

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Extrajudicial Execution/Death Threats.

10 December 1993

COLOMBIA:

Marco Tulio FARIGUA, local community leader.

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Amnesty International has learnt with concern of the killing of Marco Tulio Farigua by unidentified individuals on 4 December 1993 in Ciudad Bolívar, a satellite city of Bogotá.

Reports indicate that on the afternoon of 4 December, Marco Tulio Farigua was shot 5 times at point blank range as he was returning home on a local bus. Marco Tulio Farigua was President of the local community action collective (*presidente de la Junta de Acción Comunal*) of the Bellavista - La Ye sector of the Jerusalem neighbourhood, Ciudad Bolívar. He had been one of the main activists in organizing a local civic strike in Ciudad Bolívar on 11 October.

The civic strike was staged to protest to the authorities about the lack of basic services, such as drainage, electricity and running water. The Mayor of Bogotá had previously denounced the strike as serving the interests of armed subversion, and had ordered a military operation as a response to it. The strike was suppressed by the Security Forces with tear gas, armoured cars with water and paint canons and live ammunition.

Before and since that time, local community leaders have received repeated death threats. However they have continued their work and negotiations following on from the civic strike. It is likely that official public declarations alleging that local community organizations are linked with guerrilla activities have led in some part to the current situation of death threats against community leaders.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years, many civic action movements have grown up in Colombian towns to demand better services for local communities. This is especially true in the new towns and shanty towns that have developed around urban areas like Bogotá which are often home to thousands of displaced people, victims of the civil strife and guerrilla wars in other regions of Colombia.

Ciudad Bolívar is one such suburb of Bogotá suffering from a chronic lack of basic infrastructure and public services. Strikes and days of action are often held to fight for better conditions. Strike leaders are often accused of being guerrillas and strikes are perceived as form of subversion. Civic leaders, trade unionists, human rights activists are amongst the groups frequently targeted by the security forces for arbitrary arrest and other forms of human rights abuse.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the killing of Marco Tulio Farigua by unidentified gunmen in Ciudad Bolívar, Bogotá on 4 December 1993 in circumstances suggesting that he may have been extrajudicially executed;

- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry, its results made public, and that those found responsible brought to justice;

- urging that measures be taken to ensure the safety of other community leaders in Ciudad Bolívar whose lives, like Marco Tulio Farigua, have been under threat, so that they can carry out their lawful activities without suffering the same fate as Marco Tulio Farigua.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio de Nariño

Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá,  
 Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324/7434**

**287 7937**

**Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/**

**Dear President Gaviria**

2) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla

Procurador General de la Nación

Procuraduría General

Edificio Banco Ganadero

Carrera 5, No. 15-80

Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta,  
 Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472**

**Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación**

**Dear Dr. Arrieta**

3) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño

Defensor del Pueblo

Defensoría del Pueblo

Avenida 39, No. 16-42

Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:Defensor del Pueblo Trivino,  
 Defensoria del Pueblo**

**Bogota, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 232 4640**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/**

**Dear Dr. Triviño**

4) Mayor of the City of Bogotá:

Dr. Jaime Castro

Alcalde Mayor de Santa Fé de Bogotá

Carrera 8, No.10-65

Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Alcalde Mayor de Bogotá Castro,  
 Alcaldía de Bogotá**

**Bogotá, Colombia**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**1) Human Rights and Educational Organizations:

Fundación Mencoldes

Carrera 15, No32-78

Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Faxes: +57 1 288 0409**

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 20th January 1994.