

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: 23/61/91

Distr: UA/SC

18 October 1991

Further information on UA 252/91 (AMR 23/41/91, 22 July 1991) - Death Threats

COLOMBIA: Possible Extrajudicial Execution of Hugues LOPEZ, teacher

---

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killing of 38 year-old teacher Hugues López on 13 October 1991 in circumstances suggesting he was the victim of extrajudicial execution.

According to reports, Hugues López was with his family at their home in the town of Convención, Teorama municipality, Norte de Santander department when several armed men entered the house and shot him repeatedly in the face.

On 13 July an attempt was made on the life of Hugues López by armed men recognized by him as soldiers from the nearby army base of the Rook Battalion. (Please refer to UA 252/91). Hugues López managed to escape and denounced this attack to the regional procurator's office. The attack resulted in his leaving his job and moving house. He again publicly denounced the attack and continuing death threats against him in front of a crowd of nearly a thousand people at a human rights forum held at the end of August.

In September 1991 the Procurator General's office produced an official report stating that more than 2,300 complaints had been lodged against the army and police in the last two years for human rights violations. President César Gaviria Trujillo, on presenting the report, stated: **"No puede el Gobierno desconocer la gravedad de las acusaciones que se hacen en forma reiterada y masiva contra sus agentes, ni ignorar hasta que punto reina la impunidad por violación de derechos humanos."** **"The government cannot fail to recognise the seriousness of the accusations made constantly and on a massive scale against its agents, nor ignore the extent of impunity in cases of human rights violations".**

Despite the Colombian government's commitment to uphold respect for human rights, the Colombian armed forces and paramilitary groups have continued to carry out extrajudicial executions, "disappearances" and the torture of perceived opponents.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the killing of Hugues López in circumstances suggesting he may have been the victim of extrajudicial execution;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough investigation into his death, the results of which should be made public, and those responsible be brought to justice;
- urging the government to take all possible measures to protect the lives of teachers

to ensure that they can work without fear for their lives.

page 2 of FU 252/91

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of the Republic:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo **Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente**  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogota, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 283 3066 / + 57 1 286 7324 / + 57 1 287 7937**

2) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla **Sr. Procurador General de la Nación**  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Procuraduría General  
Edificio Banco Ganadero  
Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogota, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472**

3) Minister of Defence:

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda **Sr. Ministro**  
Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogota, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**  
**Faxes: +57 1 222 1874**

4) Comandante Batallón Rook

**Sr. Comandante**

Base Militar La Esmeralda  
Municipio de Convención  
Norte de Santander  
Colombia  
**Telegrams: Comandante del Batallon Rook, Municipio de Convencion, Norte de Santander, Colombia**

**COPIES TO:**

FUNDICEP

(Fundación para la Investigación, La Cultura y la Educación Popular)

AA 36783

Santa Fe de Bogotá

Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 November 1991.