

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/27/96

20 May 1996

Further information on UA 241/95 (AMR 23/63/95, 19 October 1995) and follow-ups (AMR 23/21/96, 24 April 1996 and AMR 23/23/96, 26 April 1996) - Fear for safety / Apparent extrajudicial executions / Possible "disappearance"

COLOMBIA Civilian population of Segovia and Remedios, Antioquia

Elkin Sergio ZAPATA, aged 23, driver
Yacir William SILVA CURE, aged 15

new names: Emilsen PALACIO (f)
Walter SERNA PALACIO, aged 22, her son

Serious concern for the safety of members of the civilian population of the municipalities Remedios and Segovia, department of Antioquia, remain, following the abduction of Walter Serna Palacio and his mother, Emilsen Palacio, on 7 May 1996 by a group of hooded men, from the El Chorro de Lágrimas Ranch, in the municipality of Remedios.

According to information received, approximately 20 hooded men believed to be members of a paramilitary group operating in the area, arrived at the El Chorro de Lágrimas ranch at 5am. The group forcibly abducted Walter Serna Palacio, a farm worker, and Emilsen Palacio, and reportedly left the area in the direction of Puerto Berrío, department of Antioquia. Since their abduction the whereabouts of Walter Serna Palacio and Emilsen Palacio has remained unknown and there are serious concerns for their safety.

There is no further news of Elkin Sergio Zapata or Yacir William Silva Cure. Appeals on their behalf may continue as outlined in previous update.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Walter Serna Palacio and Emilsen Palacio who have not been seen since 7 May 1996 when they were reportedly abducted by members of a paramilitary group in the municipality of Remedios;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into their "disappearance", for the results to be made public and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice;
- urging that if they are in detention they be treated humanely, granted access to lawyers and relatives, and charged immediately with a recognizable offence or released;

if possible also:

- urge that there be full and impartial investigations into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in the municipalities of Remedios and Segovia and that those members of the security forces responsible for supporting such groups be brought to justice;
- urge that the authorities take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups in line with stated government commitments.

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, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 289 3377/286 7434

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2) Governor of Antioquia

Sr. Alvaro Uribe Velez

Gobernador del Departamento de Antioquia

Gobernación de Antioquia

Calle 42B, # 52-106

Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

Telegrams:Gobernador, Departamento de Antioquia, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor

3) Minister of the Interior

Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe

Ministro del Interior

Ministerio del Interior

Carrera 8a, No.8-09, Piso 7

Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior Serpa, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:45406 MINGO CO

Faxes:+ 57 1 286 6524/ 286 0053/ 286 0485

Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Alternative Legal Association

SEMBRAR, AA 34692, Santafé 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 15 July 1996.