

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/82/99

15 November 1999

Further information on EXTRA 158/99 (AMR 23/79/99, 11 November 1999) - Fear for Safety/Possible "Disappearance"

COLOMBIA Diana SALAMANCA MARTÍNEZ, worker with a non-governmental human rights organization

New names: Luz DARY TORRES and two other peasant farmers

Human rights worker Diana Salamanca Martínez was released on 13 November 1999, three days after she was abducted by paramilitaries. However, it is now known that three peasant farmers were abducted with her. Their whereabouts remain unknown, and Amnesty International is seriously concerned for their safety.

Diana Salamanca, Luz Dary Torres and two other farmers were reportedly abducted by paramilitaries on 10 November, in an area known as Alto Bonito, municipality of Dabeiba, department of Antioquia. They were taken in a truck to the municipality of Necoclí, where there is reported to be a large paramilitary base. The truck was apparently allowed to pass unhindered through police and army checkpoints. On 13 November Diana Salamanca was handed over to a representative of the Catholic Church's Diocese of Apartadó in the Necoclí area.

These abductions have heightened concerns for the safety of human rights workers working with displaced communities in the Antioquia region, and the displaced communities themselves.

Diana Salamanca works with the non-governmental human rights organization *Comisión Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz* (Intercongregational Commission for Justice and Peace). The organization issued a statement thanking international non-governmental organizations and others for their support in securing her release.

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

- welcoming the release of Diana Salamanca Martínez, but expressing concern at the possible "disappearance" of Luz Dary Torres and two other peasant farmers who were forcibly abducted with her;
- expressing concern for the safety of others working with the *Comisión Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz*;
- expressing concern for the safety of the displaced community of La Balsita and other displaced communities in the department of Antioquia;
- calling on the authorities to take all measures deemed appropriate by the those at risk to guarantee their safety;
- calling for an immediate and comprehensive investigation into the "disappearance" of the three peasant farmers in order to establish their whereabouts and to bring those responsible to justice;
- urging that the results of the investigation be made public;
- urging the authorities to take immediate action to dismantle paramilitary groups, in line with stated government commitments and UN 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

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

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

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Pastrana

Minister of the Interior

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

Telegrams: Ministerio Interior, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 45406 MINGO CO

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

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Commander of XVII Brigade of Colombian Army
Coronel Gutiérrez

Comandante, XVII Brigada del Ejército Nacional
Carepa, Urabá, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 4 823 6601

Salutation: Sr. Comandante / Dear Commander

Minister of Defence

Dr. Luis Fernando Ramírez Acuña

Ministro de Defensa Nacional, Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Intercongregational Commission for Justice and Peace
Comisión Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz
AA 31861, 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 13 December 1999.