

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/67/98

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to twenty per section

UA 234/98

Fear for Safety / Death threats

3 September 1998

COLOMBIA Alfonso MORA LEÓN } parents of Jenner Alfonso
Dolores MONCALEANO DE MORA (f) } MORA MONCALEANO

Clara Inés GÓMEZ (f) } mother of Juan Carlos

Palacios GÓMEZ (murdered)

The opening of criminal investigations against police officers accused of the extrajudicial execution of six youths in Bogotá in 1996 has coincided with repeated death threats against the three above-named relatives of the victims.

There is serious concern for their safety because relatives and witnesses of human rights violations committed by the security forces have often been victim to serious human rights violations and intimidation by those responsible, as a means of ensuring that criminal investigations are not advanced.

According to information received, the six youths: Jenner Alfonso Mora Moncaleano, Vladimir Zambrano Pinzón, Juan Carlos Palacios Gómez, Arquimedes Moreno Moreno, Martín Alonso Valdivieso Barrera and Federico Quezada were tortured and killed in different parts of Bogotá between 5 and 7 September 1996. They were reportedly suspected of membership of an urban cell of the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC), Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, armed opposition group.

In July 1998 the Office of the Attorney General initiated criminal investigations against a Colombian Police captain, seven police agents and a civilian for the abduction, torture and extrajudicial execution of the six youths.

Alfonso Mora León and his wife Dolores Moncaleano de Mora were initially protected under the Office of the Attorney General's (*Fiscalía General de la Nación*) witness protection scheme, from December 1997 to May 1998, enabling them to live outside Bogotá. However, they rejected an alternative protection plan offered to them as unsuitable which amounted to a very restrictive lifestyle.

Alfonso Mora reportedly fled the capital on 27 August, the day he was due to testify at the Office of the Attorney General, after he was informed that an attempt on his life would be made after testifying.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the course of the conflict in Colombia, the security forces and their paramilitary allies have been responsible for serious human rights violations against those they consider to be guerrilla sympathizers or "collaborators".

Although Colombia's new President, Andrés Pastrana, took office on 8 August 1998 his government has failed to take steps or make any commitment to tackle the long-running human rights crisis.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Alfonso Mora León, Dolores Moncaleano de Mora, Clara Inés Gómez and other relatives of the six extrajudicially executed youths;
- urging that all measures deemed appropriate by those under threat be taken to guarantee their safety quoting Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person";
- urging full and impartial investigations into the death threats against the relatives, that the results be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia,

Dr. Andrés Pastrana Arango
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No. 7-26
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 281 6316 / 289 3377 / 286 7434 (if voice answers ask "me puede dar tono de fax por favor)

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Pastrana

Director General of the Police

Brigadier Rosso José Serrano Cadena
 Director General de la Policía Nacional
 Tr. 45, No. 40-11, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Dir.Gen. Policia Nacional, Bogota, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 1 315 0249

Salutation:Sr. Director General / Dear sir

Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez
 Fiscal General de la Nación
 Fiscalía General de la Nación
 Diagonal 22B 5201, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Fiscal General, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 5 71 570 2000 (when ansaphone picks up dial 2017 for fax)

Salutation: Estimado Dr. / Dear Dr.

COPIES TO:

Lawyers' Association:

Corporación Colectivo de Abogados
 AA 44456, 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 15 October 1998.

“Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.”
 Article 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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