

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/47/00

UA 163/00

Fear for

COLOMBIA Rocio CAMPO, human rights defender

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Rocio Campos, a human rights defender working with the Barrancabermeja Branch of the *Asociación de Familiares de Desaparecidos-Detenidos*, (ASFADDES), Association of Families of the Detained-Disappeared.

Between 22 and 25 May 2000 Rocio Campos received a series of telephoned death threats at her home in Barrancabermeja, department of Santander. The anonymous caller played recorded gunshots down the telephone line and asked Rocio Campos if she was "ready" ("*preparada*"), said that it was "nearly her turn" ("*casi le toca*"), and asked whether she had her "escape route ready" ("*tiene lista la salida de escape*"). On one occasion Rocio Campos's sister received the following message: "*ya sabemos como ubicarla, y por mas que la quieran esconder ya sabemos como cercarla*", "we already know how to find you, and even if they try and hide you we know how to trap you".

The anonymous caller has also asked to speak to her brother Daniel Campos. Paramilitary forces forcibly abducted Daniel Campos in Barrancabermeja city on 16 May 1998, killing and forcibly abducting more than 30 people. The whereabouts of 25 of those abducted, including Daniel Campos, remains unknown.

On 23 May unidentified people reportedly kept Rocio Campos's office under surveillance.

In the past, human rights defenders, relatives of victims of human rights violations and others campaigning for those responsible for human rights violations to be brought to justice, have been the victim of death threats and serious human rights violations carried out by the security forces or their paramilitary allies. The Barrancabermeja branch of ASFADDES was set up in the wake of the Barrancabermeja massacre on May 1998. Its mandate is to campaign for justice for all cases of "disappearance" in the Barrancabermeja region.

Rocio Campos's name is reportedly included on a paramilitary death list circulating in the region. The list includes the names of trade unionists belonging to the *Unión Sindical Obrera* (USO), the oil worker's union, as well as human rights defenders working in the region including members of the *Corporación Regional de Derechos Humanos*, (CREDHOS), Regional Human Rights Corporation and the *Organización Feminina Popular*, (OFP), Popular Women's Organization, (see UA 133/00, 25 May 2000, AMR 23/38/00). Reports of death threats against Rocio Campos have raised concern for the safety of other members of ASFADDES in Barrancabermeja.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Rocio Campos, an ASFADDES worker who has received a series of death threats in recent weeks, calling for a full investigation, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of other human rights defenders in Barrancabermeja;
- urging that immediate measures be taken to guarantee the safety of Rocio Campos and other ASFADDES workers in Barrancabermeja and to ensure they can continue to carry out their work of promoting and protecting human rights;

- 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 Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms adopted on 9 December 1998, and the Organization of American States' Human Rights Defenders in the Americas resolution adopted on 7 June 1999 [AG/RES. 1671 (XXIX-O/99)];
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Barrancabermeja and the surrounding area, urging that the results be made public and those found responsible for supporting and participating in such groups brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and UN recommendations.

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

Fax: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939/284 2186/289 3377/337 1351/

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

Fax: + 57 1 337 1351

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

Minister of Interior

Dr. Humberto de la Calle
 Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Palacio Echeverry
 Carrera 8a, No.8-09, piso 2o.
 Santafé de Bogotá
 COLOMBIA

Fax: + 57 1 286 8025/284 0214

Salutation: Dear Sir / Sr. Ministro

COPIES TO:Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

Señores
 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 28 July 2000.