

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/53/96

15 October 1996

Further information on 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; AMR 23/46/96, 23 August 1996) - Fear for safety and new concern: Possible extrajudicial execution

COLOMBIA Members of the Unión Sindical Obrera (USO), Worker's Trade Union

New name: Rafael GONZÁLEZ BARRAZA, aged 44, USO Secretary General

On the night of 10 October 1996, Rafael González Barraza, Secretary General of the *Unión Sindical Obrera* (USO), Workers' Trade Union, was killed by two gunmen in the El Cerro district of Barrancabermeja, department of Santander.

The killing has heightened concern for the safety of other USO members and leaders. Since the beginning of 1996, at least 20 USO leaders and members are reported to have been threatened by paramilitary groups.

**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 Rafael González Barraza on 10 October 1996, and calling for a full and impartial investigation into the case, asking for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of the members of the USO trade union, in the light of the killing of their Secretary General;
- urging that all possible measures, deemed appropriate by those threatened, be taken to ensure their safety;
- calling for a full and impartial investigations into the threats, for the results to be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- asking what measures have been taken by the Colombian authorities in response to earlier appeals following threats in late 1995 and early 1996 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  
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, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes:45406 MINGO CO**  
**Faxes:+ 57 1 286 6524 / 286 0485**  
**Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Defence  
Dr. Juan Carlos Esguerra  
Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**  
**Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

4) 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**

**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 9 December 1996.