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OFFICE IN COLOMBIA

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## **Condemnation of massacre at San José de Apartadó**

**February 28, 2005**

The Office in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights condemns the massacre that took the lives of Luis Eduardo Guerra Guerra, 35 years of age; Alfonso Bolívar Tuberquia Graciano, 30; Sandra Milena Muñoz Pozo, 24; Alejandro Pérez Cuirez, age unknown; and the children and youngsters Bellanyra Aleiza, 17; Deiner Andrés Guerra, 11; Natalia Andrea Tuberquia Muñoz, 6; and Santiago Tuberquia Muñoz, 2.

These murders were carried out between the 21st and 22nd of February of this year in the village of Resbalosa in San José de Apartadó. Five of the bodies had been mutilated with a machete and some had died of gunshot wounds. The bodies of the three remaining victims were in an advanced state of decomposition. The authorities do not yet know who was responsible for these atrocious crimes.

The victims belonged to the peace community of San José de Apartadó, Antioquia. They included Eduardo Guerra Guerra, an important leader of the community and human rights defender.

The Office issues a reminder that the community of San José de Apartadó is the beneficiary of provisional measures on the part of the Inter-American Court for Human Rights, and that the Colombian Constitutional Court requested effective protection for its inhabitants in March 2004. These stipulations obligate the Colombian state to adopt special security measures on behalf of the community and its members.

In repudiating these grave acts, the Office requests that the authorities carry out a prompt and effective investigation in order to clarify what occurred, and bring to justice and punish the perpetrators of these cruel crimes.

The Office wishes to express its condolences to the victims' families and to the peace community of San José de Apartadó.