

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/49/91  
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PLEASE SEND UP TO TEN APPEALS PER SECTION

UA 306/91

Possible Extrajudicial Execution

11 September 1991

COLOMBIA:

Eder VALENCIA ERAZO, trade union leader

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Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killing of Eder Valencia Erazo on 7 September 1991.

According to reports, Eder Valencia was shot dead by unidentified gunmen early in the morning of 7 September 1991 outside his home in the department of Sucre. He was a trade union leader within a state electric company where he had worked for seventeen years. He had apparently received previous threats to his life as a result of denouncing corrupt practises within the company. He leaves a wife and four children.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports of human rights violations in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions. Principal targets have been people associated with trade unions, civic and community movements and legal left-wing parties. Colombia's largest trade union confederation reports that over 300 trade union leaders have been killed since its creation five years ago. The majority of abuses have been attributed by Colombian authorities to civilian "death squads", which it claims it is unable to control. However independent investigations, including judicial enquiries, have concluded that many such groups operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian security forces.

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

- urging that there be a full investigation into the killing of Eder Valencia Erazo, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;

- urging that all possible measures be taken to protect the lives of trade union leaders to ensure they are able to carry out their lawful activities.

**APPEALS TO: (Up to ten appeals per section)**

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.

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:**

(Trades Union Confederation):

Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT)  
**[Salutation: Señores]**  
Calle 35, No. 7-25  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, 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 23 October 1991.