

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 184/94 Possible Extrajudicial Execution / Fear for Safety 11 May 1994

COLOMBIA Laureano IÑAMPUE, indigenous leader

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On 6 May 1994 the body of Laureano Iñampue was found in the river San Juan, two days after his reported abduction by four heavily armed men in military uniform. Amnesty International believes he may have been extrajudicially executed and it fears for the safety of other members of the Guachucal indigenous community.

According to eye-witness testimony, Laureano Iñampue was forcefully abducted from his home in the Guachucal Indian reserve, Nariño department, during the night of 4 May. His abductors reportedly told Laureano's wife that the local battalion commander wanted to interview him. The next day friends and relatives made inquiries at local military and police installations but both denied holding him and no trace could be found of his whereabouts. On 6 May his body was found in the river San Juan, close to the town of Ipiales, Nariño department, several hours' drive from his home. A forensic report is being prepared. His abduction and killing have been denounced to national authorities.

Laureano was a well-known indigenous leader in the Pasto region. In the past he had suffered threats and harassment and in 1990 was the victim of an attempt on his life, probably as a result of his work in assisting his community in the repossession of lands which the Indians claim are traditionally theirs. Several Indian leaders have been killed in recent years in the context of land disputes (see UA 125/94, AMR 23/31/94, 30 March 1994).

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearance", torture and arbitrary arrest, although President César Gaviria Trujillo has repeatedly pledged his government's commitment to protect human rights. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity. Only exceptionally are perpetrators brought to justice; the vast majority of members of the armed forces responsible for gross human rights violations remain in active service.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:**

- expressing concern at the killing of indigenous leader Laureano Iñampue, whose body was found on 6 May 1994, in circumstances suggesting that he may have been the victim of extrajudicial execution;
- urging that there be an immediate inquiry into his abduction on 4 May and subsequent death, the results of which should be made public and those found responsible brought to justice;
- urging that all possible measures be taken to protect the indigenous communities and their leaders so that they can carry out their lawful activities without fear.

#### **APPEALS TO**

1) President of Colombia:  
Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño  
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939**  
**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  
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472**  
**Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación/Dear Dr. Arrieta**

3) Advocate for the People:  
 Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño  
 Defensor del Pueblo  
 Defensoría del Pueblo  
 Calle 35 No. 7-25 piso 5  
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams:Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo,**  
**Bogota, Colombia**  
**Faxes:+ 57 1 288 6683**  
**Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/Dear Dr. Triviño**

4) Attorney General  
 Dr. Gustavo de Greiff Restrepo  
 Fiscal General de la Nación  
 Fiscalía General de la Nación  
 Apartado Aéreo 29855  
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams:Fiscal General,Fiscalia General,Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Faxes:+ 57 1 287 0939**  
**Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff/Dear Dr. de Greiff**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

National Indigenous Organization  
 Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia  
 AA 32395  
 Bogota, 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 22 June 1994.