

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/52/96

15 October 1996

**Further information on UA 68/95 (AMR 23/11/95, 16 March 1995) and follow-ups (AMR 23/62/95, 16 October 1995; AMR 23/07/96, 1 February 1996) - Death threats / Fear for Safety and new concern: Possible extrajudicial execution**

**COLOMBIA** **Josué Giraldo Cardona, aged 38, President of the Meta Civic Human Rights Committee, Unión Patriótica activist**

---

At approximately 8am on 13 October 1996 Josué Giraldo Cardona, President of the *Comité Cívico por los Derechos Humanos del Meta*, Meta Civic Human Rights Committee, and an activist with the *Unión Patriótica* (UP) Patriotic Union, was shot dead outside his home. His killing renews fears for the safety of other members of the Committee and the UP, many of whom, like Josué Giraldo, have received death threats.

According to information received, Josué Giraldo was opposite his home in Villavicencio, department of Meta, with his two daughters, aged three and five, and a friend, when an unidentified gunman approached him and opened fire. Josué Giraldo began to run away but was wounded as he fled and fell to the ground. The gunman then shot Josué Giraldo several times, killing him, before fleeing on a motorcycle driven by an accomplice.

Josué Giraldo had received numerous death threats, both as a result of his work with the Civic Human Rights Committee and of his UP activism (see previous update). Other members of the Committee have also been subjected to death threats and other human rights violations in recent years and many have had to leave the department of Meta.

Members of the UP have also frequently been targeted for death threats and other human rights violations since the party's formation. On 20 June 1996, Pedro Malagón a representative of the UP in the Departmental Assembly of Meta was killed by two armed men (see update to UA 295/94, AMR 23/37/96, 28 June 1996). At the beginning of October 1992, the then Advocate for the People, Dr. Jaime Triviño Córdoba, published a report which concluded that the main perpetrators of violence against UP activists were paramilitary groups, members of the security forces and hired gunmen. According to the official report, 717 members of the UP have been killed since the party's creation in 1985. Colombian human rights organizations currently place the figure at over 2,500 activists. In the department of Meta human rights organizations claim that over 600 UP members have been killed.

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

- expressing deep concern at the killing of Josué Giraldo Cardona on 13 October in Villavicencio, department of Meta, by a gunman;
- calling for a full and impartial investigations into his killing, that the results be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- expressing concern that the killing of the President of the Civic Human Rights Committee follows repeated appeals to the Colombian authorities to take effective measures to secure the safety of members of the Civic Human Rights Committee;
- urging that all possible measures, deemed appropriate by those working with the Committee, be undertaken to protect their lives;
- urging that all possible measures, deemed appropriated by members of the UP, be taken to protect their lives.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Samper Pizano, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434 / 289 3377**

**Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper**

2 Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento  
Fiscal General de la Nación  
Fiscalia General de la Nación  
Apartado Aéreo 29855  
Santafé de Bogotá  
Colombia

**Telegrams:Fiscal General Valdivieso, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 287 0939 or 288 2828**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr Valdivieso/Dear Dr. Valdivieso**

3 Procurator General:

Dr. Luis Eduardo Montoya Medina  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Procuraduría General  
Edificio Banco Ganadero  
Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Procurador General Montoya, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 342 9723/281 7531**

**Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación/Dear Dr. Montoya**

4. Advocate for the People:

Dr. José Fernando Castro Caycedo  
Defensor del Pueblo  
Defensoría del Pueblo  
Calle 35 No. 7-25 piso 5  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:Defensor del Pueblo Caycedo, Defensoria del Pueblo,  
Bogota, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 346 1225/285 6908/288 6683**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. Caycedo /Dear Dr. Caycedo**

**COPIES TO:**

Hermana Nohemy  
Pastoral Social de la Diócesis de Villavicencio  
AA 3470, Villavicencio  
Meta, 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 8 December 1996.