

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/46/96

23 August 1996

Further information on UA 202/95 (AMR 23/49/95, 15 August 1995) and follow-ups (AMR 23/61/95, 12 October 1995; AMR 23/64/95, 24 October 1995) - Fear for safety

COLOMBIAMembers of the *Unión Sindical Obrera* (USO), Worker's Trade Union

Hernando HERNÁNDEZ, President of USO

New names: Danilo SÁNCHEZ, member of USO's National Executive
Jairo Calderón HOY, USO leader

Members of the *Unión Sindical Obrera* (USO), Worker's Trade Union, continue to receive death threats and concern for their safety remains high. Since the beginning of 1996 at least 20 USO leaders and members are reported to have been threatened, either by telephone, or in writing by paramilitary groups.

Amnesty International has just been informed that two written death threats were delivered to the USO headquarters in Barrancabermeja, department of Santander, on 23 July 1996. One of the death threats was written in the form of an invitation to a funeral mass for Danilo Sánchez and stated that date of the funeral would be in 24 hours time. Enclosed with this note was a piece of paper with a message written in red ink: "*Morocho comunista fuera de Barranca no lo queremos hijo de puta tiene 24 horas para largar de la ciudad si no sale lo lamentará su familia el juego ya terminó H.P. recuerde tiene 24 horas y su familia*" - "Bloody communist get out of Barranca[bermeja]; we don't want you here son-of-a-bitch; you have 24 hours to get out of the city; if you don't get out your family will regret it; the game is up you son-of-a-bitch remember you and your family have 24 hours to get out".

The other death threat was written in the form of a condolence card and stated "*por que la USO es una guarida de hijueputas guerrilleros camuflados como obreros y traidores colombianos como el perro presidente Hernando Hernández que defiende el CERDO mercenario Jairo Calderón Hoy. Hoy les damos nuestro más SENTIDO PÉSAME por el pronto sepelio de estos hijueputas y los que siguen ... HASTA PRONTO*" - "because the USO is a hideout for son-of-a-bitch guerrillas camouflaged as workers and Colombian traitors like that dog the president [of the USO] Hernando Hernández who defends that mercenary pig Jairo Calderón Hoy. Today we are giving you our DEEPEST CONDOLENCES for the soon-to-happen burial of these son-of-bitches and those that will follow ...TILL SOON". The card was signed by a paramilitary group calling itself *Muerte a Secuestradores* (MAS), Death to Kidnappers.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Danilo Sánchez, Jairo Calderón Hoy, Hernando Hernández and other leaders and members of the USO trade union in the face of continuing death threats;
- urging that all possible measures, deemed appropriate by those threatened, be taken to ensure their safety;
- calling for full and impartial investigations into the threats, asking that the results be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- asking what measures were taken by the Colombian authorities in response to your earlier appeals following threats in late 1995 against members of the USO;

- urging the authorities to dismantle paramilitary groups in line with stated governmental commitments.

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

Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

4. Procurator General:

Dr. Jose Leon Jaramillo Jaramillo
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Procurador General Vásquez, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 342 9723/281 7531

Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación/Dear Dr. Vásquez

COPIES TO:

CREDHOS

AA 505

Barrancabermeja

Santander

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 7 October 1996.