

UA 262/00

Fear for**COLOMBIA** Civilian inhabitants of the municipalities of Marinilla and Santuario,
department of Antioquia

Killed: Luis Enrique GARCÍA HERNÁNDEZ,
Pablo Emilio GARCÍA HERNÁNDEZ
Albeiro GARCÍA HERNÁNDEZ

There have been more than 50 political killings in the past month in two municipalities in the department of Antioquia, many of them apparently carried out by paramilitaries. Amnesty International fears that paramilitary groups will kill more civilians in the region unless the authorities take decisive action against them.

The paramilitaries are reportedly using a "death list". The names on the list allegedly also appear in a military intelligence report, which accuses them of being guerrilla sympathisers or collaborators. Those named on such death lists are often murdered, or "disappear".

The people reportedly named on this death list are peasant farmers, community leaders, tradesmen and other civilians living in the neighbouring municipalities of Marinilla and El Santuario. An intelligence report is said to be circulating in Marinilla, from the *Central de Inteligencia Militar Regional Número 6 de Medellín*, Medellín Regional Central Military Intelligence Unit Number 6. On the basis of a diary found on a guerrilla of the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC), Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, by the army's IV Brigade in late July, it names civilians with alleged guerrilla links living in the communities of Bodegas and Bodeguitas in El Santuario, and Los Alpes, Montañita and Gaviria in Marinilla.

Paramilitaries have reportedly begun tracking down the peasant farmers named on the list. They are said to have called people in for interrogation in the community of Cristales in the municipality of San Roque, where there is reported to be a paramilitary base, to explain whether they are collaborating with guerrillas.

The three brothers named above were killed, reportedly by paramilitaries, in Montañita on 22 August. The men who killed them said they were with the *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC), United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia. They threatened to kill the rest of the family unless they abandoned the area within an hour. The entire community has since fled to the municipal capital.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Colombian armed forces commit serious human rights violations with virtual impunity, as do their paramilitary allies, who have killed several thousand civilians over the past five years. It is 11 years since the government made it illegal to set up paramilitary organizations, and issued directives to the armed forces to combat and disband such groups, yet they continue to work with the support of the security forces in many areas of the country.

Just as the army and paramilitaries target alleged guerrilla sympathisers, guerrilla forces have executed those they accuse of collaborating with the armed forces and paramilitaries.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of civilians in the municipalities of Marinilla and Santuario, department of Antioquia, after numerous killings, many blamed on paramilitary forces;
- calling for full and impartial investigations into these killings, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take action to protect the civilian populations of Marinilla and Santuario, as many are reportedly named on a paramilitary "death list";
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Marinilla and Santuario and neighbouring areas, urging that the results are made public and those who support and participate in such groups are 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

Telex: 44281 PALP CO

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

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Pastrana

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Humberto de la Calle, Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministerio del Interior, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 45406 MINGO CO

Fax: + 57 1 286 8025 / 281 5884 / 342 3201

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Attorney General

Dr Alfonso Gómez Méndez
Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,
Diagonal 22B 5201, Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 571 570 2022 (If the call is answered, say "Fax, por favor" and wait for the signal)

Salutation: Estimado Dr/Dear Dr Gómez Méndez

Governor of the Department of Antioquia

Dr. Alberto Builes Ortega, Gobernador del Departamento de Antioquia
Gobernación de Antioquia, Calle 42B, # 52-106, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

Telegrams: Gobernador de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia

Fax: + 574 381 1342

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Human rights organisation

Corporación Jurídica Libertad

AA 49027

Medellín
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 16 October 2000.