

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible Extrajudicial Execution

1 November 1991

COLOMBIA:

Rafael MOYA HERNANDEZ, municipal official
Luis Eduardo MARTINEZ, municipal labourer
Jorge Elías SOSA RAMOS, municipal labourer

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killing of Rafael Moya Hernández, Luis Eduardo Martínez and Jorge Elías Sosa Ramos on 26 October 1991, on the road between the towns of Granada and Mesetas, Meta department, in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution.

According to reports, the attack took place four kilometres from Granada. The municipal truck in which the above men and another municipal labourer were travelling broke down close to a school called "La Holanda", whereupon the driver went to find help. When he returned he found the bodies of Rafael Moya Hernández, Luis Eduardo Martínez and Jorge Elías Sosa Ramos about 500 metres from the road with evidence of multiple gunshot wounds. The fourth man was also shot but survived the attack. The victims had reportedly been forced by six men, armed with automatic weapons, to leave the truck and walk away from the road, where they were then shot.

All four men were activists of the legal left-wing opposition party, the Patriotic Union, Unión Patriótica (UP). Another local UP activist, the mayor of Mesetas, Miguel Antonio Rubio López, survived a recent attack on his life, whilst on 14 September 1991 Carlos Julián Vélez, UP deputy in Meta's departmental assembly, was killed together with three members of his family in circumstances suggesting possible official responsibility (Please refer to UA 312/91, AMR 23/51/91, 20 September 1991). Since its creation in 1985, the UP claims that over 1,500 of its members have been victims of politically motivated killings, including grassroots activists, local councillors, congress members and national leaders. In an official report produced by the Procurator General's office in September 1991, the public ministry stated that more than 3,000 complaints had been lodged against the army and police in the past two years for human rights abuses including murder, "disappearance" and torture. The report said that a significant number of the victims were members of the Unión Patriótica or trade unionists.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In recent years Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports of human rights abuses including extrajudicial executions in Colombia. Principal targets have been people associated with legal left-wing parties, civic and community movements and trades unions. The majority of abuses have been attributed by Colombian authorities to civilian "death squads" which it

claims it is unable to control. However independent investigations, including judicial inquiries, have concluded that many such groups operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian armed forces.

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

- expressing concern at the killing of Rafael Moya Hernández, Luis Eduardo Martínez and Jorge Elías Sosa Ramos in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution;

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

- urging that the Colombian authorities take all possible measures to ensure that members of opposition parties are able to conduct their legitimate activities without fear of reprisal.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo **Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente**
Presidente de la República **Dear President Gaviria**
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 or + 57 1 287 7937

2) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla **Sr. Procurador General de la Nación**
Procurador General de la Nación **Dear Dr Arrieta**
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 **Dear Minister**

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

COPIES TO:

Señores
CINEP
AA 25916
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia (Human Rights and Educational Organization)

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 13 December 1991.