

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/97/00

27 November 2000

Further information on UA 259/00 (AMR 23/64/00, 30 August 2000) and follow-up (AMR 23/81/00, 9 October 2000) - Fear for Safety / "Disappearances"

COLOMBIA Rubén USUGA HIGUITA]

Wilson USUGA HIGUITA]

Arvey POSO USUGA] ASFADDES members

Angel QUINTERO, human rights defender]

Claudia Patricia MONSALVE PULGARÍN (f),]

Other members of the Medellín branch of ASFADDES

New name: Pancho CASTRO, human rights defender

ASFADDES members nationwide

Since two human rights defenders and members of *Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos* (ASFADDES), Association of Families of the Detained Disappeared, were abducted and "disappeared" in the department of Antioquia two months ago, other ASFADDES members in different parts of the country have been threatened repeatedly.

Four families who belong to the Medellín branch of ASFADDES were forced to leave the area temporarily after they received a number of threatening phone calls on 8 and 9 October, only days after Angel Quintero and Claudia Monsalve were abducted by unidentified gunmen after leaving work at the ASFADDES office.

On 31 October, workers at the Medellín ASFADDES office received a phone call in which a woman could be heard crying and calling for help, as if she were being tortured, before a man ordered her to hang up. Pancho Castro, a human right defender who works with ASFADDES, has received two written death threats since 11 November, telling him: "Communist son of a bitch we know where you are..." ("*Comunista hijueputa [sic] te tenemos ubicado...*") and "Antipatriotic hypocrites will be eliminated" ("*Hipócritas antipatriotas seran eliminados*"). On 13 November, someone called the ASFADDES office and said: "Die, die, die, you are going to die" ("*mueres, mueres, mueres, te vas a morir*").

Recently, the Bucaramanga branch of ASFADDES in the department of Santander has also received unusual phone calls, raising concern for its members' safety. An emergency radio telephone provided by the government for their protection appears to have been disconnected, leaving them without the ability to communicate in the event of an emergency. A similar radio telephone was stolen from Angel Quintero shortly before he was abducted.

The whereabouts of Angel Quintero and Claudia Monsalve remain unknown. There has also been no news of Angel Quintero's relatives, Ruben Usuga Higuaita, Wilson Usuga Higuaita and Arvey Poso Usuga, who "disappeared" in August.

ASFADDES is a national non-governmental human rights organization made up of families of the "disappeared", who work to find out what has happened to their relatives and bring those responsible to justice.

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

- urging the authorities to take immediate action, as deemed appropriate by those at risk, to protect human rights defenders, including Pancho Castro, and ASFADDES members both in Medellín and other parts of the country;

- repeating your concern for the safety of Angel Quintero and Claudia Monsalve, who have not been seen since 6 October, and urging the authorities to intensify the search for them;
- urging that full and impartial investigations are undertaken into their "disappearance", with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- reminding the government of its obligations to protect human rights defenders, as set out by the United Nations and Organization of American States;
- calling for full and impartial investigations into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Medellín, and for members of the security forces responsible for cooperating and operating in unison with these groups to be brought to justice;
- calling for decisive action to combat and dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with repeated UN recommendations and government commitments.

APPEALS TO:President of the Republic

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

Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogota, Colombia**Fax: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939/284 2186/289 3377****Salutation: Dear President / Excmo. Sr Presidente**Vice-President of the Republic

Señor Vicepresidente Gustavo Bell Lemus
 Alto Consejero Presidencial para asuntos de Derechos Humanos y lucha Contra la Corrupción
 Cra. 8 #7-26,
 Palacio de Nariño,
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 1 337 1351**Salutation: Dear Vice-President / Excmo. Sr. Vicepresidente**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

Telegrams: Gobernador de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia**Faxes: + 57 4 381 1342****Salutation: Dear Governor/ Sr. Gobernador****NB: From January 2001 the new Governor of Antioquia will be Sr. Guillermo Gaviria Correa**Medellín Metropolitan Police Commander

Brigadier General Luis Alfredo Rodríguez Pérez
 Comandante de la Policía Metropolitana
 Carrera 48, # 45-58
 Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 4 251 8959-8732**Salutation: Dear Police Commander/ Sr. Comandante**

COPIES TO:

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

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 8 January 2000.