

UA 286/00

Fear for

**COLOMBIA José EVARISTO CIRO GONZÁLEZ, displaced miner
Another man, name not known**

Gunmen are reported to have abducted two men in Antioquia department. There is particular concern for their safety, as paramilitaries have recently killed a number of peasant farmers in the region.

On 8 September, José Evaristo Ciro González was on his way to the municipality of Marinilla with his younger brother. At about 8am in an area known as Belén José Evaristo was seen talking to a young man, when three gunmen stopped and forced the pair into their vehicle.

José Evaristo is from a mining family who had to flee their home in the municipality of San Francisco, in Antioquia, when army-backed paramilitary forces accused them of being guerrilla collaborators. Others who face such accusations often "disappear", or are killed by the security forces or their paramilitary allies.

A number of peasant farmers have been killed in the past few weeks in Marinilla and the surrounding area, allegedly by the army-backed paramilitary group *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC), United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia, after they were accused of being guerrilla collaborators or sympathizers. (See UA 262/00, AMR 23/66/00, 4 September.)

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 or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of José Evaristo Ciro González, who has not been seen since he and another man were abducted by gunmen on 8 September in the municipality of Marinilla;
- calling for full and impartial investigations into these "disappearances", for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take action to guarantee both men's safety;
- urging the authorities to ensure that José Evaristo's family are protected, taking all measures deemed appropriate by the family themselves;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Marinilla 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:

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

Señores

ASFADDES

AA 011446

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 31 October 2000.