

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/38/96

28 June 1996

Further information on UA 148/96 (AMR 23/34/96, 17 June 1996) and follow-up (AMR 23/35/96, 19 June 1996) - Apparent extrajudicial execution / Fear for Safety and new concern: "Disappearance"

COLOMBIA
Guillermo León Barrera Henao
Francisco Javier Taborda Taborda
Alvaro Vásquez
Elsa María Rueda

New names: Susana Bravo, (f), human rights activist
Andrés Taborda

Amnesty International is increasingly concerned for the safety of the civilian population of the municipality of El Carmen de Atrato, department of Chocó, after a paramilitary group operating in the region delivered a written communique threatening 25 members of the town. There is particular concern for the safety of Andrés Taborda, who was reportedly abducted by paramilitaries on 27 June 1996 and whose whereabouts remains unknown.

According to information received, on 27 June members of the paramilitary group, *Autodefensas Campesinas de Córdoba y Urabá*, Peasant Farmer Self-defense of Córdoba and Urabá, returned to El Carmen de Atrato. The paramilitary group entered El Carmen de Atrato and left a written death threat which included the names of 25 inhabitants of the municipality. The people named on the list are accused by the paramilitary group of being guerrilla collaborators and are informed that they have been sentenced to death. Amongst those named was Susana Bravo, a member of the *Comité de Derechos Humanos*, Human Rights Committee, together with other members of the Committee.

In the communique the paramilitary groups states that if the 25 people named do not leave the region they will be killed.

Members of the *Fiscalía General de la Nación*, Attorney General's Office, and *Procuraduría General de la Nación*, Procurator General's Office recently set up a Commission to investigate the killings of three people on 13 June 1996 (see original UA). Reportedly the paramilitary killings and death threats have created considerable fear amongst the members of the community and resulted in the displacement of more than 15 families.

Please continue action for Sister Elsa María Rueda as specified in previous update and in addition:

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Andrés Taborda who has not been seen since 27 June 1996 when he was reportedly abducted by members of a paramilitary group in the municipality of El Carmen de Atrato;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into his "disappearance", 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, and that he be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or immediately released;

- expressing deep concern for the safety of Susana Bravo and other members of the Human Rights Committee of El Carmen de Atrato, whose names appear on a "black list", other members of the community named on the list and other inhabitants of El Carmen de Atrato and calling on the Colombia authorities to take urgent measures to defend the population from further paramilitary actions;

if possible also:

- urge the government to immediately fulfil its commitment to disband paramilitary forces currently operating as auxiliaries of the armed forces or with armed forces' complicity. Members of such forces responsible for human rights violations should be brought to justice.

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, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

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

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2) Minister of Defence

Dr. Juan Carlos Esguerra Portocarrero
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
 Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa , Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Fax:+ 57 1 222 1874/288 4906

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

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 1 288 7177/284 0214

Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

4) Governor of the department of Chocó

Señor Franklin Mosquera
 Gobernador del Departamento del Chocó
 Gobernación del Chocó
 Quibdó
 Chocó, Colombia

Fax: 57 497 11777

Telegrams: Gobernador del Choco, Quibdo, Choco, Colombia

Salutation: Estimado Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Alternative Legal Association
SEMBRAR, AA 34692, 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 17 August 1996.