

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/44/96

13 August 1996

Further information on UA 131/96 (AMR 23/28/96, 23 May 1996) - Death Threat / Fear for Safety and new concern: Apparent extrajudicial execution

COLOMBIA Jairo Alfonso Gamboa López, trade unionist

New name: Ramón Alberto DÍAZ, trade union leader

Fears for the safety of trade unionists in the municipality of Yumbó, department of Valle del Cauca, have been further heightened by the killing of trade union leader Ramón Alberto Díaz in circumstances suggesting an extrajudicial execution.

According to information received, at about 5am on 10 August 1996 Ramón Alberto Díaz was shot by two unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle as he was walking with his wife to catch the bus to work at the *Cementos del Valle* company. Ramón Alberto was taken to hospital by his wife but died on the way.

Ramón Alberto was President of the *Sindicato de Trabajadores de Cementos del Valle*, Cementos del Valle Worker's Union, and a member of the *Junta Departamental*, Departmental Board of the *Congreso Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT) del Valle*, Trade Union Congress of the department of Valle del Cauca.

Members of the Executive Council of the Cementos del Valle Worker's Union were among the social, trade union, and political activists included in the list issued by the paramilitary group *Colombia sin Guerrilla*, Colombia without Guerrillas, COLSINGUE, on 26 October 1995. In May 1996 a written death threat announced that another trade unionist in Yumbó, Jairo Alfonso Gamboa López, had been "sentenced to death" by COLSINGUE (see original UA).

The killing of Ramón Alberto Díaz not only heightens fears for the safety of other members of the Cementos del Valle trade union leadership, but also of other trade union, political and social activists in the department of Valle del Cauca. In recent days, trade unionists in Yumbó have approached the Yumbó police asking for protection, but have been told that no such protection is available due to lack of personnel.

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

- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the apparent extrajudicial execution of Ramón Alberto Díaz on 10 August 1996 in the municipality of Yumbó, department of Valle del Cauca, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing concern that trade unionists in Yumbó have been denied police protection and urging that all possible measures, deemed appropriate by those under threat, be undertaken to ensure the safety of other members of the Executive Council of the Cementos del Valle Worker's Union, and other trade union, social and political activists in Yumbó;
- calling for full and impartial investigations into the list of 26 October 1995 drawn up by paramilitary groups operating in Yumbó in which trade union, social and political activists are threatened, that the results be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- urging immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with governmental commitments, and urging that those members of such groups responsible for human rights violations be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
carrera 8 No. 7-26
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Samper Pizano, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 289 3377/286 7434

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2) Minister of the Interior

Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior Serpa, Bogota, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 286 6524 / 286 0485

Telexes:45406 MINGO CO

Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

3) Minister of Defence

Dr. Juan Carlos Esguerra Portocarrero
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Fax:+ 57 1 222 1874

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Lawyers' Association:

Corporación Colectivo de Abogados
AA 44456
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 25 September 1996.