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Further information on UA 514/90 (AMR 23/66/90, 20 December 1990) - Possible Extrajudicial Execution

COLOMBIA: Luis Napoleon TORRES

Angel María TORRES

Hugues CHAPARRO, indigenous leaders

Amnesty International has received information from the Colombian Presidential Adviser on Human Rights that an official investigation has been opened into the torture and killing of indigenous leaders Luis Napoleon Torres, Angel María Torres and Hugues Chaparro, in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution. Eye witnesses report that the men were forced to leave a bus travelling from Valledupar, César department, to Bogotá by three heavily armed men wearing military uniforms. Their bodies were later found showing signs of torture. The investigation is currently in the hands of the 7th judge of Criminal Instruction.

Whilst Amnesty International welcomes the investigation, there is concern that although many investigations into human rights abuses are opened in Colombia, only exceptionally do they lead to the identification and prosecution of those responsible for the crime.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- welcoming the investigation into the killing of indigenous leaders Luis Napoleon Torres, Angel María Torres and Hugues Chaparro and urging that it should be thorough and impartial and the results made public;
- urging that all possible measures be taken to protect the lives of indigenous community leaders to ensure that they are able to carry out their lawful activities.

APPEALS TO:

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COPIES TO:

Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos AA 12817 Bogotá COLOMBIA

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 April 1991.