

URGENT ACTION

FAMILY AND HUMAN RIGHTS NGO THREATENED

On 24 March, the family of a girl who was allegedly raped by an army officer and subsequently killed along with her two brothers received a death threat. An NGO supporting them, Humanidad Vigente, was also threatened. On 22 March the judge working on the case was killed in eastern Colombia.

On 24 March, José Álvaro Torres' oldest daughter received a phone call on her mobile. After asking who she was the caller told her: *"Oh it is you, the daughter of the dog son of a whore, tell him that we already got him where it hurts most and will continue to get you, we will not rest until we kill another child, you have to leave Saravena, we know where you are living"* (ah usted es la hija del perro hijueputa, dígale que ya le dimos por donde más le duele y que vamos seguir dándole, no descansaremos hasta matarle otro hijo, tienen que largarse de Saravena, sabemos dónde están viviendo).

On 14 October 2010, her 14 year old sister Jenni Torres Jaimes had been raped by a member of the 5th Mobile Brigade of the Colombian Army, in the village of Caño Temblador, municipality of Tame, in the department of Arauca in eastern Colombia. Jenni Torres Jaimes and her brothers Jefferson and Jimmi were forcibly disappeared from their home on 14 October. Their dead bodies were found on 16 October.

On 22 March, the judge Gloria Constanza Gaona who was going to preside over the case in which an army officer was implicated, was shot dead in Saravena municipality, Arauca department. A few hours later, a member of Humanidad Vigente, the human rights NGO that has been working with the family to push for investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the rape and the killings, received a threatening phone call.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of the family of José Álvaro Torres, their lawyer and other members of Humanidad Vigente, as well as other judicial officials involved in the case of the rape of Jenni Torres Jaimes and the killing of Jenni, Jefferson and Jimmi Torres.
- Calling on the Colombian authorities to implement immediate and effective protection measures for the family and members of Humanidad Vigente as agreed with them.
- Urging the authorities to undertake full and impartial investigations into the threats against the family and members of Humanidad Vigente, the killing of the judge, to make the results public and bring all those responsible to justice. The same steps should also be undertaken regarding the rape and killing of the three children.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 MAY 2011 TO:

President

Señor Juan Manuel Santos
 Presidente Juan Manuel Santos
 Presidente de la República, Palacio de
 Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26, Bogotá,
 Colombia

Fax: +57 1 596 0631

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

Minister of Interior and Justice

Señor Germán Vargas Lleras
 Ministerio Del Interior y De Justicia
 Carrera 9a. No. 14-10, Bogotá
 Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 599 8961

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

And copies to:

Humanidad Vigente
 Carrera 28 # 47A-84
 Bogotá
 Colombia

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Judicial proceedings against sub-lieutenant Raúl Muñoz Linares, who was commanding the “Buitres 2” company attached to the 5th Mobile Brigade of the Colombian armed forces have been delayed several times. In the past five months he had four different lawyers. Since November 2010 Humanidad Vigente had been asking that the case should be transferred to Bogotá, so that due judicial procedures could be followed and that the victims’ right to truth, justice and integral reparation would be respected.

On 22 March, a few hours after the judge Gloria Constanza Gaona was killed, a member of Humanidad Vigente received two threatening phone calls within 30 minutes. The first call made reference to Olga Silva, the lawyer who represents the victims of the case: “*bring two coffees to the office of Olga*” (lleve dos tintos a la oficina de Olga). The second call referred to the director of Humanidad Vigente Luis Alfonso Ruiz: “*bring three coffees to the office of Lucho*” (lleve tres tintos a la oficina de Lucho). Given the killing of the judge only hours earlier, that the call was made to a private home of one of the members of Humanidad Vigente and that *Tintos* (coffee) are usually served at funerals in Colombia, Humanidad Vigente took these calls as threats. In addition the calls also suggest that the offices of Humanidad Vigente in Bogotá are being closely watched. Olga Silva and Luis Alfonso Ruiz had been sharing the same office until recently.

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