

UA 39/00

Fear for

**COLOMBIA "Disappeared": Luis Enrique RUIZ RÍOS, aged 14**  
**Fear for safety: his mother, Gloria RÍOS, community activist**  
**Other members of the Ríos family**

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of 14-year-old Luis Enrique Ríos, who was abducted at gunpoint on 3 February in a town in central Colombia. He has not been seen since.

Luis Enrique Ruiz Ríos was out with his brother Edwin Ruiz Ríos in the Virrey district of Usme, at about 2pm when an unidentified gunman forced him into a car. Edwin Ruiz managed to escape, the gunman reportedly telling him to tell his mother that she "would not see her son again" ("*que no volvería a ver a su hijo*").

Luis Enrique's family had been forced to move to Usme, in Cundinamarca department, to escape political violence. His mother Gloria Ríos works for a non-governmental organization working with displaced people in the Usme area, the *Organización de Familias Desplazadas* (ORFADES), Organization of Displaced Families. Luis Enrique is the vice-president of the ORFADES children's committee. The family has reportedly received numerous written death threats and anonymous threatening phone calls in recent weeks. According to Gloria Ríos the two men who abducted Luis Enrique had been seen in the Virrey district in the previous few days asking where they could find her.

There is particular concern for the safety of Luis Enrique and his mother because both sides in Colombia's civil conflict, armed opposition groups on the one side and the armed forces and their paramilitary allies on the other, have often accused forcibly displaced people of collaborating or sympathizing with their enemies, and followed these accusations up with death threats and killings.

Luis Enrique's "disappearance" has been denounced to the Colombian authorities.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Both sides in Colombia's civil conflict have targeted human rights defenders, leaders of internally displaced communities, trades unionists, regional human rights ombudsmen and similarly active civilians for threats, killings and "disappearances".

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Luis Enrique Ruiz Ríos, who was abducted on 3 February 2000 in Usme, department of Cundinamarca, and whose whereabouts are now unknown;
- urging the authorities to do everything possible to establish his whereabouts and guarantee his safety;
- urging the authorities to undertake full and impartial investigations into his "disappearance" and the death threats against his family, to make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- urging the authorities to protect Luis Enrique's family, doing everything the family themselves think necessary.

**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 1 286 7434/ 284 2186 / 337 1351**

**Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Pastrana**

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Néstor Humberto Martínez, Ministro del Interior

Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2

Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

**Telegrams: Ministerio Interior, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes:45406 MINGO CO**

**Fax:+ 57 1 286 8025 / 281 5884 / 342 3201**

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

People's Ombudsman:

Dr.José Fernando Castro Caycedo

Defensor del Pueblo

Defensoría del Pueblo

Calle 55 No.10-32

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:Defensoria Pueblo, Bogota, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 346 1225/285 6908/314 7300(ext 2246)/6915455**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr./Dear Dr. Castro**

**COPIES TO:**

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

Señores

ASFADDES

AA 011446

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 29 March 2000.