

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/53/00

12 July 2000

Further information on UA 171/00 (AMR23/50/00, 21 June 2000) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA Andis VILLALOBOS GALAN (f)

Her son Yaser LARIOS VILLALOBOS, aged 4

Civilian populations of San Martín de Loba, (new names) Barranco de Loba and Rio Viejo municipalities, in Sur de Bolivar department

The authorities have taken no action against paramilitary forces in the central region of Sur de Bolívar, who are reportedly still holding Andis Villalobos Galan and her young son Yaser Larios Villalobos. The army are reportedly preparing to give paramilitaries a free hand to eliminate suspected guerilla sympathizers in the town of Barranco de Loba.

The mother and daughter are believed to be held at a paramilitary base near the town of Barranco de Loba, where many people from the surrounding region have taken refuge after being forced to flee their homes by paramilitary attacks. The army have reportedly said that on 30 July they will pull out of the town so that the paramilitaries can come in and "purge" it of displaced people.

Among those seeking shelter in and around Barranco de Loba are the inhabitants of the nearby town of Pueblito Mejía. Some 250 paramilitaries took over the town on 28 May, and took the 22 people they found there hostage. On 9 June they sent Davinson Urieta Martínez to find the other villagers, and when he did not return they killed his brother, Jonas Urieta Martínez. They also killed another hostage, whose name was given as Santander N. At least 10 civilians in nearby communities have also reportedly been killed by paramilitary forces in recent weeks and the whereabouts of another five are unknown after they were abducted by paramilitaries.

The army are reportedly working with the paramilitaries to control the movement of the civilian population in the region. The paramilitaries are reportedly giving villagers "licenses to travel", which carry the names of their relatives in the village. Before any journey, they have to present their license to the army Commander in charge of the *Compañía Especial del Batallón Nariño* (Special Company of the Nariño Battalion) assigned to the *Brigada II* (Second Brigade) which has set up camp in Barranco de Loba.

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

- expressing continued concern for Andis Villalobos Galan and her four-year-old son, Yaser Larios Villalobos, who were abducted on 2 June, and calling on the authorities to take immediate action to secure their release and bring those responsible to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of civilian inhabitants of the municipalities of San Martín de Loba, Barranco de Loba and Rio Viejo in Sur de Bolivar, and urging that all steps they themselves deem necessary are taken to guarantee their safety;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in these municipalities, with the results made public and those found responsible for supporting and operating in such groups brought to justice;

- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and United Nations recommendations.

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana, Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 44281 PALP CO
Faxes: + 57 1 284 2186 / 337 1351
Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Pastrana

Minister of the Interior

Señor Humberto de la Calle, Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No. 8-09, Piso 2
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 45406 MINGO CO
Faxes: + 57 1 342 3201 / 341 9739
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Minister of Defence

Dr. Luis Fernando Ramírez Acuña, Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional, Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO
Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental organisation

Corporación Cleber
Cll. 19 # 3A -37 (306)
De. PROCOIL T- B
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 22 August 2000.