

PUBLIC

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21 September 1998

Further information on UA 62/98 (AMR 23/12/98, 2 March 1998) - Fear for Safety/Extrajudicial Execution

COLOMBIA Jesús María Valle Jaramillo

Amnesty International has received information on the arrest of several people in connection with the killing on 27 February 1998 in Medellín, department of Antioquia, of human rights lawyer Jesús María Valle Jaramillo.

On 4 August 1998, officials of the *Fiscalía Regional de Medellín*, Regional Office of the Attorney General of Medellín, arrested four people accused of involvement in the killing. On 15 September, the Office of the Attorney General announced the detention of two brothers also accused of participating in the killing.

Two of those arrested are reportedly cattle-ranchers in the municipality of Ituango. The two brothers recently arrested are believed to be paramilitary leaders from the north-west of the department of Antioquia. Jesús María Valle Jaramillo was killed after denouncing paramilitary attacks in the municipality of Ituango and the close links between the paramilitary and the security forces.

Amnesty International welcomes progress being made in the criminal investigation into the killing of Jesús María Valle, but is concerned that the investigations should be completed and that all those involved in the killing, including those who ordered and planned the crime, should be brought to justice.

In the past, the Colombian authorities have frequently failed to bring those responsible for serious human rights violations to justice. International and national campaigning by Amnesty International and other non-governmental human rights organizations has played a part in ensuring that advances in the investigations are made. Further campaigning is still necessary to ensure that all those responsible are brought to justice.

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

- welcoming advances into the judicial investigations into the killing of Jesús María Valle Jaramillo;
- expressing concern that these investigations should be completed and that all those involved in the killing be brought to justice;
- expressing concern that all measures deemed appropriate by human rights defenders themselves are taken to guarantee their safety;
- reminding Colombia's new government of its obligation to uphold 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

Tx: 44281 PALP CO

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

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Pastrana

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
Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia
Faxes: + 571 570 2017
Salutation: Estimado Dr./Dear Dr.

Governor of Antioquia

Dr. Alberto Builes Ortega
Gobernador del Departamento de Antioquia, Gobernación de Antioquia
Calle 42B, # 52-106, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia
Telegrams: Gobernador Departamento, Antioquia, Colombia
Faxes: + 57 4 381 1342
Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

In appeals to the Governor of Antioquia, acknowledge that although guerrilla forces in Colombian have violated international humanitarian law, this in no way justifies human rights violations by the Colombian security forces and their paramilitary allies.

COPIES TO:

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 2 November 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>