

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/34/99

22 April 1999

Further information on UA 70/99 (AMR 23/30/99, 8 April 1999) and follow-ups (AMR 23/31/99, 9 April 1999, AMR 23/33/99, 15 April 1999) - Fear for safety / "disappearance"

COLOMBIA Crecencio Mendoza, Edgardo Gómez, Joselito Gallego, Raúl Posada, Benedicto Moreno, Eleuterio Lemoso, Manuel Rivera

Amnesty International has learned that the seven people named above have been released. They were abducted by paramilitary forces from settlements belonging to the San Francisco de Asís peace community in Chocó department on 7 April 1999.

A Catholic Church commission announced yesterday that the seven community leaders had been delivered into their care by the paramilitary group. The Church commission also expressed their continuing support for the Peace Communities and those working with them.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Thank you to all who have sent appeals on this case. Please send one final round of telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/ airmail letters in Spanish or in your own language:

- welcoming the release of Crecencio Mendoza, Edgardo Gómez, Joselito Gallego, Raúl Posada, Benedicto Moreno, Eleuterio Lemoso and Manuel Rivera;
- expressing continued concern for the safety of members of the Peace Communities in the region of Urabá;
- calling for full, prompt and impartial investigations into the killing of 12 members of the Peace Community of San Francisco de Asís and the abduction of the seven named above by paramilitary forces;
- calling on all parties to the conflict, the Colombian armed forces, paramilitary groups and guerrilla organizations, to respect the neutrality of the peace communities and not undermine their security and credibility through a policy of infiltration.

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Andres Pastrana, Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño, carrera 8 No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia

Tx: 44281 PALP CO

Fax: + 57 1 286 7434/ 284 2186/ 337 1351

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Pastrana

Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez,

Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,
Diagonal 22B 5201, Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 571 570 2022

Salutation: Estimado Dr./Dear Dr. Gómez

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Nestor Humberto Martínez, Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Bogotá, Colombia

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Telexes:45406 MINGO CO

Fax:+ 57 1 286 8025

Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Human Rights and Educational Organization

CINEP, AA 25916, 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 3 June 1999.