

PUBLIC

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Fear for

COLOMBIAEfraín CHAMARRA, Elkin RUBIANO, Amado DOMICO, Rigoberto DOMICO, Alvaro RUBIANO, Rubit DOMICO, Miguel DOMICO GARCÍA, Saúl BAILARÍN, Oraime DOMICO, Martín CASAMA, Algarín DOMICO, Domicilio GUASARUCA, Luis Alberto CABRERA, Agustín PERNIA, Irenia DOMICO CHARA, Loliria DOMICO, Diana DOMICO, Maritza DOMICO, Horacio BAILARÍN, Germán DOMICO, Maximiliano DOMICO, Miguel BAILARÍN

The people named above, who live on an indigenous reserve in the department of Córdoba, have been abducted by gunmen. Their whereabouts are now unknown, and Amnesty International is seriously concerned for their safety.

All 22 are from the Embera-Katío indigenous communities of the Alto Sinú indigenous reserve. On 16 September three canoes carrying supplies to the communities along the river Verde were reportedly held up by gunmen, who abducted the 22 people on board.

Later that day, gunmen reportedly forced indigenous leader Maximiliano Domico out of his home, in the community of Doza on the river Verde, and took him to where the other captives were being held, by the river Esmeralda. Another member of the Embera-Katío indigenous community, Miguel Bailarín, was later abducted by four gunmen in Tierralta, who forced him into a taxi. Two of the captives were later released, but there is serious concern for the safety of the others.

The following day, gunmen thought to be members of an army-backed paramilitary force arrived in Alto Sinú by helicopter and abducted Antonio Domico, his son (who was later released) and Maisito Domico. Both were reportedly killed. The same group are believed to have killed two members of another community in Alto Sinú that day, Jaqueline Jarupia Bailarín and his son Antonio Domico, in Widó, on the river Esmeralda.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Colombian armed forces, and their paramilitary allies, commit serious human rights violations with virtual impunity. Several thousand civilians have been killed by paramilitary groups over the past five years. The Colombian government suspended the constitutional legal base for the formation of paramilitary organizations and in 1989 issued directives to the armed forces to combat and disband such groups, yet they continue to operate with the support of the security forces in many areas of the country.

In recent years, several Embera-Katío indigenous communities have been victims of serious human rights violations carried out by paramilitary forces working in alliance with the security forces. Guerrilla forces have also killed a number of indigenous leaders in the same region, accusing them of siding with the paramilitary or security forces.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the members of the Embera-Katío communities of the Alto Sinú indigenous reserve who have been abducted by unidentified gunmen and whose whereabouts are now unknown;

- urging the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to guarantee their safety and that of the other members of the indigenous communities of the Alto Sinú reserve;
- urging the authorities to carry out full and impartial investigations into these abductions, to make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- urging full and impartial investigations into the killings detailed above, apparently carried out by members of a paramilitary group, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in the department of Córdoba, urging that the results are made public, and that those responsible for supporting and participating in such groups are brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate and decisive action to combat and dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with repeated government commitments and United Nations recommendations.

APPEALS TO:President of the Republic

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana Arango

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Fax:+ 571 286 7434, + 571 287 7939, + 571 284 2186, + 571 289 3377 or + 571 337 1351**Salutation:Dear President / Excmo. Sr Presidente**Vice-President of the Republic

Señor Vicepresidente Gustavo Bell Lemus

Alto Consejero Presidencial para asuntos de Derechos Humanos y lucha Contra la Corrupción

Cra. 8 #7-26, Palacio de Nariño, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Fax:+ 571 337 1351**Salutation:Dear Vice-President / Excmo. Sr Vicepresidente**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****COPIES TO:**

Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC)

Apartado Aéreo 32395

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 30 October 2000.