the incident.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, arbitrary arrest, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. 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 José Severo Rubiano Cruz in circumstances suggesting his extrajudicial execution allegedly by members of the Colombian army in the village of Payacal, municipality of La Mesa, Cundinamarca department, on 27 December 1993;

- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into the killing, its results made public, and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- urging that the authorities take all possible measures to protect Severo Rubiano Cruz whose life is in danger both as a possible target for extra judicial execution, as a witness to the killing of his son and for having denounced

his son's death to the authorities.

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 Fé 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:

Lawyers' Association:

Corporación Colectivo de Abogados
AA 44456
Santa Fé de Bogotá
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 9 March 1994.