

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety / Possible "disappearances"

31 October 2000

COLOMBIASaja Jhoana KAIM MUÑOZ, aged 23, student  
Oscar Eduardo MONROY, aged 23, student  
Juan Carlos MUÑOZ

Andrea (surname unknown), aged 17 (f)

Four people have "disappeared" after they were reportedly abducted by paramilitaries in the department of Chocó. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety.

According to information just received, witnesses saw gunmen dressed in military style uniforms abduct Saja Jhoana Kaim Muñoz, Oscar Eduardo Monroy, Juan Carlos Muñoz and Andrea in the village of El Cabito, municipality of Nuquí, in mid-September. The gunmen are believed to be members of a paramilitary group, the *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia*, (AUC), United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia. The four have not been seen since they were abducted and their whereabouts remain unknown. The canoe they had been travelling in was later found bloodstained and abandoned. They had been on their way to visit a number of Embera indigenous communities in the area.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Paramilitary groups in Colombia commit serious human rights violations with virtual impunity, and have killed several thousand civilians over the past five years. Despite the Colombian government making it illegal to set up paramilitary organizations, and issuing directives to the armed forces to combat and disband such groups in 1989, they continue to operate in many areas of the country, often with the support of the security forces.

Similarly, guerrilla forces and armed opposition groups have committed serious violations of international human rights law, for example executing those they accuse of being security force paramilitary collaborators or supporters.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Saja Jhoana Kaim Muñoz, Oscar Eduardo Monroy, Juan Carlos Muñoz and Andrea, urging that their whereabouts are established and that their safety is guaranteed;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into their "disappearance", with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in the region, urging that the results are made public and that 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  
**Telegram: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telex:44281 PALP CO**

**Fax: + 57 1 286 7434/ 286 6842/ 284 2186/ 337 1351**

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /Dear President Pastrana**

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

**Telegram:Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia**

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

**Salutation: Estimado Dr / Dear Dr Gómez Méndez**

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

**Telegram: Ministro de Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telex:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**

**Fax:+ 57 1 222 1874**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

**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 12 December 2000.