

6 November 2000

Further information on UA 262/00 (AMR 23/66/00, 4 September 2000) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA Civilian population of El Santuario, Marinilla and Granada municipalities, Antioquia department

Killed: Oscar Anibal LOPEZ NARANJO (15), John Ferney HOYOS GIRALDO (15), María Leonor MOREÑA ARISTIZABAL (60) (f), María Edelmira GOMEZ ZULUAGA (45) (f), Juan Manuel HOYOS GARCIA (42), Jenaro de Jesús GALEANO QUINTERO (31), Andrés Arturo JARAMILLO VILLEGAS (21), Jairo de Jesús GIRALDO QUINTERO (31), Pablo Emilio YÉPEZ YÉPEZ (60), Jesús María GOMEZ ARISTIZABAL (63), Mario de Jesús GIRALDO LÓPEZ (51), Francisco Javier GARCÍA BUILES (24), German de Jesús ALZATE BURITICA (26), Conrado de Jesús LÓPEZ GIRALDO (28), Salome GIRALDO GIRALDO (50), Jesús Heliodoro GARCIA (71), Luis Fernando ALZATE (19)

Army-backed paramilitaries have killed at least 17 people in the department of Antioquia. It is of concern that despite national and international reports of a paramilitary presence in the area, no apparent action has been taken by the authorities to combat and dismantle the groups. Amnesty International fears that other civilians will be killed unless the authorities take immediate and decisive action against the paramilitaries.

At midday on 3 November heavily armed paramilitaries reportedly belonging to the *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC), United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia, entered the urban centre in the municipality of Granada and killed the 17 men and women named above, some of them children and elderly people. Those killed included peasant farmers, tradesmen, housewives and students. The departmental police Commander has apparently said that they belonged to an armed guerrilla group.

Since the beginning of August the AUC have maintained a strong presence in and around Granada and the neighbouring municipality of El Santuario, where they have killed around 50 people. They have been allowed to operate unhindered in the area, despite the presence of an army base in the region. They are reportedly tracking down people on a death list that names those they accuse of being guerrilla sympathisers or collaborators. (For further information, see original and UA 329/00, AMR 23/85/00, 27 October 2000).

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

- expressing concern for the safety of civilians in the municipalities of Granada, Marinilla and El Santuario following recent paramilitary killings in the area, and urging the authorities to guarantee their safety;
- condemning the massacre of at least 17 people in the municipality of Grenada, some of them children and elderly persons, and calling for a full and impartial investigation into the killings with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Antioquia, urging that the results are made public and that those who support and participate in such groups are brought to justice;

- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and United Nations recommendations.

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

Telegram: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 44281 PALP CO

Fax: + 57 1 286 7434/ 284 2186/ 337 1351

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Pastrana

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Humberto de la Calle, Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegram: Ministerio del Interior, Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 45406 MINGO CO

Fax: + 57 1 286 8025 / 281 5884 / 342 3201

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Attorney General

Dr Alfonso Gómez Méndez
Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,
Diagonal 22B 5201, Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegram: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 571 570 2022 (If the call is answered, say "Fax, por favor" and wait for the signal)

Salutation: Estimado Dr / Dear Dr Gómez Méndez

Governor of the Department of Antioquia

Dr. Alberto Builes Ortega, Gobernador del Departamento de Antioquia
Gobernación de Antioquia, Calle 42B, # 52-106, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

Telegram: Gobernador de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia

Fax: + 574 381 1342

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Human rights organisation

Corporación Jurídica Libertad
AA 49027, Medellín, Antioquia, 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 18 December.