

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/54/00

14 July 2000

Further information on UA 163/00 (AMR 23/47/00, 16 June 2000) - Fear for Safety / Death Threats

COLOMBIA Rocio CAMPO, human rights defender

new names: other members of the Barrancabermeja branch of ASFADDES and witnesses to the 1998 Barrancabermeja massacre

Killed: Elizabeth CAÑAS CANO, member of the Barrancabermeja branch of ASFADDES and witness to the 1998 Barrancabermeja massacre

Elizabeth Cañas Cano, a member of the Barrancabermeja branch of ASFADDES, where Rocio Campo works, has been shot dead. Like Rocio Campo, she had lost relatives in the 1998 Barrancabermeja massacre. Witnesses to the massacre and other ASFADDES members are now in grave danger.

Elizabeth Cañas Cano was shot dead near her office on 11 June 2000. A few days earlier she had been followed by two armed men. She had been campaigning through the *Asociación de Familiares de Desaparecidos-Detenidos*, (ASFADDES), Association of Families of the Detained-Disappeared, to get justice for her son, Giovanni Cañas Cano and her brother, José Milton Cañas Cano, who both "disappeared" during the 16 May 1998 massacre in Barrancabermeja. Rocio Campo's brother, Daniel Campo Pérez, also "disappeared" in the massacre.

To date, although investigations into the massacre have led to the dismissal of three members of the armed forces and disciplinary action against another nine, nobody has been brought to justice.

The whereabouts of the 25 people who "disappeared" remain unknown.

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

- calling for a full investigation into the killing of Elizabeth Cañas Cano, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of Rocio Campos and other members of ASFADDES in Barrancabermeja, and calling for action to protect them so they can continue their work of promoting and protecting human rights;
- expressing concern for the safety of witnesses to the May 1998 massacre in Barrancabermeja;
- 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 resolution on Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, 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 to be active in or supporting 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"

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 25 August 2000.