

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/42/91  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 277/91

Possible Extrajudicial Execution

14 August 1991

COLOMBIA:

Gladys SANTAMARIA (female)  
Camilo PENAGOS

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Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killing of Gladys Santamaría and Camilo Penagos on 2 August 1991 in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution.

According to reports, on 2 August 1991 six armed men in civilian clothing arrived at Gladys Santamaría's home in the town of Prado, Antioquia department. They carried a judicial order to search the house, signed by the *SIJIN*, the Colombian Judicial Police, with the apparent pretext that they believed that the drug *basuco*, a derivative of cocaine, was being sold there. When they reportedly found no evidence of this, they took Gladys Santamaría and Camilo Penagos from the house for further questioning, but they were killed at a short distance from the house, shot twice in the back of the head with a gun carrying a silencer.

Gladys Santamaría and Camilo Penagos were related to Rodrigo Penagos, a well-known civic leader who "disappeared" in 1984 under circumstances suggesting possible official responsibility.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years, Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports of human rights violations in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions. Principal targets have been people associated with trade unions, civic community movements and legal left-wing parties.

Amnesty International has also received an increasing number of reports of killings of so-called "undesirables", including vagrants, prostitutes and petty delinquents in the principal Colombian cities. Members of the National Police and Department of State Security, *Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS)*, have been implicated in the killings by investigations conducted by the Procurator General. However, the majority of such investigations are inconclusive and to the knowledge of Amnesty International no-one has been charged and brought to justice in connection with the killings.

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

- expressing concern at the killings of Gladys Santamaría and Camilo Penagos in circumstances suggesting official responsibility;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into their deaths, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
**[Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente]**  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño  
Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla  
**[Salutation: Sr. Procurador General de la Nación]**  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Procuraduría General  
Edificio Banco Ganadero  
Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

Commander of the Judicial and Investigative Police  
Headquarters:

Coronel Luis Enrique Montenegro Rico  
**[Salutation: Sr. Coronel]**  
Comandante  
Dirección de Policía Judicial e Investigación (DIJIN)  
Carrera 15, No. 10-41  
Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Comandante DIJIN, Bogota, Colombia**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 237 8768**

**COPIES TO:**

(Association for the families of the "disappeared"):  
ASFADDES  
AA 011446  
Santa Fé de 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 25 September 1991.