

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/85/99

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 15 per section.

**EXTRA 165/99**Fear for safety / possible "disappearance"

19 November 1999

**COLOMBIA**Beatriz Amparo Piedrahita and her family

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Amnesty International is very concerned for the safety of Beatriz Amparo Piedrahita who was forcibly abducted on 3 November 1999 in Medellín, Antioquia department, and who has not been seen since.

A witness reported seeing a group of men, presumed to be from a paramilitary group, force Beatriz Amparo Piedrahita out of her car and into their vehicle.

On 6 November her sister, Gladys Piedrahita, received a phone call in which she heard the groan of a female voice before the line was cut.

Her "disappearance" has been reported to the authorities but it is not clear if they have opened an investigation into her case.

In 1997 Beatriz Amparo Piedrahita's boyfriend, a leader of the armed opposition, was killed. From that date on she and her family have said they have been consistently followed and threatened by members of a paramilitary group.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Widespread and systematic human rights violations continue to occur in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions and "disappearances". Despite repeated pledges by the authorities to protect human rights and bring perpetrators to justice, members of the Colombian armed forces and their paramilitary allies continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity. Community leaders, trade unionists, demobilized guerrillas, relatives of guerrillas and human rights workers are among those frequently targeted by the security forces and their paramilitary allies.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Beatriz Amparo Piedrahita who was abducted in Medellín, Antioquia department, on 3 November 1999, and who is still missing;
- calling on the authorities to open an immediate, full and impartial investigation to find out where she is, secure her safe release, and bring those responsible to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of other members of Beatriz Amparo's family;
- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to guarantee their safety and to open a full investigation into the threats made against them.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño

Carrera 8 No. 7-26

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434 / 284 2186 / 337 1351**

**Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Pastrana**

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Néstor Humberto Martínez

Ministro del Interior

Ministerio del Interior

Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2

Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

**Telegrams: Ministerio del Interior, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes:45406 MINGO CO**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 286 8025 / 281 5884 / 342 3201**

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

Commander of the Metropolitan Police

Brigadier General Luis Alfredo Rodríguez Pérez

Comandante de la Policía Metropolitana

Carrera 48, # 45-58

Medellín

Antioquia

**Faxes:+ 57 4 251 8959**

**Salutation:Sr. Comandante / Dear Commander**

**COPIES TO:**

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

Señores

ASFADDES

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 17 December 1999.