

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 22/93 (AMR 23/04/93) of 29 January 1993 and follow-ups AMR 23/05/93 of 2 February 1993 and AMR 23/13/93 of 22 February 1993) - Fear of "disappearance"/torture/possible extrajudicial executions

COLOMBIA: Ramón VILLEGAS

Gustavo CORONEL

Luís Alfonso ASCANIO

Wilson QUINTERO

Luís Ernesto ASCANIO, aged 15, and family

Amnesty International has learnt with concern that the body of Luís Ernesto Ascanio has been found and identified and that a body believed to be that of Ramón Villegas has also been found.

According to information received, as a result of a request from Luís Ernesto Ascanio's family, officials from the Special Investigations Bureau of the Procurator General's office, Oficina de Investigaciones Especiales de la Procuraduría General, in coordination with the Military Penal Court, Juzgado Penal Militar, oversaw on 21 and 22 May 1993 the exhumation of 15 bodies from the central cemetery in Ocaña, Norte de Santander department.

Relatives of 15 year-old Luís Ernesto Ascanio were able to positively identify his body, which had been dressed in military fatigues. Another of the bodies exhumed was believed to be that of Ramón Villegas, although as his relatives were not there it was not positively identified.

Amnesty International had been seriously concerned for the safety of Luís Ernesto Ascanio and Ramón Villegas. Ramón Villegas had not been seen since his detention on 12 January 1993, together with Gustavo Coronel, Luís Alfonso Ascanio and Wilson Quintero by members of the army's Mobile Brigade No. 2, Brigada Móvil No. 2. The four men were taken from their homes in the community of San José del Tarra, Hacarí, Norte de Santander department, but their detention was later denied by military authorities.

The Mobile Brigade No. 2 then handed over a number of bodies to the local magistrate's office, Unidad Regional de Fiscalía, of men they claimed were "killed in combat". The armed forces frequently claim that victims of extrajudicial execution by members of the armed forces are "guerrillas killed in combat". A unit from the Special Investigations Bureau of the Procurator General's office was reportedly able to identify three of the bodies handed over as those of Gustavo Coronel, Luís Alfonso Ascanio and Wilson Quintero.

Luís Ernesto Ascanio had not been seen since 26 January 1993, when he reportedly left his place of work to return home after becoming concerned about the safety of

his family, who were being held hostage by the Mobile Brigade No. 2. At the time, the area in which these "disappearances" took place was heavily militarized, but his detention was denied. According to local press reports, he was then reported by the army as "killed in combat" on 29 January 1993.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in Spanish, English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Luis Ernesto Ascanio was killed in circumstances suggesting that he was extrajudicially executed;

- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into his killing, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;

Page 2 of 3FU 22/93

- urging that further steps be taken to identify the body believed to be that of Ramón Villegas;

- urging that in the case of positive identification that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into his killing, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;

- urging that all possible measures be taken to protect the lives of civilians in areas where counter-guerrilla operations are being carried out by the armed forces.

APPEALS TO:

1) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Salutation: Sr Procurador de la Nación/
Dear Dr. Arrieta**

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472

2) Minister of Defence:

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

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

Telegrams:Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874

3) Commander of 2nd Mobile Brigade:

Brigadier General Agustín Ardila Uribe
Comandante Brigada Móvil No. 2
Ministerio de Defensa
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Santa fé de Bogotá
Colombia

**Salutation: Estimado Comandante/
Dear Sir**

Telegrams: Comandnante Brigada Móvil No 2, Ministerio Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874

4) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño

Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324, + 57 1 287 7937

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr.

Presidente /

Dear President Gaviria

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared":

Señores

ASFADDES

AA 011446

Santa Fe de Bogotá

Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 July 1993.