

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/75/98

21 September 1998

Further information on UA 244/98 (AMR 23/70/98, 15 September 1998) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA Killed: Alcides JIMÉNEZ, Priest
Fear for safety: Evangelina ANDRADE
New Name: Betty VALLEJO (f)

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Betty Vallejo, who worked closely with Father Alcides Jiménez, the Roman Catholic priest of the Nuestra Señora del Carmen parish, municipality of Puerto Caicedo, department of Putumayo, who was gunned down as he celebrated Mass on 11 September 1998 in an attack which left church helper Evangelina Andrade seriously wounded.

According to information received, the two gunmen (believed to be members of a paramilitary group) who killed Father Alcides Jiménez, were looking for Betty Vallejo on the same day of the killing. Betty Vallejo worked closely with Father Alcides Jiménez on parish social and peace programs. Amnesty International is also concerned for the safety of other members of the parish working on its social and peace projects against whom death threats have reportedly been made in recent days.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Betty Vallejo and other social and peace workers in the parish of Nuestra Señora del Carmen;
- urging that all measures, deemed appropriate by those under threat themselves, are undertaken to guarantee their safety;
- expressing concern at the killing of the Roman Catholic priest Alcides Jiménez by unidentified gunmen on 11 September 1998 and expressing concern for the safety of Evangelina Andrade;
- urging for full and impartial investigations into the killing of Father Alcides Jiménez and the serious wounding of Evangelina Andrade, that the results be made public, and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in the area and urging that those found responsible for supporting and participating in such groups be brought to justice;
- urging that the authorities 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,

Dr. Andrés Pastrana Arango, Presidente de la República,
Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 281 6316 / 289 3377 / 286 7434 (if voice answers ask: "me puede dar tono de fax por favor")

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, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 1 570 2017

Salutation: Estimado Dr. / Dear Dr.

Governor of the Department of Putumayo

Sr. Jorge Devia Murcia

Gobernador del Departamento de Putumayo

Gobernación de Putumayo

Mocoa, Putumayo,

Colombia

Telegrams: Gobernador de Putumayo, Mocoa, Colombia

Salutation: Dear Dr./Estimado Sr. Devia

COPIES TO:

Intercongregational Commission for Justice and Peace, Comisión

Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz, AA 31861, Santafé de Bogotá,

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 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>