

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/47/91
Distr: UA/SC

UA 298/91 Possible Extrajudicial Execution

4 September 1991

COLOMBIA: Raúl PINTO ROBLES

Amnesty International is concerned to learn of the killing of Raúl Pinto Robles on 27 August 1991 in circumstances suggesting he was the victim of extrajudicial execution.

Raúl Pinto reportedly left his home in Barrancabermeja, Santander department at 6.00 am on 27 August 1991 to collect a truckload of wood, accompanied by his brother and the driver of the truck. As they returned with the wood they were stopped by a military patrol from the army's *Batallón Palagua*, Palagua Battalion, who are engaged in counter-guerrilla activities in the zone. According to eye-witnesses, one of the soldiers, without questioning the men or asking to see their identification documents, said "*este hijueputa está bueno para matarlo*", "this bastard deserves to be killed" and shot Raúl Pinto dead.

A local newspaper reported Raúl Pinto as having died in combat during a confrontation between the army and guerrillas.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The largely rural area of Magdalena Medio has been the focus of political violence for several years following the emergence of guerrilla groups there in the 1960s and subsequent militarization of the region during the 1980s. Despite some progress having been made in peace talks between several guerrilla groups and the government, there has been a continuation of political violence and human rights violations. In areas where guerrilla forces are active, the local population is often perceived by the armed forces as potential guerrilla collaborators and has, as a result, been subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, "*disappearance*" and extrajudicial execution by army personnel and paramilitary forces.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the killing of Raúl Pinto Robles in circumstances suggesting he was the victim of extrajudicial execution;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into his death, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1.

President of the Republic:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo

[Salutation: **Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente**]

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño

Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: **Presidente Gaviria, Bogota, Colombia**

Telexes: **44281 PALP CO**

Faxes: + 57 1 283 3066; + 57 1 286 7324;
+ 57 1 287 7937

2.

Minister of Defence:

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda

[Salutation: Sr. Ministro]

Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes: +57 1 222 1874

3.

Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla

[Salutation: Sr. Procurador General de la Nación]

Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO; 41213 PGNDP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

COPIES TO:

(Human Rights group):

Señores

[Salutation: Señores]

CINEP (Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular)
AA 25916
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

(Regional Committee for the Defence of Human Rights):

CREDHOS

Comité Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
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 16 October 1991.