

# **U.N. IN ACTION**

Week of 24 April 2006 Programme No. 1006

Duration: 3'33"

## **EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS IN COLOMBIA**

VIDEO	AUDIO

ATANQUEZ VILLAGE – KANKUAMO PEOPLE NARRATION
Some of the n

Some of the main victims of Colombia's 40 year armed conflict, are indigenous communities. The Sierra is home to 30,000 indigenous people, caught in an escalating struggle for their territory. Insurgents fight the Army for these lands, home to much of the illegal coca crop, and close to coastal ports and world cocaine markets. Communities like the Kankuamo are caught in the cross-fire facing forced displacements, food-shortages and arbitrary killings. (30")

INTRO MAXIMO

Maximo Luque Toba is a Kankuamo leader. (4")

TOBA ON-CAMERA

"Two hundred and fifty have died and, as well as those, about 50 have been detained in the

conflict." (10")

TOBA: (In Spanish

**NARRATION** 

UN VEHICLE

Those responsible come from all sides. (4")

JESUS PENA TALKS TO KANKUOMO PEOPLE IN

**ATANQUEZ** 

**NARRATION** 

The UN Human Rights office, in Colombia, monitors increased reports of extra judicial killings

and other human rights violations. Jesus Peña is

a human rights officer. (9")

JESUS PEÑA ON-CAMERA

PEÑA: (in Spanish)

"The different armed groups, both legal and illegal,

have sometimes shown a total lack of respect for

the autonomy of the indigenous peoples, and for

the principles of limitation, distinction, and

protection of the civilian population. The office has

registered some cases where members of the

JESUS PENA WITH GROUP OF Security Forces were responsible. To a greater or

lesser degree, all the armed groups have had

some responsibility." (23")

KANKUOMO MEN

### **NARRATION**

SOL MAESTRE AT HOME WITH CHILDREN. PHOTO OF VICTOR HUGO

Sol Maestre lives in the village of Atanquez with her mother and four small children. Her father, uncle and husband have all been killed by armed groups. One night in October, 2004, her 21 yr old brother, Victor Hugo, disappeared. Days later, the Army deposited at the morgue the bodies of 3 alleged guerrillas supposedly shot in combat.

(24")

SOL MAESTRE: (in Spanish)

SOL MAESTRE ON-CAMERA

"She went to the morgue and the woman told her that there were 3 dead bodies but they were guerrillas and, as my brother wasn't a guerrilla, my sister told me my brother wasn't there ...." " she

went back with a photo and they recognised him – they said that yes it was him, we realised on Tuesday, at 7 in the night, that he was dead."

(23")

JESUS PENA WITH POLICE

## **NARRATION**

Since then, the police have moved in to protect the village. In August 2005, 11 soldiers were charged with Victor Hugo's death, one of the few times that soldiers have been arrested and charged with homicide. The outcome of the trial will be crucial in restoring indigenous peoples' confidence in both the justice system and the Army. (22")

SOL AND MOTHER AT HOME

But for Sol and her mother, it is too late. (3")

SOL: (In Spanish)

**SOL ON-CAMERA** 

"The guilty will pay by going to prison...well no.

This is not going to make anything better, because what they did they did and he is dead." (10")

#### **NARRATION**

CEMETERY

According to the Human Rights Office, complaints regarding extra-judicial killings are increasing. It is hoped that through the work of the office those responsible from whichever side will be tried and there will be justice for the victims. (14")

**UN LOGO** 

This report was prepared by Gill Fickling for the United Nations. (4")