



NACIONES UNIDAS

ALTO COMISIONADO PARA LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS
OFICINA EN COLOMBIA

UNITED NATIONS

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE IN COLOMBIA

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Demand for immediate release of humanitarian workers belonging to Justicia y Paz

April 2, 2005

The Office in Colombia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights condemns the detention on Friday April 1st of five members of the Comisión Justicia y Paz (Justice and Peace Commission), Enrique Chimonja, Edwin Mosquera, Johana López, Mónica Suárez and Fabio Ariza. These human rights defenders were accompanying the communities of Jiguamiandó and Curvaradó in two humanitarian zones in the Chocó.

According to information received by the Office, armed men claiming to be members of the FARC-EP entered the two humanitarian zones and carried off the five human rights defenders.

The Office has received information according to which humanitarian workers from Justicia y Paz have received threats beginning in 2004 from members of paramilitary groups present in the region of the Chocó.

In condemning the events at Jiguamiandó and Curvaradó, the Office demands that the illegal armed group holding the five humanitarian workers from Justicia y Paz immediately free them unharmed. The Office urges the group to make a statement regarding responsibility for this crime and reminds them of their obligation to respect the rights to life, physical integrity and liberty of all civilians.