

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 408/93 (AMR 23/72/93, 18 November 1993) -
Harassment/Fear for Safety and new concern Death Threats.

COLOMBIA:70 members of ASFADDES, at their annual conference in Bogotá

and new names: Alexander ISAZA
Carmenza VELEZ
Yolima QUINTERO
Astrid MANRIQUE and 3 month old baby
José Daniel ALVAREZ
Rosmira CAMACHO and two children (5 and 10 years old)

Amnesty International has received further information about the undercover surveillance, harassment and intimidation of members of ASFADDES (*Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos Colombia*) at their annual conference in Bogotá from 13 to 18 November 1993.

Following a formal complaint to the Colombian authorities and others, the Bogotá Regional Prosecutor (*Fiscalía Regional de Bogotá*) ordered the police to intervene to stop the surveillance. At about 6.00 p.m. on 18 November the police arrived at the Hotel Santa Fé and arrested 4 men, who were subsequently identified as B-2 army intelligence agents from the "Charry Solano" Battalion.

A camera was confiscated from one of them who reportedly exposed the film deliberately before handing it over. Reports suggest that there may have been as many as 30 agents in total conducting the surveillance operation.

The four men, along with 3 members of ASFADDES who had denounced the surveillance, were taken to a local police station and from there to the Regional Prosecutor's office. During this time one of the army intelligence agents threatened the 3 ASFADDES members.

Also present at the arrest of the 4 men was an army captain from the "Charry Solano" Battalion. Following discussions between the captain and officials from the Regional Prosecutor's office, the captain was allowed to take charge of the four men, and they were then taken off in his "custody".

Investigations into misconduct and human rights abuses by the Colombian army rarely, if ever, come to any conclusion. Only exceptionally are perpetrators brought to justice; the vast majority of members of the armed forces responsible for human rights violations remain in active service.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the members of ASFADDES and especially for the six people listed above who have either directly or indirectly received implicit death threats from the army intelligence agents;

- urging the authorities to investigate reports of direct threats and intimidation of members of ASFADDES who denounced the surveillance operation by B-2 army intelligence agents;

- urging the authorities to continue to investigate the surveillance operation

by B-2 army intelligence agents from the "Charry Solano" Battalion to identify who ordered the operation, under what authority and for what reasons it was carried out;

- urging the authorities to take all possible measures to guarantee the safety of the members of ASFADDES, and especially the 6 members named above who are considered to be in special danger.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Santa Fé 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 Fé 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
 Santa Fé 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 Fé 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 6th January 1994.