

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AMR 23/26/91
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UA 142/91 Possible Extrajudicial Execution

26 April 1991

**COLOMBIA: Julio Daniel CHAPARRO HURTADO, journalist
Jorge Enrique TORRES NAVAS, photographer**

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killing of journalist, Julio Daniel Chaparro Hurtado and photographer, Jorge Enrique Torres Navas on 24 April 1991 in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution.

Julio Chaparro and Jorge Torres were reportedly on assignment for the Colombian daily newspaper *El Espectador* in the town of Segovia, Antioquia department, when they were shot dead in the street by unidentified gunmen. Julio Chaparro had reportedly gone to Segovia as part of an investigation into the origins and effects of political violence in Colombia.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The region around the gold-mining town of Segovia, in the north-east of Antioquia department, has been seriously affected by political violence for several years. The area is heavily militarized as a result of the presence of guerrilla forces. The Colombian armed forces and paramilitary forces created by the army have been responsible in recent years for numerous abuses, including torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution, against members of the civilian population in the region. In November 1988, over forty people were killed in the town of Segovia when a paramilitary group opened fire on people in the streets and cafes. The regular garrisons of the police and military stationed in Segovia stood by while the gunmen moved freely through the town for over an hour. Judicial investigations established that not only had the armed forces failed to intervene to protect the townspeople from attack but that army and police personnel, including the Battalion commander, had directly participated in the preparation of the massacre. In 1989, arrest warrants were issued on charges of terrorism against some of those involved in the massacre, including several army officials, but no-one has yet been brought to trial and convicted for the killings.

(See UA 303/88, AMR 23/59/88, and follow-ups AMR 23/65/88, AMR 23/10/89, AMR 23/65/89 and AMR 23/13/90).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the killing of Julio Daniel Chaparro Hurtado and Jorge Enrique Torres Navas in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into their deaths, the results of which should be made public;
- urging that the authorities take all possible measures to ensure that journalists are able to conduct their legitimate activities without fear of reprisal.

APPEALS TO:

Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo

Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: **Presidente Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**
Telexes: **44281 PALP CO**
Faxes: **+ 57 1 286 7324**
+ 57 1 287 7937
+ 57 1 283 3066

General Oscar Botero Restrepo
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
 Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: **Ministro Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia**
Telexes: **42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**
Faxes: **+ 57 1 222 2401**
+ 57 1 222 1874

Dr. Gustavo Arrieta
 Procurador General de la Nación
 Edificio Banco Ganadero
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80
 Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: **Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia**
Telexes: **41224 PRGEN CO; 41213 PGNDP CO**
Faxes: **+ 57 1 284 0472**

COPIES TO:

Señores
 CINEP (Centro de Investigación y
 AA 25916 Educación Popular)
 Bogotá, Colombia

Colegio Nacional de Periodistas
 Avenida Jimenez 5-30 Piso 6
 Bogotá, Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
 or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 June 1991.