

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 67/94 Possible Extrajudicial Execution / Fear for Safety 22 February 1994

COLOMBIA Javier GONZÁLEZ, aged 16
 Jairo MURCIA, aged 14
"Asprilla", aged 12 - all homeless youths

Amnesty International has learned of the killing of three young people in the Timiza district of Bogotá during the night of 13 February 1994. It believes that the youths may have been the victims of extrajudicial execution, and the killings heighten the organization's concern for the safety of the hundreds of other street children in Bogotá.

Javier González, Jairo Murcia and another child known as "Asprilla" were sleeping in front of a warehouse in the Timiza district when they were shot through the head.

Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports of killings of so-called "social undesirables" (*desechables sociales*) including "street children", vagrants, homosexuals and suspected delinquents in the principal Colombian cities. Murder operations directed against these people are routinely termed "social clean-up operations" (*operaciones de limpieza social*) and are generally attributed to shadowy "death squads". However, in a number of cases evidence has emerged that the so-called "death squads" were made up of members of the National Police, frequently operating with the support of local tradespeople.

On 11 August 1993 posters appeared in the centre of Bogotá announcing the extermination of the city's "delinquents" and inviting them to attend their own funerals. The posters were signed in the name of industrialists, shopkeepers and civic groups and appeared to be a reaction to a reported wave of petty crime in the city centre which the authorities attributed to vagrants, including "street children". (See UA 274/93, AMR 23/50/93, 13 August 1993).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearance", torture and arbitrary arrest. President César Gaviria Trujillo has repeatedly pledged his government's commitment to protect human rights. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity.

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

- expressing concern at the killing on 13 February 1994 of Javier González, Jairo Murcia and "Asprilla" in circumstances which suggest that they may have been the victims of extrajudicial execution;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into the killings, that its results be made public and those found responsible brought to justice;
- urging that all possible measures be taken to protect the lives and well-being of youths living on the street.

APPEALS TO

- 1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 44281 PALP CO
Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939
Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Gaviria

2) Procurator General:
 Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla
 Procurador General de la Nación
 Procuraduría General
 Edificio Banco Ganadero
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia
Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472
Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación/Dear Dr. Arrieta

3) Advocate for the People:
 Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
 Defensor del Pueblo
 Defensoría del Pueblo
 Calle 35 No. 7-25 piso 5
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams:Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo, Bogota, Colombia
Faxes:+ 57 1 288 6683
Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/Dear Dr. Triviño

4) Attorney General
 Dr. Gustavo de Greiff
 Fiscal General de la Nación
 Fiscalía General de la Nación
 Apartado Aéreo 29855
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams:Fiscal General,Fiscalia General,Bogotá, Colombia
Faxes:+ 57 1 287 0939
Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff/Dear Dr. de Greiff

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Lawyers' Association:
 Corporación Colectivo de Abogados
 AA 44456
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Human Rights and Educational Organization
 Señores
 CINEP
 AA 25916
 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 5 April 1994.