

PUBLIC

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UA 198/98 Fear for Safety

10 July 1998

**COLOMBIA José Daniel Álvarez, General Coordinator of ASFADDES, a  
non-governmental human rights organization, and other members**

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A death threat made on 9 July 1998 against José Daniel Álvarez, the General Coordinator of the *Asociación de Familiares Detenidos y Desaparecidos*, ASFADDES, Association of the Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared, raises fears for his safety and that of all members of ASFADDES.

An anonymous man telephoned the ASFADDES offices in the capital, Bogotá, demanding to speak to José Daniel Álvarez. When he was told that José Daniel was not in the office, he threatened ASFADDES' Coordinator General, saying: "*Dígale a ese triplehijueputa que ya le tenemos cogido y lo vamos a matar*", "Tell that son-of-a-bitch that we already have him and we are going to kill him".

Members of ASFADDES have frequently been threatened with death, harassed and attacked as a result of their human rights work.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

President Samper has repeatedly pledged his government's commitment to protect human rights and tackle impunity. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces, together with their paramilitary allies, continue to commit serious violations with virtual impunity. Trade unionists, popular leaders, civic activists and human rights workers are amongst those frequently targeted. Only in exceptional circumstances are perpetrators brought to justice; the vast majority of members of the armed forces responsible for gross human rights violations remain in active service.

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

- expressing your deep concern for the safety of José Daniel Álvarez and all other members of ASFADDES;
- urging the authorities to undertake all measures, deemed appropriate by those under threat, to guarantee their safety;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the death threat against José Daniel Álvarez, that the results be made public and those responsible be brought to justice.

#### **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, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 284 2186 / 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

Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

**Faxes: +571 570 2000 (when ansaphone picks up, dial 2017 for fax tone)**

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

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Alfonso López Caballero,

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**

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

**Fax: + 57 1 281 5884/286 6524/286 0053**

**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 28 August 1998.