

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/64/95

24 October 1995

Further information (2) on UA 202/95 (AMR 23/49/95, 15 Aug 95) and follow-up (AMR 23/61/95, 12 Oct 1995) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA Domingo Rafael TOVAR ARRIETA, Jorge ORTEGA GARCÍA and other trade unionist activists

New names: Jesús ALFONSO RUIZ, Amparo ECHEVARRÍA (f), Guillermo CÁRDENAS and other leaders of FUTRAN trade union

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Amnesty International continues to be seriously concerned for the safety of trade union leaders and activists in Colombia, after a written death threat was sent to three leading members of the *Federación Unitaria de Trabajadores de Antioquia* (FUTRAN), United Workers' Federation of Antioquia. The message was sent to FUTRAN's headquarters in Medellín, department of Antioquia, earlier this month.

The message was signed by paramilitary groups calling themselves *Autodefensas Unidas*, United Self-Defence Groups, and COLSINGUE, the acronym of the paramilitary group *Colombia sin Guerrillas*, Colombia without Guerrillas. In the note, the paramilitaries warned that they had "*resuelto asesinar a los tres guerrilleros que hay allí enmascarados*", "decided to kill three guerrillas who are working there undercover". The three "guerrillas" the note refers to are: Jesús Alfonso Ruiz, FUTRAN's internal supervisor; Amparo Echevarría, FUTRAN's Secretary General and Guillermo Cárdenas, FUTRAN's Vice-President.

Concern for the safety of trade union activists in Colombia has been heightened by the recent death threat against the *Unión Sindical de Obreros* (USOO, Worker's Trade Union, and the *Central Unitaria de Trabajadores* (CUT), United Confederation of Workers' Leaders, and by the killings, attempted killings and death threats suffered by FUTRAN members during 1994 (see FU UA 295/94, 26 Aug 94; UA 299/94, 12 Aug 94; UA FU 299/94, 30 Sep 94; UA 376/94, 13 Oct 94).

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

- expressing extreme concern for the safety of Jesús Alfonso Ruiz, Amparo Echevarría and Guillermo Cárdenas following recent death threats against them;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the threats, asking that the results be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that all possible measures be taken to protect the lives of other trade unionists in Colombia;
- urging the authorities to take immediate steps 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) Procurator General

Dr. Orlando Vásquez Velásquez  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Procuraduría General  
Edificio Banco Ganadero  
Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

**Faxes:+ 57 1 342 9723 (there may be taped office sounds, then engaged signal,  
then fax tone) / 281 7531**

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

3) Minister of the Interior

Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe  
Ministro de Gobierno  
Ministerio de Gobierno  
Carrera 8a, No.8-09, Piso 7  
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

**Telegrams: Ministro de Gobierno Serpa, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes:45406 MINGO CO**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 286 8025 / 286 0053 / 286 0485**

**Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

4) 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 , Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

**COPIES 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 5 December 1995.