

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/100/2002

5 September 2002

Further information on UA 187/02 (AMR 23/066/2002, 20 June 2002) - Fear for safety

COLOMBIALuis Enrique Imbachi (m), Former acting President of *Sindicato de Trabajadores de las Empresas Municipales de Cali* (SINTRAEMCALI), Cali Municipal Service Workers Trade Union  
Other members of SINTRAEMCALI  
New names:Alexandre López Maya (m), Congress representative and former member of SINTRAEMCALI  
Luis Hernández (m), President of SINTRAEMCALI

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Serious concerns remain for the safety of the members of *Sindicato de Trabajadores de las Empresas Municipales de Cali* (SINTRAEMCALI), the Trade Union of Municipal Service Workers of Cali, following a bomb attack on one of the trade union's meeting places in the city of Cali in Valle del Cauca Department.

On 3 September at around 11am, a highly destructive bomb exploded in a building owned by the *Bodega Navarro de la Gerencia de Acueducto y Alcantarillado*, a publicly owned company on whose premises SINTRAEMCALI trade unionists hold their meetings. Fortunately at the time of the explosion no one was in the area.

After the explosion, leaders of SINTRAEMCALI went to the area to check the damage caused by the bomb. Whilst there, they noticed the presence of a man on a motorcycle, who was taking photographs and filming them.

Amnesty International is also concerned about alleged reports of a video tape currently said to be in the possession of state security forces. The tape allegedly shows army-backed paramilitaries declaring their intention to carry out attacks on Alexandre López Maya, Congress representative and former member of SINTRAEMCALI, Luis Hernández, president of SINTRAEMCALI, and other members of the trade union's board.

SINTRAEMCALI is currently campaigning against the privatization of Cali's electricity, water, sewage and telecommunications utilities. During this campaign, members of the armed forces and other sectors have accused SINTRAEMCALI members and supporters of having links with armed opposition groups in a "terrorist plot" to destabilize the city. They have also reportedly accused SINTRAEMCALI members of planting the bomb themselves.

Amnesty International has received no further information regarding attempts on the life of Luis Enrique Imbachi, former acting president of SINTRAEMCALI.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Alexandre López Maya, Luis Hernández and all SINTRAEMCALI members in Cali, Valle del Cauca Department;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the attack on the building used by the SINTRAEMCALI trade union, and into the threats against their leaders, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- asking the authorities what action they will take to guarantee the safety of those at risk, and calling for the Ministry of the Interior's protection program for trade unionists to be adequately resourced in order to guarantee effectively the security of those at risk;

- calling for a full and impartial investigation into links between the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in Valle del Cauca Department, and asking that the results of the investigation are made public and those found responsible for supporting and participating 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 the Republic

Señor Presidente Álvaro Uribe Vélez

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño

Carrera 8 No.7-26

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegram:** **Presidente de la República, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Fax:** **+ 57 1 566 2071 / 571 3420592**

**Salutation:** **Dear President Uribe / Excmo. Sr. Presidente Uribe**

National Advocate for the people

Sr. Eduardo Cifuentes Muñoz,

Defensor del Pueblo, Defensoría del Pueblo,

Calle 55, No. 10-32/46 office 301,

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:** **National Advocate, Bogota, Colombia**

**Fax:** **+ 57 1 640 0491 / 346 1225**

**Salutation:** **Dear Mr. Cifuentes Muñoz / Estimado Sr. Cifuentes Muñoz**

Attorney General

Dr. Luis Camilo Osorio,

Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,

Diagonal 22B 52-01 (Ciudad Salite),

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:** **Fiscal General, Bogota, Colombia**

**Fax:** **+ 57 1 570 2022 / 2017 (if someone answers say "me da tono de fax por favor")**

**Salutation:** **Dear Dr. Osorio / Estimado Dr. Osorio**

**COPIES TO:**

Trade Union Confederation

Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Colombia

Calle 35 N° 7-25, Piso 9 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 17 October 2002.