

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 63/92 (AMR 23/10/92, 20 February 1992) - Death Threats

COLOMBIA: Members of Regional Human Rights Committee (CREDHOS) in
Barrancabermeja

New concern: Jorge Gómez LIZARAZO, president of CREDHOS
Nancy SANCHEZ, journalist, female
Pablo ARENAS

Amnesty International continues to be seriously concerned for the safety of members of the Regional Human Rights Committee, Comité Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CREDHOS) following reports of an armed attack on the vehicles in which members of CREDHOS were travelling, on 10 June 1992, in Barrancabermeja, Santander department.

According to eye-witnesses, CREDHOS president Jorge Gómez Lizarazo and CREDHOS members Nancy Sánchez, a journalist, and Pablo Arenas, were travelling together with three others, Evangelina MARIN and Gilberto CARREÑO, both community workers, and Jorge GALINDO, member of the General Workers' Union Unión Sindical Obrera (USO) at approximately midday on 10 June in the Barrancabermeja suburb of Antonio Nariño. They had been collecting testimonies from the relatives of four people killed by unknown gunmen the previous day in the suburb of Versalles and were returning to Barrancabermeja. The two taxis in which they were travelling were intercepted by a group of at least six heavily armed men in civilian dress, who reportedly riddled their vehicles with machine-gun fire for approximately fifteen seconds. Although the vehicles were seriously damaged in the attack, all the occupants escaped unhurt.

Following repeated threats against CREDHOS president Jorge Gómez Lizarazo in recent months, the Colombian government assigned three bodyguards from the Department of State Security, Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS), to protect him. These bodyguards reportedly repelled last week's attack on the CREDHOS commission. However, to Amnesty International's knowledge, no-one was detained in connection with the attack. The Presidential Adviser on Human Rights, Consejero Presidencial para los Derechos Humanos, has issued a public statement condemning the attack. In the statement he announces that the Colombian government would do everything in its power to investigate the attack and ensure that those responsible be brought to justice, "*El gobierno realizará los mayores esfuerzos para que estos hechos se investiguen y sean sancionados sus responsables*".

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing concern for the safety of all members of the Regional Human Rights Committee of Barrancabermeja, following a violent attack on the lives of CREDHOS president Jorge Gómez Lizarazo, Nancy Sánchez and Pablo Arenas;

- welcoming the announcement made by the Presidential Adviser for Human Rights that there would be an immediate investigation into the attack in order to identify those responsible

and bring them to justice and requesting that you be kept informed as to the progress of the investigation;

- urging that the Colombian government take all possible measures to protect the lives of human rights workers to ensure that they are able to carry out their lawful activities without fear for their lives.

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APPEALS TO:

1) President of Colombia:

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

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

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 3066;

+ 57 1 286 7324;

+ 57 1 287 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 Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

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

Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO;

41213 PGNDP CO

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]

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

CREDHOS

4) Commander of the Vth Brigade

Brigadier General Roberto Emilio Cifuentes
Comandante de la V Brigada
Calle 14, Carrera 33
Bucaramanga

Santander

Colombia

Telegrams: Comandante 5-Brigada

Bucaramanga, Colombia

**[Salutation: Sr. Brigadier General/Dear
sir]**

5) Commander of the National Police

Mayor Comandante Jaime Orozco Gómez
Comandante de la Policía Nacional
Carrera 2, No. 10-03
Barrancabermeja
Santander
Colombia

**Telegrams: Comandante Policia Nacional,
Barrancabermeja, Colombia**

**[Salutation: Sr. Mayor Comandante/Dear
sir]**

6) Minister of Justice:

Fernando Carillo
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
Carrera 15, No 9-63
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Bogotá,
Colombia**

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

[Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister]

AA 505
Barrancabermeja
Santander
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 27 July 1992.