

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/55/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 341/93 Possible Extrajudicial Execution / Death Threats

29 September 1993

COLOMBIA:   Killed:       Victor GUAUDIA, civic leader  
              Threatened: Manuel CLARO, mayor of Aguachica  
                          Erminoso SEPULVEDA, secretary of town council  
                          Jesus Emilio BLANCO, municipal treasurer  
                          Luis REYES, municipal controller  
                          Two brothers of Victor Gaudia (names unknown)

---

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killing of Victor Gaudia in the municipality of Aguachica, Cesar Department, in circumstances suggesting he was a victim of extrajudicial execution. The organization fears for the safety of other local officials and community leaders in Aguachica who, like Victor Gaudia, have been receiving death threats.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Victor Gaudia was killed in his home at midday on the 21 September 1993 by unidentified gunmen who shot him repeatedly. Previously, Victor Gaudia had received a number of death threats in written notes and over the telephone. He had reportedly been harassed by members of the Colombian security forces and recently had survived an attempt on his life by an unidentified hooded man. All these events occurred in a heavily militarized area with permanent security checkpoints, making it unlikely for these events to have occurred without the collusion of the security forces.

Another local community leader of the municipality of Aguachica, Carlos Emiro Galviz was killed on the 28 October 1992. Victor Gaudia, like Carlos Emiro Galviz was a member of the Community Action Movement (CAM) (Movimiento Acción Comunitaria).

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the local community leaders in Aguachica named above, who are also members of the CAM and have been receiving death threats. The organization fears that they are at risk of suffering the same fate as Victor Gaudia and Carlos Emiro Galviz.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, arbitrary arrest, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. President César Gaviria Trujillo has repeatedly pledged his government's commitment to protect human rights. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity. Civic leaders, trade unionists, human rights activists are amongst the groups frequently targeted by the security forces for arbitrary

arrest and other forms of human rights abuse.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish, English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern at the killing of Victor Gaudia on the 21 September 1993 in circumstances that suggest he may have been victim of extrajudicial execution;

- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry, the results of which should be made public and that those found responsible be brought to

**page 2 of UA 341/93**

justice;

- urging that the government take all possible measures to protect the lives of those civic leaders and local officials who have been threatened, so that they and the local population can carry out their lawful activities without fear.

- urging that there be an immediate and thorough investigation into the threats received by these civic leaders and local officials, the results of which be made public and that those found responsible brought to justice;

**APPEALS TO**

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño

Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324/7434 or 287 7937**

**Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Gaviria**

2) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla

Procurador General de la Nación

Procuraduría General

Edificio Banco Ganadero

Carrera 5, No. 15-80

Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472**

**Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación / Dear Dr. Arrieta**

3) Minister of Defence

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda

Ministro de Defensa Nacional

Ministerio de Defensa Nacional

Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52

Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**

**Fax:+ 57 1 222 1874**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

4) Attorney General

Dr. Gustavo de Greiff

Fiscal General de la Nación  
Fiscalia General de la Nación  
Apartado Aéreo 29855  
Santafé de Bogotá  
Colombia

**Telegrams:** Fiscal General, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia

**Faxes:** + 57 1 287 0939

**Salutation:** Estimado Dr. de Greiff / Dear Dr. de Greiff

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Human Rights and Educational Organization:

Señores

CSPP

AA 22803

Santa Fe 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 10 November 1993.