

URGENT ACTION

DEATH THREAT TO MOTHER OF MAN KILLED BY ARMY

The mother and lawyers of a young man killed by the members of the Colombian armed forces have received death threats, days before a court hearing on the case.

On 17 May a death threat was found by **Alfamid Castillo**, President of the Committee of Women Partners of Sugar Cane Workers (Comité de Mujeres Corteras de la Caña) and mother of Davey Mosquera Castillo, who was killed together with Alex Hernando Ramírez Hurtado by members of the Colombian army on 8 February 2008. The note read: "death to Alfamid [and] her lawyers for interfering..." (*Muerfe [sic] a Alfamid a sus abogados por meterse...*). This latest death threat against Alfamid Castillo and the lawyers **Jorge Molano** and **Germán Romero** comes days before a court hearing, scheduled for 24 May, which seeks to establish the responsibility of senior commanders in the killing.

The death threat was left at the office of the Committee, which is coordinated by the Association for Social Research and Action, a local human rights NGO (Asociación para la Investigación y Acción Social, NOMADESC). There have been many previous threats. In October 2012 Alfamid Castillo and her lawyers were also threatened with death, again just days before a court hearing. Alfamid Castillo and other relatives, as well as witnesses to the extrajudicial executions, and the lawyers have faced repeated threats, intimidation and harassment.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of Alfamid Castillo, Jorge Molano and Germán Romero, and other relatives and witnesses in the case, and calling on the authorities to ensure protection measures for them as agreed with them;
- Urging the authorities to fully and impartially investigate the threats and prosecute those responsible;
- Demanding commitment from the authorities to take decisive action to end extrajudicial executions, and guarantee the protection of those campaigning for justice in line with United Nations human rights recommendations that have been repeatedly issued;
- Reminding the authorities to fulfil their obligations to ensure human rights defenders can carry out their work without fear, as laid out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 JULY 2013 TO:

President

Presidente Juan Manuel Santos
 Presidente de la República, Palacio de
 Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 596 0631

**Salutation: Dear President Santos/
 Excmo Sr. Presidente Santos**

Defence Minister

Señor Juan Carlos Pinzón
 Ministerio de Defensa
 Carrera 54, no.26-29
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 266 1003

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

And copies to:

Local human rights organization
 NOMADESC
 Carrera 9 No 4-53
 Barrio San Antonio
 Cali
 Colombia

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 296/12. Further information:
www.amnesty.org/library/info/AMR23/040/2012/en

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 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

During the long-running armed conflict in Colombia, extrajudicial executions have been carried out by the security forces in a widespread and systematic manner. They have been part of the terror tactics used by the security forces as part of their counter-insurgency strategy. The Attorney General's Office is investigating more than 2,000 cases of extrajudicial executions reportedly committed by the security forces. Those campaigning for justice in cases of extrajudicial executions have been repeatedly subjected to death threats, or have been killed by members of the security forces or paramilitaries working with them.

Seven members of the armed forces have already been convicted for their part in the killing of Davey Mosquera Castillo and Alex Hernando Ramírez Hurtado in the rural area of Manizales Caldas Department on 8 February 2008. Soldiers from the Counter Guerrilla Battalion 57 Martires de Puerres of the VIII Brigade are implicated. These latest threats come as lawyers are attempting to ensure that criminal proceedings against senior commanders are advanced.

Name: Alfamir Castillo (f), Jorge Molano (m), Germán Romero (m)

Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 296/12 Index: AMR 23/023/2013 Issue Date: 21 May 2013