

Further information on UA 334/00 (AMR 23/87/00, 31 October 2000) - Fear for safety / possible "disappearances"

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

Andrea (surname unknown), aged 17 (f)

Four people who "disappeared" after they were reportedly abducted by paramilitaries in the department of Chocó have apparently been murdered. A relative of one of the two murdered students has thanked Urgent Action writers for their appeals and has asked for these to stop.

"Dearest Friends

With all my heart I thank all of you for the work you have done on behalf of my cousin Saja and her friends Oscar Eduardo, Juan Carlos, and Andrea. It has meant so much to my family to have had your support.

With much sadness, I am writing to inform you that we have received news that Saja and her friends were murdered; their bodies reportedly dumped into the sea. We may never know for sure what happened, but this is what we have been told.

I don't want anyone to feel that your effort was not worthwhile, for it was truly valuable and valiant. Rather than turn you away from such work in the future, may this tragedy inspire us all to do more so that such horrible nightmares are not visited on other families..."

("Queridos Amigos:

Con todo mi corazón les agradezco [sic.] todo la ayuda que han prestado por mi prima Saja y por sus compañeros Oscar Eduardo, Juan Carlos, y Andrea.

Con mucha tristeza les informo que hemos recibido noticias que Saja y sus compañeros fueron asesinados; sus cuerpos supuestamente tirados al mar. Puede ser que nunca sabremos por seguro que pasó, pero esto es lo que nos han dicho.

No quiero que nadie sienta que sus esfuerzos no valieron, porque fueron valiosos y valiantes. En vez de no ayudar en algo similar en el futuro, espero que esta tragedia nos inspire a todos a hacer mucho mas para que estas pesadillas horribles no le pasen a otras familias..."

Many thanks for all your appeals.