

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 23/58/95

UA 226/95

Fear for safety / Possible
extrajudicial executions

26 September 1995

COLOMBIAElibardo GALVIS BARRERA

Jesús Emilio GALVIS BARRERA

Luis Tiberio GALVIS BARRERA

Emelda RUIZ (f), police inspector

There is serious concern for the safety of Elibardo Galvis Barrera, a member of the *Movimiento de Acción Comunitaria de Aguachica*, Community Action Movement of Aguachica, following the apparent extrajudicial execution of his brothers and fellow members, Jesús Emilio and Luis Tiberio Galvis Barrera.

At 11am on 24 September 1995, Jesús Emilio and Luis Tiberio Galvis Barrera were travelling by road from the village of Yeuera, department of Cesar, when they were stopped by a group of heavily armed men, some in civilian clothes and others wearing military uniforms with the insignia of the army's *Grupo de Contraguerrilla Fuerza de Tarea No. 27*, Counter-insurgency Task Force No.27.

The two brothers were later found, tortured and beheaded, close to a place known as Y and Marinilla which leads to the villages of Bombiadero and Cerro Redondo.

The killings have raised particular concern for the safety of Elibardo Galvis Barrera, as well as for other members of the Communal Action Movement. Since the latter was set up in 1992, several of its members have been subjected to death threats and extrajudicial execution, and names of members are said to have appeared on alleged death lists which have been circulated in the department of Cesar. As well as his own name reportedly appearing on a death list, Elibardo was detained by the army earlier in 1995 and accused of being a guerrilla. He was later released without charge. In the past those accused of being guerrilla sympathizers have frequently been the target of human rights violations.

At 5pm on 24 September, an armed group believed to be the same group who killed the two brothers entered the village of La Morena, municipality of Aguachica, where they ransacked the communal shop, forced the inhabitants to lie on the floor and reportedly killed the local police inspector, Emelda Ruiz. The men threatened to return for other people whose names appeared on the death lists in their possession, raising serious fears for the inhabitants of La Morena and nearby communities. In the past peasant farmers living in areas of conflict have frequently been the target of human rights violations carried out by the security forces and paramilitary forces working with them.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Despite repeated promises by President Ernesto Samper Pizano to improve the human rights situation in Colombia, members of the armed and security forces together with their paramilitary allies continue to commit serious human rights abuses with virtual impunity. Civilians, including community leaders, political activists, trade unionists, and peasant farmers living in areas of conflict have frequently been the victim of such violations. President Samper's promises include a commitment to eradicate paramilitary forces and stamp out the impunity which benefits members of the security and paramilitary forces responsible for human rights violations.

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

- expressing concern at the possible extrajudicial executions of Jesús Emilio Galvis Barrera, Luis Tiberio Galvis Barrera and Emelda Ruiz on 25 September 1995 by a group of paramilitaries and armed men identified as members of Counter-insurgency Task Force No.27;
- calling for immediate and thorough investigations into these killings, and into the threats faced by members of the village of La Morena;
- expressing concern for the safety of Elibardo Galvis Barrera and other members of the Communal Action Movement of Aguachica, and urge that all measures, deemed appropriate by the members themselves, be taken to ensure their safety;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to dismantle paramilitary forces in accordance with governmental commitments and to undertake full and impartial investigations into any links between paramilitary and security forces.

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Samper Pizano, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 289 3377/286 7434

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

Minister of Defence

Dr. Juan Carlos Esguerra Portocarrero
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
 Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
 Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa , Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874/228 1874

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe
 Ministro del Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Carrera 8a, No.8-09, Piso 7
 Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior Serpa, Bogota, Colombia

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Faxes:+ 57 1 286 00 53

Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento
 Fiscal General de la Nación
 Fiscalía General de la Nación
 Apartado Aéreo 29855

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

Faxes: + 57 1 288 2828

Salutation: Estimado Dr. Valdivieso/Dear Dr. Valdivieso

COPIES TO:

Alternative Legal Association

MINGA

AA 40303

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 15 November 1995.