

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/126/2001

17 December 2001

Further information on UA 136/01 (AMR 23/055/01, 4 June 2001) and follow-up (AMR 23/124/01, 11 December 2001) - Fear for Safety and new concern: extrajudicial execution

COLOMBIA Forcibly displaced civilian communities of the Cacarica River Basin area and other displaced communities in the department of Chocó

Killed: Henry Tuberquia (m)

Three armed men, believed to be members of a paramilitary group, went into the San José de Apartadó Peace Community on 15 December and killed one of the inhabitants. Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of the rest of the civilian population.

The three men, in military uniform, came into the community while Henry Tuberquia was talking with two friends outside his house. They fired at him, and reportedly forced Henry to lie on the ground and shot him twice in the head and four times in the chest. The men were reportedly able to enter and leave the community unhindered although there are army checkpoints only a few minutes' walk away.

Paramilitary groups are reportedly planning to carry out more such attacks on civilian communities in the department of Chocó, including those of Cacarica, in December and January.

The people of San José de Apartadó and other communities in the Cacarica River Basin have called on all sides in the conflict to respect their right to life and their right as civilians not to be drawn into the conflict. The security forces and their paramilitary allies have repeatedly accused the returning displaced communities of the Cacarica and San José de Apartadó of being linked to guerrilla forces, leaving them exposed to continued threats and attacks.

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

- urging the authorities to order an independent, impartial and conclusive investigation into the killing of Henry Tuberquia, who was shot dead by paramilitary gunmen in the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, in Chocó, on 15 December, and bring those responsible to justice;
- expressing serious concern for the safety of the people of San José de Apartadó and recently returned displaced communities in the Cacarica River Basin area;
- urging the authorities to take action to protect the communities, in line with the communities' own wishes;
- expressing concern that the government and its security forces have taken no effective action against paramilitary groups in the department of Chocó, despite repeated government commitments and UN recommendations to combat and dismantle these groups;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in the department of Chocó, with the results made public and those found responsible for supporting and participating in such groups brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana, Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 44281 PALP CO

Fax: + 57 1 566 20 71

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente Pastrana / Dear President Pastrana

Minister of Defence

Dr. Gustavo Bell

Ministro de Defensa Nacional, Ministerio de Defensa Nacional

Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52,Oficina 217, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegram:Ministro de Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Fax: + 57 1 222 18 74 / 222 00 59

Salutation:Sr. Ministro Bell / Dear Minister Bell

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Armando Estrada Villa,

Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior,

Palacio Echeverry, Carrera 8a, No.8-09, piso 2o.,

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegram: Ministro Interior, Bogota, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 562 5298/ 562 9890

Salutation: Dear Sir / Sr. Ministro

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 28 January 2002.