

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/60/00

23 August 2000

Further information on UA 240/00 (AMR 23/58/00, 14 August 2000) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIAInhabitants of San Francisco de Asis, Natividad de María and Nuestra Señora del Carmen "Peace Communities", Chocó department, including Nicolás Mosquera Córdoba

Killed: Freddy Gallego, community leader

Clementina Guisao and her 6-year-old son have reportedly appeared safe and well.

Amnesty International became concerned for their safety after Clementina Guisao's husband, Bernardo Roldán, was killed on 10 June 2000 by armed men reportedly from the paramilitary group *Autodefensas Campesinas de Córdoba y Urabá* (ACCU), Self-defence groups of Córdoba and Urabá. The whereabouts of Clementina Guisao and her son were unknown at the time.

Nicolás Mosquera Córdoba is missing after last being seen on 26 July in the company of peasant farmer Antonio Mosquera. Both men were travelling by boat down the Atrato river from Tamboral in the Nuestra Señora del Carmen Peace Community when paramilitaries intercepted the boat, stole Antonio Mosquera's harvest and killed him.

Amnesty International believes that inhabitants of the Peace Communities remain in grave danger following the killing of Freddy Gallego, one of the leaders of the San Francisco de Asis Peace Community, who was taken from his home on 6 August by heavily armed members of the ACCU. His body was found three days later, and it appeared that he had been tortured. The organisation fears an imminent paramilitary attack of the Peace Communities.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has confirmed that, according to their register, twenty bodies have been found in the Atrato river since July.

For more information please refer to AI report Colombia: Return to Hope. Forcibly displaced communities of Urabá and Medio Atrato region; AMR 23/23/00; June 2000.

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

- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the 6 August killing of San Francisco de Asis Peace Community leader Freddy Gallego, and into recent attacks on Peace Communities in the region;
- expressing concern for the safety of Nicolás Mosquera Córdoba, who has been missing since 26 July, urging the authorities to fully investigate his whereabouts and to take appropriate action to secure his immediate release, bringing those responsible for his abduction to justice;
- expressing serious concern for the safety of the inhabitants of the San Francisco de Asis, Natividad de María and Nuestra Señora del Carmen Peace Communities in Chocó, and urging the authorities to take all measures that the communities themselves deem appropriate to guarantee their safety;

- urging the authorities to take immediate and decisive action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with repeated government commitments and UN recommendations.

Please also raise these concerns with your own government - over the last year delegations from a number of governments have been informed of the situation facing the Peace Communities of Chocó and expressed support for these civilian initiatives, and have travelled to these communities or met with representatives from them. Urge your government to publicly condemn the latest attack and to monitor the efforts of the Colombian government to ensure that this attack is fully investigated, those responsible are brought to justice and action is taken to combat paramilitary groups in the region.

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

Telex: 44281 PALP CO

Fax: + 57 1 286 7434/284 2186/337 1351

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Pastrana

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Guillermo Fernández de Soto, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Palacio de San Carlos, Calle 10 No 5-51

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 45209 MRRE CO

Fax: +57 1 341 6777/282 5802

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Governor of the Department of Chocó

Juan B Hinestroza

Gobernador del Departamento del Chocó

Gobernación del Chocó

Quibdó, Chocó, Colombia

Fax: +57 4 97 11777

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental organisation

Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular (CINEP)

AA 25916

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 4 October 2000.