

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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1 November 1991

Further information on 324/91 (AMR 23/55/91, 2 October 1991) and follow-up
(AMR 23/62/91, 23 October 1991) - Death Threats

COLOMBIA:Eduardo UMANA MENDOZA, Human rights lawyer

Amnesty International is again concerned for the safety of human rights lawyer Eduardo Umaña Mendoza following renewed threats to his life. During the past few days anonymous threatening calls have again been received at his office and private phones warning Dr Umaña his time has run out and that "he can't hide anywhere, we always know where he is" ("No podrá esconderse en ningún lado, siempre sabemos donde está".)

On first learning of the threats against Dr Umaña at the beginning of October, the Colombian authorities took steps to safeguard his immediate physical integrity by assigning him bodyguards. However, no progress appears to have been made in investigating the source of the threats and bringing those responsible to justice. Amnesty International is aware of numerous cases in Colombia where people under threat have been killed despite having been assigned official protection and the organization remains seriously concerned for Dr Umaña's safety.

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

Please renew appeals to the Colombian authorities:

- welcoming the steps taken to protect Dr Umaña, but expressing concern at renewed threats against his life;
- urging the Colombian authorities to take immediate steps to identify those responsible for the threats and to bring them to justice;
- urging the Colombian government to take measures to guarantee that human rights lawyers and workers are able to carry out their lawful activities without fear of reprisal.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo **Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente**

Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Dear President Gaviria

Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 44281 PALP CO
Faxes: + 57 1 283 3066; + 57 1 286 7324
+ 57 1 287 7937

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2) Minister of Defence:

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Sr. Ministro
Dear Minister

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

3) Commander, 13th Brigade:

Brigadier General
Jesús María Vergara Aragón
Comandante de la XIII Brigada
Carrera 7, Calle 100
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Sr. Brigadier General
Dear Sir

Telegrams: Comandante XIII Brigada, Bogota, Colombia

4) Minister of Justice:

Fernando Carillo
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
Carrera 15, No 9-63
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Sr. Ministro
Dear Minister

Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Bogota Colombia
Faxes: + 57 1 288 49 06

4) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Sr. Procurador General de la Nación
Dear Dr. Arrieta

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO
Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

COPIES TO:

Corporación Colectivo de Abogados

AA 44456

Santa Fe de Bogotá

(Lawyers' collective)

CINEP

AA 25916

Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

(Human rights organization)

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 13 December 1991.