

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Harassment/ Preventative action.

18 November 1993

COLOMBIA:

70 members of ASFADDES, at their  
annual conference in Bogotá.

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned at reports of persistent undercover surveillance, harassment and intimidation by members of the Colombian army's intelligence unit (B-2) at the annual convention in Bogotá of ASFADDES, the Association for the Families of the Detained and Disappeared in Colombia (*Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos Colombia*).

According to information received, since 12 November 1993 over 70 families from all over Colombia who had gathered in Bogotá for the ASFADDES convention have reported incidents of being photographed, both clandestinely and openly, followed and jostled by a number of unknown men, some of whom were armed. Suspicion as to the identity of these men was confirmed by two bodyguards from the civilian security agency D.A.S. (*Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad*) who were assigned to protect Nodelia Parra, a member of ASFADDES, who has herself been receiving death threats. They challenged one armed man who, after a struggle, identified himself as a member of the B-2 army intelligence unit.

In another incident the members of the D.A.S. exchanged angry words with more unidentified men, who admitted to conducting an intelligence operation and to having agents within the Hotel Santa Fé, where the ASFADDES members were staying. The members of the D.A.S. later identified the presence of at least 8 more members of the B-2 in and around the hotel.

Other incidents reportedly included the systematic photographing of family members of ASFADDES participating in a peaceful march, the photographing of participants of the convention as they came out of their hotel, surveillance from cars and motorbikes and even harassment of members as they slept in their hotel rooms.

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the participants and organisers of the ASFADDES convention, due to the reports of unwarranted surveillance by the B-2 army intelligence unit. In the past, members of this unit have been involved in serious human rights violations including "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, arbitrary arrest, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. President César Gaviria Trujillo has repeatedly pledged his government's commitment to protect human rights. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity. Civic leaders, trade unionists and human rights activists are amongst the groups frequently targeted by the security forces for arbitrary arrest, torture, extrajudicial execution and "disappearance".

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

- requesting an immediate and thorough inquiry into the allegations of unwarranted surveillance, harassment and intimidation of participants and organisers of the ASFADDES convention in Bogotá since 12 November 1993;

- urging that the inquiry establish who is responsible for ordering the surveillance operation of ASFADDES, for what reasons and on what authority this is taking place;
- urging that the authorities take all possible measures to guarantee the safety of those allegedly under surveillance and to ensure that the members of ASFADDES can continue to carry out their lawful and peaceful activities without harassment.

**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 7324/7434/287 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**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472**

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

3) Attorney General:

Dr. Gustavo de Greiff  
 Fiscal General de la Nación  
 Fiscalía General de la Nación  
 Apartado Aéreo 29855  
 Santafé de Bogotá  
 Colombia

**Telegrams:Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 287 0939**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff / Dear Dr. de Greiff**

4) Minister of Defence:

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda  
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda  
 Bogota, Colombia**

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

**Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874**

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared":

Señores  
ASFADDES  
AA 011446  
Santa Fé de Bogotá  
Colombia

2) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño  
Defensor del Pueblo  
Defensoría del Pueblo  
Avenida 39, No. 16-42  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Faxes: + 57 1 232 4640**

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 30 December 1993.