

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/060/2003

09 September 2003

Further Information on UA 248/03 (AMR 23/56/2003, 20 August 2003) Fear for safety/ Threats  
New Concern: Possible abduction

COLOMBIA      Leonora Castaño (f)  
Other members of *Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas, Negras e Indígenas de Colombia* (ANMUCIC), National Association of Peasant, Black and Indigenous Women of Colombia

New Name:      Ruben Antonio Díaz (m)

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Ruben Antonio Díaz, who according to reports has been abducted by army-backed paramilitaries. He is allegedly being held captive on a farm somewhere in La Guajira department.

On 2 September, at about 12:00 pm, a hand written letter thought to be from army-backed paramilitaries was left at the ANMUCIC office in the capital, Bogotá. The letter stated that Ruben Antonio Díaz was being held captive and also reportedly made new threats against Leonara Castaño, the president of ANMUCIC and other leaders.

Ruben Antonio Díaz is the son of Blanca Nubia Díaz, an ANMUCIC activist from La Guajira Department, who had been forcibly displaced to Bogotá, following the killing of her 16 year-old daughter, Irina del Carmen Villeros Díaz on 26 May 2001.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Ruben Antonio Díaz and calling for a full and impartial investigation into his alleged abduction by army-backed paramilitaries, for the results to be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of Leonora Castaño and other members of *Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas, Negras e Indígenas de Colombia* (ANMUCIC), National Association of Peasant, Black and Indigenous Women of Colombia;
- urging the Colombian authorities to take effective action to protect members of ANMUCIC in line with measures requested by those at risk, thus allowing them to safely continue their legitimate and important work for the defence of human rights;
- calling for the government to investigate all cases of threats against human rights defenders and to bring to justice those responsible;
- urging the government to fully implement the principles of the 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 by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998;
- calling on the government to initiate a meaningful dialogue with human rights defenders to address issues of their protection and the prevention of attacks against them.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic  
Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez  
Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño  
Carrera 8 No.7-26  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Fax: + 57 1 337 58 90 / 342 0592**  
**Salutation: Excmo. Sr. Presidente Uribe / Dear President Uribe**

Minister of the Interior and Justice  
Sr. Fernando Londoño Hoyos,  
Ministro del Interior y de Justicia  
Ministerio del Interior  
Palacio Echeverry, Carrera 8a, No.8-09, piso 2o.  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Fax: + 57 1 566 4573**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

Attorney General  
Dr. Luis Camilo Osorio,  
Fiscal General de la Nación  
Fiscalía General de la Nación  
Diagonal 22B 52-01  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Fax: + 57 1 570 2022 / 2017 (if someone answers say “me da tono de fax por favor por Dr Osorio”)**  
**Salutation: Dear Dr. Osorio / Estimado Dr. Osorio**

**COPIES TO:**

Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman  
Defensoría del Pueblo,  
Calle 55, No. 10-32/46 office 301,  
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 21 October 2003.