

PUBLIC

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Fear for

COLOMBIA Astrid Manrique Carvajal, human rights activist
Her daughter Juliet Tatiana Manrique, aged 14
Other members of the *Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos*
(ASFADDES)

A man with a police identity card has threatened to kill 14-year-old Juliet Tatiana Manrique and her mother, human rights activist Astrid Manrique Carvajal. The threats appear to be directly connected with Astrid Manrique Carvajal's work for the *Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos* (ASFADDES), Association of Relatives of the Detained Disappeared. Amnesty International is concerned for her and her family's safety, and for that of other ASFADDES members.

On 3 May a man approached Juliet Tatiana Manrique and called her by name, apparently showing her a police identity card bearing the surname Ramirez. He said that he knew her mother, Astrid Manrique Carvajal, where she worked, what time she left work, what time she arrived at work, and her home telephone number. Later that day he followed Juliet home from school, telling her she and her mother would be killed if she told anyone.

ASFADDES is a non-governmental human rights organization made up of relatives of the "disappeared", who work to find out what has happened to their relatives and bring those responsible to justice. ASFADDES members, together with other human rights defenders and witnesses of human rights violations, have endured death threats, killings and disappearances at the hands of the security forces and their paramilitary allies.

Astrid Manrique Carvajal has been an active member of the ASFADDES branch in Popayán, Cauca department, since the "disappearance" of her partner. She is now on the organisation's executive council (*Consejo Directivo*).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Paramilitary groups backed by the army have killed several thousand civilians over the past five years alone, and continue to commit serious human rights violations with virtual impunity. The Colombian government suspended the constitutional legal base for the formation of paramilitary organizations and issued directives to the armed forces to combat and disband such groups in 1989, yet they continue to work with the support of the security forces in many areas of the country.

The security forces and their paramilitary allies routinely label human rights organizations and defenders as guerrilla collaborators or supporters, so they can present them as legitimate targets in the counter-insurgency war. At least 25 human rights defenders have been killed or "disappeared" in the last three years. Some armed opposition groups also refuse to respect the legitimacy and independence of organizations which belong to civil society.

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

- expressing concern about the death threat made against Astrid Manrique Carvajal and her daughter Juliet Tatiana Manrique on 3 May 2000 and urging a full investigation, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;

- urging that immediate measures be taken to guarantee their safety, and that of members of ASFADDES in Popayán, so they can continue their work of promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with international human rights standards;

- urging the Colombian government to adhere to its obligations regarding human rights defenders, as laid out in the UN *Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms* adopted on 9 December 1998, the Organization of American States *Human Rights Defenders in the Americas* resolution adopted on 7 June 1999 [AG/RES. 1671 (XXIX-O/99)] and in line with repeated recommendations made by the UN to the Colombian government to take measures to guarantee the safety of human rights defenders.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana Arango

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño

Carrera 8 No.7-26

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogota, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939/284 2186/289 3377

Salutation: Dear President / Excmo. Sr Presidente

Vice-President of the Republic

Señor Vicepresidente Gustavo Bell Lemus

Alto Consejero Presidencial para asuntos de Derechos Humanos y lucha Contra la Corrupción

Cra. 8 #7-26,

Palacio de Nariño,

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 1 337 1351

Salutation: Dear Vice-President / Excmo. Sr. Vicepresidente

Minister of Interior

Señor Humberto De La Calle

Ministro del Interior

Ministerio del Interior

Palacio Echeverry

Carrera 8a, No.8-09, piso 2o.

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Bogota, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 286 8025

Salutation: Dear Sir / Sr. Ministro

COPIES TO:

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

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 23 June 2000.