

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/31/99

9 April 1999

Further information on UA 70/99 (AMR 23/30/99, 8 April 1999) - Fear for safety / "Disappearance"

COLOMBIA "Disappeared": Crecencio Mendoza, Jusús Arias, Jerónimo Martínez, Floriberto Hurtado, Raúl Posada, Edgarado Gómez, Joselito Gallego, Miliciades Mena, Jorge Correa

Killed: José Angel Cárdenas, Jorge Enrique Murillo, Luis Felipe Lamberti, Jorge Ramos and his three year old daughter

Injured: Oidel Mena

The dead bodies of three of the 12 Peace Community residents who were abducted by paramilitary forces on 7 April 1999 have been found near Villahermosa, Chocó department. Amnesty International is increasingly concerned for the lives of the remaining nine, named above.

José Angel Cárdenas was the leader of the Villahermosa settlement. Jorge Enrique Murillo and Luis Felipe Lamberti were in the process of joining the community. The three were reportedly tortured before they were killed.

The paramilitary force that abducted the 12 from Villahermosa also reportedly killed Jorge Ramos and his three year old daughter, and injured Oidel Mena, in the nearby settlement of El Arenal. There is still no information available on the subsequent paramilitary incursions into the communities of Caño Seco and Clavellino.

The settlements of Villahermosa, El Arenal, Clavellino and Domingodó, in the dense lowland jungle region of Chocó department, form part of the Peace Community of San Francisco de Asís, whose members have recently been attempting to establish communities closer to the lands they were forced to abandon in 1996 and 1997. The Peace Communities were set up in the northwestern region of Urabá to try and persuade the warring factions to respect their neutrality and their right to life.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that paramilitary groups operating in the region will carry out their threat to attack other Peace Communities and target community leaders as well as human rights organizations which support the communities.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Crecencio Mendoza, Jusús Arias, Jerónimo Martínez, Floriberto Hurtado, Raúl Posada, Edgarado Gómez, Joselito Gallego, Miliciades Mena and Jorge Correa who were abducted from the Peace Community of Villahermosa on 7 April 1999 and calling for the authorities to secure their safe release;
- condemning the killing of José Angel Cárdenas, Jorge Enrique Murillo, Luis Felipe Lamberti, Jorge Ramos and his three year old daughter;
- calling for prompt, impartial and full investigations into the abductions and killings, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;

- expressing concern for the safety of members of the San Francisco de Asís Peace Community in Urabá, especially those living in the settlements of Villahermosa, El Arenal, Clavellino, Domingodó;
- calling the authorities to take immediate steps to protect the civilian population of the region of Urabá, including human rights activists working with the displaced community;
- urging the government to take immediate and decisive steps to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with their repeated commitments.

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Andres 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. Nestor Humberto Martínez, Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA
Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes:45406 MINGO CO
Fax:+ 57 1 286 0053

Regional Military Commander:

General Martín Orlando Carreño Sandoval,
Comandante XVII Brigada del Ejército, Carepá, Urabá, Antioquia, Colombia
Tel/Fax: 5748 823 6601
Salutation: Sr. Comandante/ Dear Commander Carreño

Governor of Chocó Department

Dr. Juan B Hinestroza, Gobernador del Departamento del Chocó
Gobernación del Chocó, Quibdó, Chocó, Colombia
Telegrams: Gobernador de Chocé, Quibdó, Colombia
Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Intercongregational Commission for Justice and Peace

Comisión Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz, AA 31861, Santafé de Bogotá

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 21 May 1999.