

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 338/92 Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

30 October 1992

COLOMBIA: Gustavo CHINCHILLA JAIMES, trade unionist

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killing of Gustavo Chinchilla Jaimes, whose body was found on 29 October 1992 in Colombian capital Santa Fe de Bogotá, in circumstances suggesting he may have been the victim of extrajudicial execution.

According to reports, Gustavo Chinchilla left the house where he was staying in Bogotá at 7.10pm on 28 October, to meet some friends following a phone call. He did not return. At 3pm on 29 October information was received from the Special Investigations Unit of the Procurator General's office, Oficina de Investigaciones Especiales de la Procuraduría General, that his body had been found on a street in Bogotá. His throat had reportedly been cut and his body showed signs of torture.

Gustavo Chinchilla was a member of the San Silvestre Drivers' Union, Sindicato de Choferes de Transportes San Silvestre of Barrancabermeja, Santander department. He had moved from Barrancabermeja to Bogotá with his wife and two children and was on the point of leaving Colombia as a result of death threats against him. On 24 July 1992 he made an official complaint, denuncia, to the authorities together with the union President, Parmenio Ruíz Suárez, following threats against their lives and the lives of other members of the union, threats which they believed to come from state security agents. On 30 July 1992 Parmenio Ruíz was shot dead with two others in a restaurant in Barrancabermeja in circumstances suggesting they were victims of extrajudicial execution. (Please refer to UA 250/92 of 31 July 1992, AMR 23/48/92). The Regional Human Rights Committee of Barrancabermeja, Comité Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CREDHOS), has denounced that Gustavo Chinchilla was the sixth member of the San Silvestre Drivers' Union to be killed so far this year.

The death of Parmenio Ruíz and the threats against Gustavo Chinchilla were under investigation by the Special Investigations Unit of the Procurator General's office.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Barrancabermeja is the centre of the largely rural area of the Magdalena Medio in central Colombia, which has been the centre of violence for several years following the emergence of guerrilla groups in the 1960s and subsequent militarization of the region during the 1980's. Amnesty International and local human rights groups have expressed grave concern about the recent escalation of human rights abuses, including torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution committed by the Colombian army and police and paramilitary organizations working with them, against members of the civilian population. Particular victims have been human rights defenders, trades unionists and community workers.

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

- expressing concern at the killing of Gustavo Chinchilla Jaimes, whose body was found on 29 October 1992, in circumstances suggesting he may have been the victim of extrajudicial execution, despite his having previously denounced death threats made against him to the authorities;

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- urging that there be an immediate and thorough investigation into the killing, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;

- requesting that the government take all possible measures to protect the lives of trades unionists so that they can carry out their lawful activities without fear for their lives.

APPEALS TO

1) President of Colombia:
Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá,
Colombia**
Telexes: 44281 PALP CO
**Faxes: + 57 1 286 3066,
286 7324, 287 7937**
**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr.
Presidente/
Dear President Gaviria**

2) Procurator General:
Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta,
Bogotá, Colombia**
**Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO,
41213 PGNDP CO**
Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472
**Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la
Nación/Dear Dr. Arrieta**

3) Advocate for the People:
Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
Defensor del Pueblo
Defensoría del Pueblo
Calle 34, Carrera 5
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
**Telegrams: Defensor del Pueblo Trivino,
Defensoria del Pueblo,
Bogota, Colombia**
**Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO,
41213 PGNDP CO**
Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472
**Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/
Dear Dr. Triviño**

4) Attorney General
Dr. Gustavo de Greiff
Fiscal General
Fiscalía General
Hotel Orquidea Real
Carrera 7, No 32-16
Santa Fe de Bogotá
Colombia
**Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía
General, Bogotá, Colombia**
Faxes: + 57 1 287 7480
**Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff/ Dear
Dr. de Greiff**

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights and Educational Organization
Señores
CINEP
AA 25916
Santa Fe de Bogotá

Colombia

Human Rights Organization

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 11 December 1992.