

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/60/98

14 August 1998

Further information on UA 156/98 (AMR 23/34/98, 18 May 1998) and follow-ups (AMR 23/52/98, 14 July 1998; AMR 23/37/98, 5 June 1998) - "Disappearances" / Fear for safety / Extrajudicial executions

COLOMBIA "Disappeared": Oswaldo Enrique VÁSQUEZ QUIÑONES and Robert WEUS GORDILLO SOLANO

Killed after being abducted: 25 inhabitants of Barrancabermeja: Orlando MARTÍNEZ; Juan de Jesús VALDIVIESO; Riqui NELSON GARCÍA; Jaime Yesid PEÑA; José Milton CAÑAS; José Octavio OSORIO; Wilfrido PÉREZ SERNA; Wilson PACHECO; Diego Fernando OCHOA, María Alejandra OCHOA; Giovanni HERRERA; Carlos A. PRADA; Ender GONZÁLEZ BAENA; Libardo LONDOÑO; José REINEL CAMPO; A. Fernando ARDILA LANDÍNEZ; Daniel Campos PÉREZ; Gary de Jesús PINEDO; Oscar Leonel BARRERA; Melquisedec SALAMANCA; Carlos E. ESCOBAR; Wilfredo PÉREZ SERNA; Edgar PINEDA RANGEL; Juan Carlos RODRÍGUEZ and Luis Hernando SUÁREZ

Killed during paramilitary attack: Diominio HERNÁNDEZ, Germán León QUINTERO;

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An investigation has been established by the *Fiscalia General*, Attorney General's Office, into the extrajudicial execution and "disappearance" of over 30 people in Barrancabermeja, Santander Department on 16 May 1998.

An Army Corporal from the Nueva Granada Battalion, a military unit based in Barrancabermeja, has reportedly been detained and charged in connection with the killings and "disappearances". Other members of the same battalion are reportedly also under investigation for their part in the paramilitary attack. The *Fiscalía General* has apparently also issued a warrant for the arrest of other individuals in connection with these crimes.

Concerns remain for the safety of workers with the *Corporación Regional de Derechos Humanos* (CREDHOS), Regional Human Rights Corporation, who were declared military targets by the paramilitary organization responsible for the killings of the above named people.

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

- welcoming the progress made in the investigation into the mass killing and "disappearances" by a paramilitary group in Barrancabermeja in May 1998;
- urging Colombia's new government to fully support the investigation in order to ensure that it is both impartial and comprehensive and that all the perpetrators are brought to justice;
- calling for the prompt detention of those for whom the *Fiscalía General* has issued arrest warrants;
- reiterating your concern for members of CREDHOS;
- calling for the authorities to undertake all measures deemed appropriated by those still under threat to guarantee their safety;
- calling for full and impartial investigations into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups and urging that all those found responsible for supporting and/or participating in such groups be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments.
- reminding Colombia's new government of the country's commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Andres Pastrana, Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño, carrera 8 No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 44281 PALP CO

Fax: + 57 1 284 2186/289 3377/286 7434/

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Prastana

Minister of Defence

Dr. Rodrigo Lloreda,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

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Nestor Humberto Martínez, Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 45406 MINGO CO

Fax: + 57 1 281 5884 / 286 6524 / 286 0405

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organization: CREDHOS, AA 505, Barrancabermeja, Santander, Colombia

Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez, Fiscal General de la Nación,
Fiscalía General de la Nación, Diagonal 22B 5201, Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé
de Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 571 570 2000 (when ansaphone picks up dial 2017 for fax)

Salutation: Estimado Dr./Dear Dr.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 October 1998.

***"Everyone has the right to life, liberty
and security of person."***

Article 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>