

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 299/94 (AMR 23/63/94, 12 August 1994) - Fear for Safety / Extrajudicial Executions

COLOMBIA: Jairo de León AGUDELO, aged 32, trade union leader

Guillermo MARIN, trade union leader
Luis Efrén CORREA, aged trade union leader

New names: Hugo ZAPATA, trade union leader
Carlos POSADA, trade union leader
Belisario RESTREPO, trade union leader

On the morning of 26 September 1994, police intelligence agents interviewed Belisario Restrepo, president of the United Workers Federation of Antioquia, *Federación Unitaria de Trabajadores de Antioquia (FUTRAN)*, at FUTRAN's headquarters in the centre of Medellín, concerning the circumstances surrounding the killing on 18 July of FUTRAN leader Guillermo Marín. Hours later, five heavily-armed men who claimed to be officials from the Attorney General's Office, *Fiscalía General de la Nación*, forced their way into FUTRAN's offices and demanded to see Belisario Restrepo. When they failed to find him, they opened fire at point-blank range on the union's Dispute Secretary, Hugo Zapata, and Human Rights Secretary Carlos Posada. Hugo Zapata was killed and Carlos Posada seriously injured.

The killing of Guillermo Marín was claimed by paramilitary group "COLSINGUE", as were the killings of Luis Efrén Correa and Jairo de León Agudelo on 23 and 26 July respectively. Witnesses alleged that the two individuals who stabbed Jairo de León Agudelo to death were members of the police intelligence body known as F-2.

Guillermo Marín was a member of the Executive Committee of FUTRAN. Since his death, several members of the FUTRAN's Executive Committee have continued to receive death threats, including Belisario Restrepo, who has now been forced to leave Medellín. Following Guillermo Marín's death, FUTRAN leaders appealed to the government for protection, but there has reportedly not been any response from the authorities.

Amnesty International is seriously concerned that despite the appeals of FUTRAN leaders after the killing of Guillermo Marín and other union leaders and despite continued death threats, the authorities reportedly did not take measures to protect FUTRAN's leaders.

The Interior Minister, Horacio Serpa Uribe, denounced the killing of Hugo Zapata, reporting to the press that the government would do all it could to ensure that judicial officials identify, capture and punish those who attack opposition and union leaders. Amnesty International urges that investigations into the killings of these trade unionists be immediate and thorough. Those found responsible must be brought to justice in order to end the impunity which members of the security forces and the paramilitary groups working with them all too often enjoy. This would be a clear sign of the new government's declared commitment to protect and promote human rights and end impunity.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing concern at the killing of union leader Hugo Zapata and serious wounding of union leader Carlos Posada on 26 September 1994 in Medellín;
- urging that there be immediate and thorough investigations, the results of which should be made public and those found responsible brought to justice, in line with the Interior Minister's statement;
- urging that all possible measures be taken by the authorities to protect the lives of FUTRAN activists, in particular FUTRAN president Belisario Restrepo, so that they can carry out their lawful activities without fear;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to dismantle the paramilitary force COLSINGUE and other paramilitary groups in accordance with President Samper's electoral promises and to undertake full and impartial investigations into any links between paramilitary and security forces.

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 1 286 7434/287 7939

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 1 281 7531

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

3) Minister of Defence

Dr. Fernando Botero Zea
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
 Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa Botero, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874 or 288 4906

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

4) 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 0485
Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Andean Commission of Jurists
Comisión Andina de Juristas
AA 58533
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 11 November 1994.