

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible Extrajudicial Execution

4 March 1991

COLOMBIA: Alfonso TIQUE TIMOTE, indigenous leader

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killing of Alfonso Tique Timote, governor of the Indian community of Santa Marta Palmar, municipality of Coyaima, Tolima department, in circumstances suggesting he may have been the victim of extrajudicial execution.

According to reports, Alfonso Tique Timote was sitting on his patio at home with his family when, at 4am on 21 February 1991, three men wearing the uniform of the Colombian army arrived and shot him six times, killing him instantly.

Alfonso Tique Timote was well known for his work on behalf of the Indian community of Santa Marta and had recently been involved in efforts to try to regain land which the indigenous community believe is theirs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Human rights violations against members of Colombia's indigenous communities have been reported from many areas of the country. Many such abuses occur in the context of land conflicts. Indigenous people lawfully defending what they maintain are their land rights have on numerous occasions been arbitrarily arrested and ill-treated by members of the security forces. In some cases, measures to force indigenous communities from land have resulted in killings that appear to have been deliberate and politically motivated. Amnesty International takes no position on land disputes as such but is concerned about human rights violations that occur in that context.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the killing of indigenous leader Alfonso Tique Timote by three armed men reportedly wearing Colombian army uniforms;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into his death, the results of which should be made public;
- urging that all possible measures be taken to protect the lives of Indigenous community leaders to ensure that they are able to carry out their lawful activities.

APPEALS TO:

Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 44281 PALP CO
Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324
+ 57 1 287 7937
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Dr. Gustavo Arrieta
Procurador General de la Nación
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO
Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

General Oscar Botero Restrepo
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO or 44561 CFAC CO
Faxes: +57 1 222 1874

COPIES TO:

Señores
CINEP
AA 25916
Bogotá
COLOMBIA

Consejo Regional Indígena del Tolima (CRIT)
AA 2411
Ibagué
Tolima
COLOMBIA

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 April 1991.