

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/15/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 63/93

Death Threats

9 March 1993

COLOMBIA: Héctor TORRES, municipal councillor  
Noel SEGURA DIAZ, community group president  
Alba SEGURA DIAZ, (female), shopkeeper  
Isidro TORRES, community leader

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the above named people, inhabitants of the town of La Uribe, Meta department, who have received serious death threats.

On 26 February 1993 a delegation from an international human rights organization arrived in La Uribe on a research visit, accompanied by municipal councillor Hector Torres. The following day the delegation conducted a number of interviews with local people. On 28 February several of those they had interviewed, including Héctor Torres, Noel Segura Díaz, his sister Alba Segura Díaz and Isidro Torres reported that they had received anonymous but specific death threats. The threats had been pushed under their doors during the night. In addition several buildings, including stores belonging to Noel and Alba Segura and Isidro Torres' home, had been painted with large red crosses during the night. The area surrounding La Uribe is heavily militarized by the army's First Mobile Brigade, Brigada Móvil No. 1.

The threats, which have been denounced to local authorities, appear to be a direct result of the visit by the human rights delegation and there is serious concern for the safety of those threatened.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports in recent months of human rights violations against members of the civilian population in the department of Meta, including arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. This coincides with an escalating offensive by the Colombian armed forces against the armed opposition group Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, in the area. In areas where guerrilla forces are active, the local population is often perceived by the armed forces as potential guerrilla collaborators and has, as a result, been subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Héctor Torres, Noel Segura Díaz, his

sister Alba Segura Díaz and Isidro Torres;

- urging that there be an investigation into the death threats against them, which appear to be a direct result of interviews conducted with a delegation of an international human rights organization;

- urging that all possible measures be taken to protect the lives of those threatened and of all civilians in the area.

Page 2 of UA 63/93

**APPEALS TO**

1) Commander of the army's First Mobile Brigade:

Brigadier General Jorge Enrique Moral Rangel  
Comandante Brigada Móvil No. 2  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
Santafé de Bogotá  
Colombia

**Telegrams: Comandante Brigada Móvil No 1, Ministerio Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO, 44561 CFAC CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874**

**Salutation: Estimado Comandante / Dear Sir**

2) Minister of Defence:

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda  
Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda, Bogota, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**  
**Fax: + 57 1 222 1874**

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

3) Attorney General:

Dr. Gustavo de Greiff  
Fiscal General  
Fiscalia General  
Apartado Aéreo 29855  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 287 0939**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff / Dear Dr. de Greiff**

4) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes:** 44281 PALP CO  
**Faxes:** + 57 1 286 7324, + 57 1 287 7937

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) <u>Advocate for the People:</u>	2) <u>Human Rights and Educational</u>
Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño	<u>Organization</u>
Defensor del Pueblo	Señores
Defensoría del Pueblo	CINEP
Calle 34, Carrera 5	AA 25916
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia	Santa Fe 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 20 April 1993.