

19 July 2002

Further information on UA 150/02 (AMR 23/059/2002, 21 May 2002) Fear for safety/Threats

COLOMBIA Daniel Prado (m), lawyer for the *Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*, Association of Relatives of the Detained Disappeared (ASFADDES)

New names: Gladys Avila (f) and other members of ASFADDES

Amnesty International continues to be seriously concerned for the safety of human rights defenders belonging to the *Asociación De Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos*, (ASFADDES), Association of Families of the Detained-Disappeared after receiving reports that they have been kept under constant surveillance.

On 9 July, at approximately 5:30am four men reportedly entered the building where the ASFADDES offices are located in the capital Bogotá. One of the men reportedly told the concierge that he was a member of the *Servicio de Investigaciones Judiciales e Inteligencia*, (SIJIN), Judicial Investigation and Intelligence Service and said that they were there to carry out a search of the floor on which the ASFADDES offices are situated. When the concierge asked to see a search warrant, the men reportedly tried to bribe him. He refused to let them enter the building and the men left.

On 3 July, at approximately 4:00pm an unidentified man attracted the attention of an ASFADDES worker who was leaving the *Fiscalía General de la Nación*, Office of the Attorney General, where she had been presenting evidence on a "disappearance" case. When she looked at the man he made a threatening gesture as if cutting his throat. He then got into a vehicle and left.

On 29 June, at around 10:30 a.m. an ASFADDES member was reportedly kept under surveillance by an unidentified couple whilst she was in a shop in Bogotá. When she left the shop she saw that the two people were still following her.

On 8 June, at approximately 6:30am an anonymous caller threatened an ASFADDES worker and said to her partner who had answered the telephone:

"*ya tenemos ubicada a la HP de su mujer a Gladys y dígame que se cuide que le vamos a quemar el culo*", "we already have your son-of-a-bitch wife - Gladys -located tell her to look after herself we are going to blast her arse off". This death threat was received on the same day as an ASFADDES team, including Daniel Prado, were travelling to Medellín in the department of Antioquia. They were reportedly kept under surveillance by unidentified men at Bogotá airport.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in Spanish or your own language:

- asking the authorities to take immediate and effective action to ensure that members of ASFADDES can carry out their legitimate and important work for the defence of human rights in safety;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the threats against Daniel Prado, Gladys and other ASFADDES workers, for the results to be made public and for those responsible brought to justice;
- reminding the authorities of their obligations to human rights defenders, as laid out in the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Organization of American States

Human Rights Defenders in the Americas resolution and in repeated recommendations made to them by the UN.

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia

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

Telegram: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 44281 PALP CO

Fax: + 57 1 566 2071

Salutation: Dear President Pastrana / Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente Pastrana

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Armando Estrada Villa,
Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior,
Palacio Echeverry, Carrera 8a, No.8-09, piso 2o.,
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegram: Ministro Interior, Bogota, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 562 5298/ 562 9890 (these numbers may be difficult to get through to, but please keep trying)

Salutation: Dear Minister Estrada Villa / Sr. Ministro Estrada Villa

Attorney General

Dr. Luis Camilo Osorio,
Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,
Apartado Aéreo 29855, Diagonal 22B 52-01 (Ciudad Salite),
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegram: Fiscal General, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 570 2022/2003 (if someone answers say "me da tono de fax por favor")

Salutation: Dear Dr. Osorio / Estimado Dr. Osorio

COPIES TO:

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

ASFADDES - Nacional
AA 011446
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 30 August 2002.