

PUBLIC

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"Disappearances"/Possible Extrajudicial Execution  
/Fear for Safety

22 September 1998

COLOMBIA "Disappeared": Evelio MAJORE

Nemecio MAJORE DOMICO

Enrique MAJORE DOMICO

Horacio MAJORE

Killed: Brother Miguel Ángel QUIROGA GAONA, member of the Roman Catholic Marianista Congregation

**Fear for safety of civilian population of the municipalities of Lloró, El Carmen del Atrato, department of Chocó**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of four members of the indigenous community of Abejero, municipality of El Carmen del Atrato, department of Chocó, who have not been seen since they were forcibly abducted on 16 September 1998 by members of a paramilitary group. The recent killing, reportedly by paramilitaries, of Brother Miguel Ángel Quiroga Gaona, a member of the Roman Catholic Marianista Congregation also raises concerns for the safety of the civilian population of the municipality of Lloró, Chocó Department.

According to information received, Evelio Majore, Nemecio Majore Domico, Enrique Majore Domico and Horacio Majore were forcibly abducted at 10am on 16 September 1998 in an area known as El 18, by members of the paramilitary group calling itself the *Autodefensas Campesinas de Córdoba y Urabá*, (ACCU), Peasant Farmer Self-Defence Groups of Córdoba and Urabá.

Brother Miguel Ángel Quiroga Gaona was travelling to the community of El Llano, situated by the River Tumutumbudó, municipality of Lloró, on 18 September 1998, when paramilitary gunmen identifying themselves as members of ACCU searched him and the group of people with whom he was travelling. The paramilitaries demanded to see their identity documents. Brother Miguel Ángel Quiroga objected when a member of the group travelling without personal identity documents was abducted, and was shot in the chest.

The killing of Brother Miguel Ángel Quiroga and the "disappearance" of Evelio Majore Domico, Nemecio Majore Domico, Enrique Majore Domico and Horacio Majore, also raises serious concerns for the safety of the civilian population in the municipalities of Lloró and El Carmen del Atrato. Despite numerous denunciations of paramilitary abuses against the civilian population in the department of Chocó, it is clear that the Colombian authorities have failed to take decisive action to dismantle these groups.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Members of the Colombian army and security forces and their paramilitary allies continue to commit serious human rights violations with virtual impunity. Over the past five years, several thousand civilians have been killed by paramilitary groups throughout the country. The Colombian Government suspended the legal base for the formation of paramilitary organizations and issued directives to the armed forces to combat and disband such groups in 1989, yet they continue to operate with the support of the security forces in many areas of the country. No effective steps have, as yet, been taken by the authorities to control their actions and to hold members accountable for serious and widespread human rights violations. The Attorney General recently stated that more than 200 outstanding arrest warrants issued against alleged paramilitary members responsible for widespread human rights violations

have still not been acted upon by the security forces. Colombia's new President, Andrés Pastrana, took office on 8 August 1998. So far, he and his government have not taken any effective steps to tackle the country's long running human rights crisis.

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

- expressing concern at the forced abduction of Evelio Majore, Nemecio Majore Domico, Enrique Majore Domico and Horacio Majore on 16 September 1998 in an area known as El 18, and expressing concern for the safety of the indigenous communities in the municipality of El Carmen del Atrato and neighbouring municipalities;
- expressing concern at the killing of Brother Miguel Ángel Quiroga on 18 September 1998, reportedly by members of the paramilitary organization ACCU, and expressing concern for the safety of the civilian population of the municipality of Lloró;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the killing of Brother Miguel Ángel Quiroga and the "disappearance" of Evelio Majore, Nemecio Majore Domico, Enrique Majore Domico and Horacio Majore, 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:

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 7434/286 7937**

**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.**

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Nestor Humberto Martínez, Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2  
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

**Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes:45406 MINGO CO**

**Fax:+ 57 1 341 9739/ 281 5884 / 286 6524 / 286 0405**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

Governor of Chocó

Señor Juan B. Hinestroza  
Gobernador del Departamento del Chocó  
Gobernación del Chocó  
Quibdó  
Chocó, Colombia  
**Fax: 57 497 11777**  
**Salutation: Estimando Sr. Hinestroza**

**COPIES TO:**

Intercongregational Commission for Justice and Peace, Comisión  
Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz, AA 31861, 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 3 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>