

EXTERNAL

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Fear for safety / "Disappearance"

29 February 1996

**COLOMBIA** Conrado Urrego Cifuentes

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Conrado Urrego Cifuentes has not been seen since he was abducted on 26 February 1996 by approximately 10 armed men from his house in the Comuna Nor-oriente neighbourhood of Medellín, Antioquia Department.

At 11 pm on 26 February, armed men identifying themselves as members of the *Fiscalía*, the Attorney General's Office, forcibly entered the house of Conrado Urrego looking for Fredy Manco, who was not there. Conrado Urrego was forced to accompany the gunmen.

All efforts by his family to locate Conrado Urrego through the *Fiscalía*; F-2, Police Intelligence; *Unidad Anti-secuestro y Extorsión* (UNASE), Anti-kidnapping and Extortion Unit; *Servicio de Investigaciones Judiciales e Inteligencia* (SIJIN), Judicial Investigation and Intelligence Service; and through the *Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad* (DAS), Civilian Security Department, have been unsuccessful and his whereabouts remain unknown.

The family has denounced his "disappearance" to the regional authorities.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearance", torture and arbitrary arrest. President Ernesto Samper Pizano, who assumed office on 7 August 1994, has publicly stated that tackling the human rights situation will be a priority for his government. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces, together with their paramilitary allies, continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity. Only exceptionally are perpetrators brought to justice; the vast majority of members of the armed and security forces responsible for gross human rights violations remain in active service.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Conrado Urrego and urging an immediate investigation to establish his whereabouts;
- calling for a full and impartial investigations into his "disappearance", and calling for the results to be made public and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice;
- urging that, if he is in detention, he be treated humanely and allowed access to lawyers, relatives and medical treatment;
- asking that he be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or immediately released.

**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 1 289 3377/286 7434**

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

2) 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 Vásquez, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 342 9723/281 7531**

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

3) Minister of the Interior

Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Carrera 8a, No.8-09, Piso 7  
Santafé de Bogotá  
COLOMBIA

**Telegrams: Ministro del Interior Serpa, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes:45406 MINGO CO**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 286 00 53/ 286 04 85**

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

4) Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento  
Fiscal General de la Nación  
Fiscalia General de la Nación  
Apartado Aéreo 29855  
Santafé de Bogotá  
Colombia

**Telegrams:Fiscal General Valdivieso, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 245 5292 or 287 0939 or 288 2828**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. Valdivieso/Dear Dr. Valdivieso**

**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 25 April 1996.