

17 June 1998

**Further information on UA 140/98 (AMR 23/25/98, 1 May 1998) - Fear for safety / "disappearance" / extrajudicial execution**

COLOMBIA	Rubén Dario Sepulveda, 15	} "disappeared"
	Miguel Guerra Yáñez	}
	Henry Rodríguez	}
	Edgar Durango	} extrajudicially executed
	Luis Pineda	}
	Moisés Quiroz Durán	}

**Residents of the community of El Pinal**

Further intimidatory acts against the community of El Pinal by armed groups have led to renewed concerns for their safety amidst fears that this is a prelude to a new paramilitary incursion into the area.

On 7 June 1998, in an overt display of paramilitary power, the vehicle known to have been used on 28 April in the abduction of those named above was seen driving around the El Pinal neighbourhood carrying some 20 heavily armed men.

As with the attack in April no action was taken by soldiers at the nearby military base or by police to apprehend the gunmen.

Later that day community members reported that a group of armed men had turned up in El Pinal enquiring after a number of people at their homes. Not finding them they had eventually left.

Members of the El Pinal community, including some of those abducted and killed in April, have previously been accused by police of being guerrillas. Those accused of being guerrillas or guerrilla sympathizers or auxiliaries by the security forces or their paramilitary allies frequently become the victims of harassment, death threats, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution.

The bodies of five of the six people abducted by paramilitaries on 28 April were recovered in the days following the attack. However, there is continued concern for the safety of Rubén Dario Sepulveda, whose whereabouts remain unknown.

Four hundred families, displaced by political violence in the region, are occupying the land at El Pinal. On 28 April, soon after the departure of the municipal authorities who had come to order their eviction, 20 armed paramilitaries arrived who threatened to kill 40 residents if they refused to collaborate with them. They then forced the above named men to leave with them.

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

- expressing concern for the residents of El Pinal, Bello municipality, Antioquia Department and calling for the authorities to take immediate steps to guarantee their safety;
- expressing continued concern for the safety of Rubén Dario Sepulveda who "disappeared" after being abducted from El Pinal by a paramilitary group on 28 April 1998;

- calling for full and impartial investigations into the paramilitary attack of 28 April 1998, the subsequent abduction and killing of Miguel Guerra Yánez, Henry Rodríguez, Edgar Durango, Luis Pineda and Moisés Quiroz Durán and the "disappearance" of Rubén Darío Sepulveda, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in the region and for members of the security forces responsible for supporting such groups to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated governmental commitments.

**APPEALS TO:**President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano, Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Samper Pizano, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 284 2186/289 3377/286 7434/**

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

Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez

Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación  
Diagonal 22B 5201, Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes: + 571 570 2000 (when answer phone picks up dial 2017 for fax)**

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

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Carlos Holmes Trujillo García,

Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior

Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2, Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

**Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes: 45406 MINGO CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 281 5884/286 6524/286 0053/284 0214/286 0405**

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

Minister of Defence

Dr. Gilberto Echeverri Mejía

Ministro de Defensa Nacional, Ministerio de Defensa Nacional

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

**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874**

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

**COPIES TO:**Human Rights Organization

Corporación Jurídica Libertad, AA 49027, Medellín, 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 July 1998.