

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/55/98

21 July 1998

Further information on UA 198/98 (AMR 23/50/98, 10 July 1998) - Fear for safety

COLOMBIA José Daniel Álvarez, General Coordinator of ASFADDES, a non-governmental human rights organization, and other members.

New Name Asrtid Manrique, ASFADDES member in Popoyán regional office

There are increasing fears for the safety of members of *Asociación de Familiares Detenidos y Desaparecidos*, ASFADDES, Association of the Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared, as a result of further death threats and intimidatory acts against members of the organization.

On 15 July 1998 a message was left on the answer machine in the regional ASFADDES office in Popoyán, capital of Cauca Department, saying "Carry on fucking us around and my boss will kill you" (*Segui con tu joda que mi jefe te va a matar*). The target of this death threat is believed to be Astrid Manrique who runs the office in Popoyán.

On 14 July 1998 the head offices of ASFADDES in Bogotá received an anonymous phone call. It became apparent that the sounds coming over the phone were being picked up by bugging microphone in the ASFADDES office. This phone call seems to have been intended to show that ASFADDES offices and members were under surveillance, and as such to further intimidate human rights activists belonging to ASFADDES.

A ruling made by the Interamerican Court of the Organization of American States (OAS) in July 1997 requires the Colombian Government to provide members of ASFADDES with special protection measures. The Court ruled that a central feature of this needed to be the thorough and impartial investigation of all attacks, death threats and intimidation against ASFADDES members.

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

- expressing serious concern for the safety of Astrid Manrique, José Daniel Álvarez and all other members of ASFADDES;
- calling on the authorities to take all steps necessary to guarantee the safety of members of ASFADDES in line with the ruling by the Interamerican Court and deemed appropriate by those under threat;
- calling for full and impartial investigations into all death threats and intimidation against ASFADDES members.

APPEALS TO:

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, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 284 2186 / 286 7434

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Samper

Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez,

Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación

Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: +571 570 2000 (when ansaphone picks up, dial 2017 for fax tone)

Salutation: Estimado Dr.Gómez Méndez / Dear Dr.Gómez Méndez

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Alfonso López Caballero,

Ministro del Interior,Ministerio del Interior

Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2,Santafé de Bogotá,COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:45406 MINGO CO

Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Fax:+ 57 1 281 5884/286 6524/286 0053

COPIES TO:

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

Señores

ASFADDES

AA 011446

Santafé de Bogotá

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 1 September 1998.