

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/51/95

18 August 1995

Further information on UA 356/94 (AMR 23/74/95, 27 September 1994) - and follow-up (AMR 23/87/94, 17 November 1994) - Fear of "disappearance" / Possible extrajudicial executions / Fear for safety

COLOMBIA Italo RODRÍGUEZ CARVAJAL, bus driver

Alvaro RODRÍGUEZ CARVAJAL, taxi driver

Alvaro ARÉVALO, salesman

Tomás DÍAZ HURTADO, tradesman and barber

Amnesty International remains seriously concerned for the safety of Italo Rodríguez Carvajal as he pursues his attempts to investigate the "disappearance" and killing of his brother in 1994. He has received death threats and been kept under surveillance, reportedly by members of the security forces.

Italo Rodríguez's brother, Alvaro Rodríguez Carvajal, together with Alvaro Arévalo and Tomás Díaz Hurtado, "disappeared" after being detained on 15 September 1994 by police intelligence agents in Barranquilla, department of Atlántico. The bodies of the three men were found on 27 September 1994.

Italo Rodríguez Carvajal's attempts to investigate his brother's "disappearance" and subsequent killing were met with death threats and he was forced to leave his home and move to Medellín, department of Antioquia. Three months ago he returned to Barranquilla where he has been working as a bus driver.

Since his return to Barranquilla, Italo Rodríguez Carvajal has reportedly been kept under surveillance and followed. On 15 August 1995, as he was clocking in with the time inspector at about 1.17pm in the town of Santa Marta, department of Atlántico, he noticed a white vehicle with no number plates parked on a corner. On the opposite corner he saw a number of individuals believed to be members of police intelligence F-2. Italo Rodríguez reportedly recognized one of the men as an F-2 agent who had been present at inquiries the *Defensoría del Pueblo*, Office of the People's Defender, had made into the "disappearances" in November 1994. Italo Rodríguez reportedly noticed that someone was pointing him out from inside the parked vehicle and that someone made a gesture to the other men. At this point he fled the area in the bus.

Concern for the safety of Italo Rodríguez is heightened by the fact that in the past individuals witnesses and those who have attempted to investigate "disappearances" and other forms of human rights violation have themselves been the target of human rights violation.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Italo Rodríguez who has reportedly been kept under surveillance in Barranquilla by members of the security forces and subjected to death threats since the "disappearance" of his brother on 15 September 1994;
- calling for measures, deemed appropriate by Italo Rodríguez Carvajal, to be taken to ensure his safety;
- urging that full and impartial investigations are undertaken into the threats, the results made public and those responsible be brought to justice;

- reiterating calls for full and impartial investigations into the apparent extrajudicial executions of Alvaro Rodríguez Carvajal, Alvaro Arévalo and Tomás Díaz Hurtado on 15 September 1994 after their reported detention by members of F-2 police intelligence, the results made public and those responsible 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 Pizano, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 289 3377/286 7434

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2. Minister of Defence

Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa , Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
Defensor del Pueblo
Defensoría del Pueblo
Calle 35 No. 7-25 piso 5
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo, Bogota, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 346 1225/285 6908

Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/Dear Dr. Triviño

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 8 October 1995.