

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 387/94 (AMR 23/83/94, 27 October 1994) and follow-up (AMR 23/86/94, 11 November) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA                      Luis Guillermo PÉREZ, human rights lawyer  
Katia Karina NIÑO VANEGAS, his wife

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Luis Guillermo Pérez and his wife Katia Karina Niño Vanegas continue to be intimidated and their movements monitored by individuals they believe to be working for the security forces. Fears for their safety have been greatly heightened by the cancellation on 14 December of an escort which had been provided by the State Security Department, *Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS)* after previous similar incidents.

DAS reportedly stated that they had cancelled the escort because they had found no evidence of anything strange ("*No se había detectado nada extraño*"). However, Luis Guillermo Pérez claimed that harassment and surveillance had actually increased since the escort was provided. He also said that on several occasions he had given DAS the license numbers of vehicles and motorbikes which he believed were following him, but that DAS had apparently not taken any steps to identify their owners. Luis Guillermo Pérez reports that during the week of 12-16 December, he was followed by a blue Renault 9 (license plate BBP-776) and a red Yamaha motorbike (license plate KJA-09).

On 15 December, the day after the DAS escort was cancelled, Luis Guillermo Pérez reports that he and his wife were kept under surveillance throughout the day by individuals in vehicles and on motorbikes.

Luis Guillermo Pérez Casas works for the Lawyer's Collective "*Corporación Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo (CCA)*". The CCA is working on numerous important cases of human rights violations in Colombia in which members of the police and army are implicated and its lawyers have in the past been subjected to death threats and harassment because of their work.

On 9 September 1994 President Ernesto Samper Pizano, who took office on 7 August, declared in a speech that his government "would seek to have constructive relations with human rights organizations with the aim of suppressing human rights violations and would do everything necessary to protect the lives and integrity of human rights workers." ("*Buscará sostener con los organismos de derechos humanos relaciones constructivas en procura de suprimir las violaciones de tales derechos y pondrá de su parte cuanto sea necesario para proteger la vida y la integridad de sus miembros*"). Amnesty International calls upon President Samper to stand by his commitment and ensure that the members of the Lawyer's Collective and all other human rights workers can carry out their lawful activities without fear for their or their family's lives.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters**

- expressing concern at the reports of increased harassment and surveillance of Luis Guillermo Pérez and his wife Katia Karina Niño Vanegas and urging that all possible measures be taken to protect their lives in line with the Colombian Government's commitment to ensuring the security of human rights workers;
- urging that reports of harassment and intimidation against Luis Guillermo Pérez and Katia Karina Niño Vanegas be investigated, the results made public

and those responsible brought to justice;

- expressing concern that, in the light of continued reports of surveillance, DAS has removed the escort provided and requesting clarification as to why this was done;

- expressing concern that the DAS have reportedly made no steps to identify the owners of vehicles Luis Guillermo Pérez has observed to be following him.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of Colombia:

Señor Ernesto Samper Pizano

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Samper, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939**

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

Minister of Defence

Dr. Fernando Botero Zea

Ministro de Defensa Nacional

Ministerio de Defensa Nacional

Avenida El Dorado - Carrera 52

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa Botero Zea, Bogotá, Colombia**

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

**Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874**

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

Procurator General:

Dr. Orlando Vásquez Velásquez

Procurador General de la Nación

Procuraduría General

Edificio Banco Ganadero

Carrera 5, No. 15-80

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Procurador General Velásquez, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 342 9723**

**Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación/Dear Dr. Velásquez**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Dr. Rodrigo Pardo García-Peña

Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Palacio San Carlos

Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

**Telexes: 45209 MRRE CO**

**Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores García-Peña, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Lawyers' Association:

Corporación Colectivo de Abogados

AA 44456

Santafé de Bogotá  
Colombia

Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño  
Defensor del Pueblo  
Defensoría del Pueblo  
Calle 35, No.7-25, P.5  
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 1 February 1995.