

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 478/90 Possible Extrajudicial Executions/Death Threats 22 November 1990

COLOMBIA : Germán Antonio REDONDO
Gloria Amparo VIVEROS LUCUMY

Amnesty International is concerned at the recent killings of Germán Antonio Redondo and Gloria Amparo Viveros Lucumy in Tuluá, Valle del Cauca department, in circumstances suggesting they may have been the victims of extrajudicial executions. The organization is also concerned at death threats received by others.

Germán Antonio Redondo was reportedly killed at 6.30am on 13 November 1990 as he was travelling by bus to work in Tuluá. Two armed men boarded the bus and shot him, killing him instantly as well as injuring two other passengers.

Germán Antonio Redondo was the Secretary General of the SINTRACAÑASUCOL trade union at the San Carlos Sugar Refinery (Ingenio San Carlos) where he worked.

The union is affiliated to Colombia's trade union confederation, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT). He was also a member of the legal left-wing political group A Luchar. At least two other previous attempts on his life had been made, both in July 1990. Since his death, five other trade union leaders at the sugar refinery have received death threats, including anonymous telephone calls and sufragios, invitations to their own funerals.

Gloria Amparo Viveros Lucumy was the girlfriend of Germán Antonio Redondo and worked at the COCICOINP Cooperative in Tuluá, as well as being a student of administration at the Central University of Tuluá. She had reportedly played an active part in denouncing his killing, especially at his funeral. On 19 November 1990, at 12.30 midday near her home in Tuluá, two shots were fired at her head from men travelling on a motorbike. Her assailants are then said to have stopped, grabbed her by the hair and shot her a further eight times.

She was accompanied by the nephew of Germán Antonio Redondo, José Alberto HENAO REDONDO, who was reportedly injured in the incident.

An attempt had also reportedly been made on the life of Over Antonio RICO MORALES, the president of the administrative council of the COCICOINPA cooperative, on 25 October in a village near Tuluá. Amnesty International has no further information at present on this incident. Several other people have recently been killed or threatened in the same region. On 12 October 1990, three community leaders from the Aguablanca district of Cali, Francesco Sapizabal, Luis Ciaskier and Jorge Ocampo, were seized by a group of armed men, believed to include members of the police. Their bodies were reportedly found on 16 October in the Cauca river, all reportedly showing signs of having suffered torture (see UA 423/90, AMR 23/54/90, 23 October). A medical doctor, Dr Walter Jaramillo González, who had been actively involved in the search for the three and who assisted in the removal and identification of the bodies, subsequently received telephoned death threats and now fears for his life (see AMR 23/57/90, 2 November, Death Threats against Doctor, Dr Walter Jaramillo González).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Human rights violations are occurring on an increasing scale in Colombia against a background of escalating civil conflict and drugs-related violence. The local civilian population is often perceived by the armed forces as potential

guerrilla collaborators and has, as a result, been subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution by army personnel and civilians working for them. The majority of abuses have been attributed by Colombian authorities to civilian "death squads", which it claims it is unable to control. However, independent investigations, including judicial inquiries have concluded that many such groups operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian armed forces.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the killings of Germán Antonio Redondo and Gloria Amparo Viveros Lucumy in circumstances suggesting they may have been the victims of extrajudicial executions;
- urging there be an immediate inquiry into their deaths, the results of which should be made public;
- expressing concern at reports that threats have been made against the lives of five other leaders of the SINTRACAÑASUCOL trade union and urging the authorities to take measures to ensure that trade unionists are able to conduct their legitimate activities without fear of reprisal.

APPEALS TO

Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Bogotá
 COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia
 Telexes: 44281 PALP CO
 Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324

Dr Alfonso Gómez Méndez
 Procurador General de la Nación
 Edificio Banco Ganadero
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80
 Bogotá
 COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Procurador General Gómez, Bogotá, Colombia
 Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO

General Oscar Botero
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
 Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia
 Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO or 44561 CFAC CO
 Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874

COPIES TO:

CSPP
Apartado Aéreo 4296
Cali, Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 January 1991.