

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Extrajudicial Execution

16 December 1993

COLOMBIA Jesús Antonio MONTOYA OSPINA, aged 40, lawyer

Amnesty International has learnt with extreme concern of the killing of Jesús Antonio Montoya, a lawyer and founding member of the Solidarity Committee with Political Prisoners (*Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos - CSPP.*) on 14 December 1993 in Cali, Valle del Cauca department.

This killing further heightens Amnesty International's fear for the safety of others working for the protection of human rights in Colombia.

According to reports, Jesús Antonio Montoya was arriving at a meeting with a Housing Committee in Barrio Navarro in the Belalcázar neighbourhood of Cali, when two unidentified gunmen stopped him in the doorway. There was an argument during which he was injured. He managed to get away to a nearby shop, but the gunmen returned, shooting him 14 times in the chest. The gunmen fled on a motorbike taking with them Jesús Antonio Montoya's briefcase containing many documents.

Jesús Antonio Montoya worked as a lawyer, defending many different trade union organizations and political prisoners. He also represented a group of trade unionists claiming compensation from the state for their arbitrary arrest, torture and imprisonment by the army's III Brigade in Cali in 1990. Another of the unionists' lawyers, Alirio Pedraza Becerra, "disappeared" in July 1990 and his whereabouts still remain unknown. Jesús Antonio Montoya was also an active member of the Communist party (*Partido Comunista*) and the Patriotic Union Party (*Unión Patriótica*).

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 including extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" with virtual impunity.

Civic leaders, trade unionists and human rights activists are amongst the groups frequently targeted by the security forces for arbitrary arrest and other forms of human rights abuse.

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

- expressing concern about the killing, in circumstances suggesting he may have been extrajudicially executed, of Jesús Antonio Montoya Ospina by unidentified gunmen in Cali, Valle del Cauca department, on 14 December;
- urging that there be an immediate inquiry, the results of which should be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- urging that the government take all possible measures to protect the lives of other human rights activists so that they can carry out their lawful activities without fear.

APPEALS TO

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 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) Attorney General

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

Telegrams:Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 287 0939

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

3) Governor of the Department of Valle de Cauca:

Señor Carlos Holguin Sardi
 Gobernador del Departamento de Valle del Cauca
 Gobernación de Valle del Cauca
 Carrera 6ª, Calles 9ª y 10ª
 Cali, Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Telegrams: Gobernador del Departamento de Valle del Cauca, Cali, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 23 810 414

Salutation: Estimado Sr. Gobernador/ Dear Governor

4) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla
 Procurador General de la Nación
 Procuraduría General
 Edificio Banco Ganadero
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80
 Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472

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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Human Rights and Educational Organization:

CSPP
 Apartado Aéreo 22803
 Bogotá, Colombia

2) Communist Party of Colombia:

Partido Comunista Colombiano

Calle 19 No.14-55
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 27 January 1994.