

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 387/94 (AMR 23/83/94, 27 October 1994) and follow-ups (AMR 23/86/94, 11 November and AMR 23/96/94, 20 December) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA Luis Guillermo PÉREZ, human rights lawyer
 Katia Karina NIÑO VANEGAS, his wife
 and their two children

During the last few days, the name of Luis Guillermo Pérez' and Katia Karina Niño Vanegas' young son appeared graffiti'd on the wall of the building where Katia Karina Niño and her children have been staying. The family has been in hiding away from Bogotá following several months of threats and intimidation which had given rise to serious concern for their safety. This new incident suggests that their place of hiding is known and there is further concern for their safety.

Human rights lawyer Luis Guillermo Pérez - threatened, followed and intimidated as a result of his advocacy on cases of human rights violations - has left Colombia.

Since taking office in August 1994, President Ernesto Samper Pizano has repeatedly pledged to improve the human rights situation in Colombia. He has also publicly committed his government to "seek constructive relations with human rights organizations ... and do everything necessary to protect the lives and integrity of human rights workers" "*Buscaré sostener con los organismos de derechos humanos relaciones constructivas ... y pondrá de su parte cuando sea necesario para proteger la vida y integridad de sus miembros*". Amnesty International calls again on President Samper to fulfil his commitment to protect human rights workers and ensure that they can carry out their lawful activities without fear for their or their families lives.

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

- expressing concern at the intimidation and continued monitoring of the movements of human rights lawyer Luis Guillermo Pérez' family, who were forced to leave Bogotá following threats and harassment as a result of Luis Guillermo Pérez's work;
- urging that the reports of intimidation against Katia Karina Vanegas and her children be thoroughly investigated, the results made public and those found responsible brought to justice;
- urging that their lives and the lives of all human rights defenders and their families be protected in line with the government's commitment to do everything necessary to protect the lives and integrity of human rights workers.

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

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2) 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 1 288 4906/222 1874

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

3) Minister of Foreign Relations

Dr. Rodrigo Pardo García-Peña
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Palacio San Carlos
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegrams:Ministro Relaciones Exteriores Garcia-Pena, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 45209 MRRE CO

Salutation:Sr. Mininstro/Dear Minister

4) 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 1 342 9723/281 7531

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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Lawyers' Association:

Corporación Colectivo de Abogados
AA 44456
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 29 March 1995.