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Possible Extrajudicial Executions in Urabá

1 November 1990

COLOMBIA : Edilma MORENO  
Esteban PALMET DOMINGUEZ

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Amnesty International is concerned at the recent killings of Edilma Moreno and Esteban Palmet Domínguez in Apartadó, Antioquia department, in circumstances suggesting they may have been the victims of extrajudicial executions.

Esteban Palmet Domínguez was reportedly killed at 10.30pm on 26 October in Apartadó by armed men who shot him dead as he was on his way home. Esteban Palmet Domínguez, aged 42, was the Director of the Secondary Education Institute in Apartadó, Instituto de Educación Media (IDEM), and a member of the Antioquia Teachers' Union, Asociación de Educadores de Antioquia (ADIDA), which is affiliated to Colombia's trade union confederation, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores, (CUT).

According to reports, local politician Edilma Moreno was intercepted by two armed men on motorcycles at about 8pm on 19 October as she was travelling by motorcycle. She was shot dead and the two assailants managed to escape. Her daughter, with whom she was travelling home, was unhurt in the attack.

Edilma Moreno, in her twenties, had been a councillor in Apartadó for the legal left-wing coalition Patriotic Union, Unión Patriótica, (UP), for five years. She had formerly worked on the banana plantations in Urabá and became an executive board member for the plantation workers' union SINTRAINAGRO, affiliated to the CUT.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The region of Urabá has in recent years been one of the most severely affected by an apparently systematic campaign of intimidation, including "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions. 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 inquiries have concluded that many such groups operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian armed forces. Since its creation in 1985, the UP has been a particular target of politically motivated killings and "disappearances". According to UP estimates, over 80 of their activists have been killed during 1990. According to the CUT, over 300 of its members have been killed since its creation in November 1986.

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

- expressing concern at the killings of Edilma Moreno and Esteban Palmet Domínguez in circumstances suggesting they may have been the victims of extrajudicial executions;
- urging there be an immediate inquiry into their deaths, the results of which should be made public.

**APPEALS TO:**

Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio de Nariño  
 Bogotá  
 COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia  
 Telexes: 44281 PALP CO  
 Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324

Brigadier General Harold Bedoya Pizarro  
 Comandante de la IV Brigada  
 Calle 50, No. 76-176  
 Medellín  
 Antioquia  
 Colombia

Telegrams: Comandante IV Brigada, Medellín, Colombia

General Oscar Botero Restrepo  
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
 Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia  
 Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO or 44561 CFAC CO  
 Faxes: +57 1 222 1874

**COPIES TO:**

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez  
 Procurador General de la Nación  
 Edificio Banco Ganadero  
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
 Bogotá, Colombia

Señores  
 CUT  
 Calle 35, No. 7-25, Piso 9  
 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 13 December 1990.