

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 15/99 (AMR 23/02/99, 25 January 1999) - Fear for safety

COLOMBIA Carlos Ulloa] human rights workers with the Inter-
Stella Guerra] congregational Commission for Justice and Peace

Members of the Association of relatives of the Victims of Trujillo

new name: Francisco Javier Trujillo, member of the Association of relatives
of the Victims of Trujillo

Recent death threats, reportedly by a paramilitary group, against Francisco Javier Trujillo have increased Amnesty International's concern for his safety and that of other human rights defenders working in Trujillo, Valle del Cauca Department.

Particularly at risk are members of the *Asociación de Familiares de Víctimas de Trujillo* (AFAVIT), Association of Relatives of the Victims of Trujillo, including Francisco Trujillo, and the *Comisión Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz* (CIJP), Intercongregational Commission for Justice and Peace, a national church-run human rights organization which supports the work of AFAVIT in seeking a resolution of the Trujillo cases (see below).

On 27 January 1999 Francisco Javier Trujillo received an anonymous note threatening his life and that of "sus amigos de Justicia y Paz" ("your friends in CIJP"). The next day he had a number of phone calls in which the caller said "Lo vamos a matar. Le vamos a hacer lo mismo que a Tiberio" ("we are going to kill you. We are going to do same to you as we did to Tiberio") [Tiberio de Jesús Fernández Mafla - Trujillo parish priest who was tortured and murdered by paramilitary forces in 1990 (see Cases for Appeal: Myth and Reality; AMR 23/79/93, March 1994)]. Later that day he received another call which said "Siga andando con esos hijos de puta de Justicia y Paz, le vamos a mandar un regalito" ("Carry on with those sons of bitches from CIJP and we are going to send you a little present"). On 29 January he received a written death threat.

In 1989 and 1990 over 100 peasant farmers in the Trujillo area "disappeared" or were extrajudicially executed by security forces working with paramilitary groups. AFAVIT, supported closely by the CIJP, have campaigned tirelessly for the perpetrators to be brought to justice, for the whereabouts of the "disappeared" to be established and for the victims' relatives to receive compensation. Amnesty International and other national and international human rights organizations have also campaigned on these cases.

In 1995 the president publicly acknowledged Colombia's responsibility for the crimes at Trujillo, after the results of an investigation by an independent commission, under the auspices of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights (IACHR), were published. In spite of this, those responsible have not been brought to justice, the whereabouts of the "disappeared" has still not been established or the relatives of the victims compensated. Instead, witnesses of the killings have been systematically persecuted, some have been killed and others have had to flee the country.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Francisco Javier Trujillo and others working with AFAVIT and CIJP who have received death threats over the last month, reportedly from paramilitary forces in the Trujillo area;
- calling on the authorities to take all measures deemed appropriate by those at risk to guarantee their safety;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the campaign of harassment and intimidation of relatives of victims of human right violations and human rights workers in Trujillo, including death threats against CIJP and AFAVIT members, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the civilian, police and military authorities and paramilitary forces operating in the region;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments;
- urging the Colombian Government to respect its commitments to the IACHR to bring to justice those responsible for the killings in Trujillo and adequately compensate relatives of the victims;

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
Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 44281 PALP CO Faxes: + 57 1 284 2186/289 3377/286 7434/
Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Pastrana

Minister of Defence, Dr. Rodrigo Lloreda, Ministro de Defensa Nacional, Ministerio de Defensa Nacional, Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO
Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of the Interior, Dr. Nestor Humberto Martínez, Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 45406 MINGO CO
Fax: + 57 1 281 5884 / 286 6524 / 286 0405 / 286 0053 / 341 9739
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Governor of Valle del Cauca Department, Gustavo Alvarez Gardeazábal
 Gobernador del Departamento de Valle del Cauca, Gobernación de Valle del Cauca
 Carrera 6ª, Calles 9ª y 10ª, Cali, Valle del Cauca, Colombia
Faxes: + 572 8898818
Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Intercongregational Commission for Justice and Peace
 Comisión Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz, AA 31861, 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 24 March 1999.