

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Extrajudicial Executions/Fear for Safety

30 September 1993

COLOMBIA:

Killed:

Jesús María VALENCIA ZULETA
Omar Dario MESA TORRES
Carlos Guillermo MESA TORRES
Manuel Vicente VARELAS
Alberto de Jesús MOLINA
Samuel Nicolás JIMENEZ SERNA
Jhon Jairo CALLE
Juan Carlos CUARTA TORRES
Jhon Jairo MEDINA GUTIERREZ
Fany N (pregnant)
Luís Armando HOLGUIN JURADO
Fabián VILLA GALLEGA
Martín de Jesús VERA MAZO
Joaquín Emilio N
Luís Alfonso MORALES

Threats: Román Dario ROLDAN and others

Amnesty International has received information about an alarming number of killings in recent months in the Municipio Yarumal, Antioquia Department. The organization believes that those responsible are members of a "death squad" comprising contract killers (*sicarios*) from the town of Medellín. The "death squad" is said to be carrying out an *operación de limpieza social* (social clean-up operation) against local drug dealers and petty criminals in the municipality. However the victims have also included peasants involved in the recovery or occupation of land. A former soldier and local inhabitants are said to have joined the "death squad" which operates with financial support from local tradesmen and landowners. It is also believed to have links with the police.

The wave of violence, the nature of the operations, the victims and their injuries - almost all bullet wounds to the head - suggest that the operations are the work of a "death squad". It is alleged that a death list of future victims exists with the names of some of those killed included on this list. Relatives of some of the victims have, through fear, already left the area.

On 17 August 1993 Román Dario Roldan denounced the existence of a death list on which his name appeared. This information has been confirmed by a witness who overheard two young men discussing the death of Román Roldan. Names of others on the death list are not known to Amnesty International at present.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports of killings of so-called social undesirables (*desechables sociales*) including vagrants and petty criminals. Murder operations against such people are routinely termed social clean-up operations and are generally attributed to shadowy "death squads". There is evidence that members of the National Police are members of these "death squads".

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

- expressing concern at the killings in the municipality of Yarumal, allegedly by a "death squad";

- urging that there be an immediate inquiry into the killings to identify those responsible and bring them to justice; the findings of such inquiry to be made public;

- urging that the Colombian government take all possible measures to protect relatives of those killed, witnesses to the killings and those whose names are included in the death list which has allegedly been compiled by the "death squad".

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 7324/7434/287 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

Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

4) Governor of Antioquia

Sr. Juan Gómez Martínez
Gobernador del Departamento de Antioquia
Gobernación de Antioquia
Calle 42B no. 52-106
Medellín, ANTIOQUIA.

Telexes: 66808

Faxes: + 57 1 222 518539

Salutation: Estimado Sr.Gobernador/Dear Governor

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights and Educational Organization

Señores

CINEP

AA 25916

Santa Fe de Bogotá

Colombia

and to the diplomatic representative of Colombia accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 11 November 1993.