

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/92/98

2 December 1998

Further information on UA 276/98 (AMR 23/82/98, 27 October 1998) -Fear for safety/
"Disappearance" / Extrajudicial execution

COLOMBIA

Killed: Víctor Velásquez]
 Jesús Libardo Duque] initially reported as
"disappeared"

[Please note changes to names of those killed]: Raul Abad Arias, Jorge Gúzman, Jesús María Urrego Gómez, Mariano Bedoya Velásquez, Manuel Eduardo Salazar, Carlos Alberto Arias Serna, Jesús María Cano, Jaime Alberto Botero García, María Rocío Giraldo Castaño, Graciliano Giraldo

The bodies of Victor Velásquez and Jesús Libardo Duque were reportedly discovered on 28 October 1998, three days after they were forcibly abducted by a paramilitary group during an attack on the town of San Carlos, Antioquia Department. They had been tortured.

Ten inhabitants of San Carlos were killed in the attack by *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC), United Self-defence Forces of Colombia. Contrary to earlier reports, it appears that no one else was abducted.

Several of those killed had apparently been active in local civic organizations protesting about the impact on their communities of large development projects such as the Punchiná hydroelectric dam, near San Carlos. During the 1980s many of those who campaigned against the construction of the dam were reportedly victims of serious human rights violations. The bodies of Victor Velásquez and Jesús Libardo Duque were discovered at the dam.

For many years popular activists campaigning for socio-economic rights in Colombia have been labelled guerrilla sympathizers by army-backed paramilitary forces, who have committed serious human rights violations against them. Guerrilla organisations themselves have also attacked community members.

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

- expressing grave concern at the reported extrajudicial execution of the 12 civilians named above by the paramilitary force during and after the attack on the town of San Carlos, Antioquia Department on 25 October 1998;
- calling for appropriate measures to be taken to protect the civilian populations of the municipalities of San Carlos, San Luis, Cocorná, Granada, San Francisco and San Vicente in Antioquia Department;
- calling for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the killings, for the results to be made public, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- asking to be informed of the progress of any investigation that is underway;
- 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

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 2022

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 1 281 5884 / 286 6524 / 286 0405 / 286 0053 / 341 9739

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Governor of the Department of Antioquia

Dr. Alberto Builes Ortega, Gobernador del Departamento de Antioquia
Gobernación de Antioquia, Calle 42B, # 52-106, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

Telegrams: Gobernador de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia

Fax: + 574 381 1342

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:Alternative Legal Association

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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 13 January 1999.

*"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>.