

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/097/2001

24 September 2001

Further information on UA 240/01 (AMR 23093/01, 20 September 2001) - Fear for Safety/|Extrajudicial Execution

COLOMBIA Yolanda Cerón (f) killed

Other members of the Catholic Church Organization Pastoral Social and other human rights workers in Tumaco, department of Nariño

New Names: Members of Sembrar, National non-governmental human rights organization.

Amnesty International has just received news that a shortly after the killing of Yolanda Cerón at midday on 19 September, in Tumaco, department of Nariño, members of a national non-governmental organization were threatened.

At 2:50pm, ten minutes after workers of the national non-governmental human rights organization Sembrar, were informed of Yolanda's murder, they received a telephoned death threat at their Bogotá office. The anonymous caller, apparently referring to the killing of Yolanda Cerón, asked if they had heard the news ("have you heard you sons-of-bitches", "se enteraron ya hijueputas?") and then hung up.

This death threat comes shortly after other death threats against Sembrar in recent weeks (see UA 198/01, AI Index: AMR 23/074/2001, 2 August 2001) and raises serious concerns for the safety of Bogotá based human rights defenders with Sembrar and human rights defenders in Tumaco, department of Nariño.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of members of Sembrar in Bogotá, members of *Pastoral Social*, other human rights defenders in Tumaco and the civilian inhabitants of the region;
- urging the authorities to do everything deemed appropriate by those under threat to guarantee their safety;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the killing of Yolanda Cerón and the recent death threat against Sembrar, urging that the results be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Tumaco, department of Nariño, urging that the results are made public and those found responsible for supporting and participating in such groups are brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and United Nations recommendations.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana Arango

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño

Carrera 8 No.7-26

Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegram: President, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 566 2071 / 286 7434 / 286 6842 / 284 2186

Salutation: Dear President / Excmo. Sr. Presidente

Minister of Defence

Dr. Gustavo Bell

Ministro de Defensa Nacional

Ministerio de Defensa Nacional

Centro Administrativo Nacional

Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52, OFI 217

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegram: Ministro de Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes: + 57 1 222 0059

Salutation: Dear Minister / Sr. Ministro

Minister of Interior

Sr. Armando Estrada Villa

Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior, Palacio Echeverry

Carrera 8a, No.8-09, piso 2o., Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Bogota, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 341 9583 / 334 3960/ 691 5455/251 5884

Salutation: Dear Sir / Sr. Ministro

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental human rights organization

CSPP

AA 22803

Bogota

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 5 November 2001.