



Photo from *Como nos organizamos (How We Are Organized)*, an excellent 36-page document which SAIIC has received from the Cauca Regional Indian Council (Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca, or CRIC, Apartado Aéreo 516, Popayan, Cauca, Colombia). The booklet details the activities and discussions surrounding the formation of CRIC in the early 1970s and describes some of CRIC's successes in reclaiming Indian land. Please send \$3 to SAIIC if you would like a photocopy. (Currently available only in Spanish.)

## COLOMBIA

SAIIC has received two news releases from the Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC, National Indian Organization of Colombia, Carrera 3a. No. 15-48, A.A. 32395, Bogota, D.E., Colombia). The first concerns Indian communities in the Cauca Valley which have been disrupted by recent fighting between the Colombian army and guerrilla insurgents:

"Nearly 1,500 Indians have taken refuge in the city of Florida [southwest of Cali in the department of Valle de Cauca; see map, page 11]. Many are ill, and the authorities have not responded appropriately to their problems.

"The refugees normally reside in the surrounding countryside, which has been the scene of combat between the Colombian army and guerrillas of the M-19 and Ricardo Franco organizations since Monday, Sept. 16, when the army began bombing the zone.

"The communities affected include La Diana, San Juanito, Los Caleños, Lomagorda, Salado, Guacas, Rivera, Granada and Cumbre. Indians have been forced to abandon their fields and their livestock to protect their lives.

"We demand that the authorities move immediately to resolve these problems. The departmental government must intervene to permit the evacuation of the zone and to stop the bombing. We demand compensation for the damages which have been inflicted.

"We ask that the Red Cross be mobilized to help those displaced by the fighting. We ask that community organizations, unions, and *campesino* organizations express their solidarity

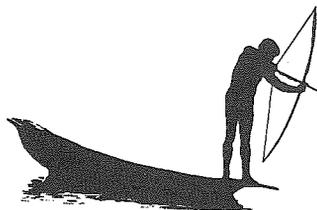
with the Indian people in Florida through letters to the authorities who are responsible for providing immediate solutions to these problems.”

The second ONIC press release concerns the murder of Indian activist Luís Antonio Perez Sánchez in the department of Meta, southeast of Bogota:

“ONIC condemns before national and international public opinion the assassination of *compañero* Luís Antonio Perez Sanchez, who worked since 1972 with UNAMA, the organization of the Sikuaní and Piapocos peoples in eastern Colombia. His primary work was developing a program of Indian education which beginning in January, 1986, will include a boarding school run by UNAMA.

“Luís’ defense of Indian rights created many enemies for him and many difficulties in his life. At 12:45 a.m. on Sept. 25 he was shot in the back while visiting two women who witnessed his death. A member of the House of Representatives stated publicly in the departmental legislature in Villavicencio [capital of the department of Meta] that Luís had traveled to Villavicencio three days earlier solely for the purpose of informing the authorities that he had received a death threat from Luís Calistro Rondon Alvis, the mayor of Puerto Gaitán, who stated, ‘I’m not leaving Puerto Gaitán until I’ve killed someone.’

“Luís had also been threatened several times by the parish priest of Puerto Gaitán, who had said to Indian people at various times that he wants to take over the local Indian center. In February of this year the Indian center was burned along with four nearby houses that had been constructed by the Indian community.”



# **SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL**

**FOR THE RIGHTS OF THREATENED TRIBAL PEOPLES**

## **ECUADOR**

Survival International (29 Craven Street, London WC2N 5NT, England) has sent the following urgent action bulletin:

“The invasion of Indian lands in Ecuadorian Amazonia has accelerated dramatically over recent months. In spite of the serious damage it is causing to the environment, the government is actively promoting oil palm cultivation on a massive scale, with financial backing from Belgium, Britain, and Germany. It has manipulated the use of conservation zones for its own commercial ends, and Indians are now being pushed off the lands they have lived on for centuries. In an attempt to resist this invasion, the Indians recently killed a colonist in a conflict over land.”

In September the Confederation of Indian Nations in the Ecuadorian Amazon, which represents the Shuar, Quichua, Cofan, Secoya, Siona, and Huaorani Indian nations, published *Palma Africana y Etnocidio*, which gives a detailed account of the effects of the spread of oil palm cultivation. For a copy, send a minimum donation of \$5 to CONFENIAE, Av. 6 de Diciembre 159 y Pazmino, Oficina 408, Casilla 4180, Quito, Ecuador.