

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/68/98

UA 236/98 Fear for safety / Possible extrajudicial execution

4 September 1998

COLOMBIAAlonso DOMICO JARUPIA, aged around 60, indigenous leader, [killed]

Florentino DOMICO - son of Alonso Domico
Teofán DOMICO - governor of the indigenous community
Delio DOMICO JARUPIA - son of Teofán Domico
Luis Carlos DOMICO
Juan de Dios DOMICO JARUPIA

There is serious concern for the safety of the Embera Katio indigenous community of Kiparado in the *Resguardo Karagabi*, Karagabi indigenous reserve, following the recent possible extrajudicial execution of community leader Alonso Domico Jarupia by paramilitaries also reportedly searching for five other local leaders.

On 25 August 1998 a group of armed men, wearing military-style uniforms and believed to be members of a local paramilitary group, reportedly detained a group of indigenous people in the reserve and demanded to be told the whereabouts of six leaders: Alonso Domico Jarupia, his son Florentino Domico, Teofán Domico (governor of the indigenous community) and his son Delio Domico Jarupia, Luis Carlos Domico and Juan de Dios Domico Jarupia. They then made their way to the home of Alonso Domico, forced him outside and shot him dead. A failed attempt was also made on the life of Florentino Domico.

Alonso Domico Jarupia had been a leading figure in the community's current campaign against the construction of the Urra Hydroelectric project which the community believe is a threat to their ancestral lands.

The Karagabi indigenous reserve in Córdoba Department has seen increased levels of paramilitary group activity in the area since the start of the hydroelectric project some years ago leading to intimidation and threats against indigenous and campesino communities opposed to it.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For many years indigenous and popular activists involved in campaigning efforts to establish socio-economic rights in Colombia have been labelled as guerrilla sympathizers by right-wing paramilitary forces who have gone on to commit serious human rights violations against them. Guerilla organizations have also been responsible for attacks against indigenous leaders and community members.

Although in 1989 the Colombian Government suspended the constitutional legal base for the formation of paramilitary organizations, and issued directives to the armed forces to combat and disband such groups, they continue to operate with the support of the security forces in many areas of the country. In reality no effective steps have been taken to control the actions of the army, the security forces or their paramilitary allies, who continue to commit human rights violations with virtual impunity. The government of the new President, Andrés Pastrana, who took office in August 1998, has similarly failed to take action to tackle the long-running human rights crises in the country.

According to a recent statement from the Attorney General more than 200 arrest warrants issued against alleged paramilitary members, in connection with human rights violations, are still waiting to be acted upon by the security forces.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Florentino Domico, Teofán Domico, Delio Domico Jarupia, Luis Carlos Domico and Juan de Dios Domico Jarupia, following the possible extrajudicial execution on 25 August 1998 of Alonso Domico Jarupia and the failed attempt on the life of his son Florentino Domico;
- expressing concern for the safety of other members of the Karagabi Indigenous reserve and calling on the authorities to take all steps deemed appropriate by those under threat to guarantee their safety quoting Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person";
- urging full and impartial investigations into the killing of Alonso Domico Jarupia and the failed attempt on his son's life, that the results be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups and urging that those found responsible for supporting and participating in such groups be brought to justice;
- urging that the authorities take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments;

APPEALS TO (please note that fax machines are sometimes switched off and to try later or try alternate number provided):

President of Colombia,

Dr. Andrés Pastrana Arango, Presidente de la República,
Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 281 6316 / 289 3377 / 286 7434 (if voice answers ask: "me puede dar tono de fax por favor")

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Pastrana

Minister of the Interior

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

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 45406 MINGO CO

Faxes: + 57 1 281 5884 / 286 6524 / 286 0405

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Attorney General

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

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 1 570 2000 (when ansaphone picks up dial 2017 for fax)

Salutation: Estimado Dr. / Dear Dr.

COPIES TO:

National Indigenous Organization

ONIC, AA 32 395, 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 16 October 1998.