

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 124/93 (AMR 23/25/93, 22 April 1993) - Fear of "disappearance"

COLOMBIA:Delio VARGAS HERRERA, aged 28, president of human rights group

Amnesty International has received further information concerning the "disappearance" of 28 year-old human rights worker Delio Vargas Herrera. Delio Vargas was last seen on 19 April 1993 in Villavicencio, Meta department, when he was forcefully abducted in front of his wife by armed men who drove him to an unknown destination.

The Office of the Colombian Presidential Adviser on Human Rights, Consejería Presidencial para los Derechos Humanos, has informed Amnesty International that following an investigation undertaken by the Special Investigations Unit of the Procurator General's office, Oficina de Investigaciones Especiales de la Procuraduría General de la Nación and the Technical Investigation Unit, Cuerpo Técnico de Investigaciones (CTI) of Villavicencio, the vehicle used to transport Delio Vargas and its driver were identified and the driver is now in detention in Villavicencio. The driver is a former army officer and member of the army intelligence force B2 attached to the army's VII Brigade, VII Brigada, based in Villavicencio.

The Special Investigations Unit of the Procurator General's office is now concluding the preliminary stages of its investigation, whilst the CTI and the Regional Attorney's office, Dirección Regional de Fiscalías de Bogotá are continuing the criminal investigation into the "disappearance" of Delio Vargas.

Whilst Amnesty International welcomes the investigations into the "disappearance" of Delio Vargas, there is concern that whilst many such investigations are opened, only exceptionally do they lead to the prosecution and conviction of those actually responsible for the human rights violation.

Amnesty International continues to be concerned for the safety of Delio Vargas whose whereabouts remain unknown.

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

- continuing to express concern for the safety of Delio Vargas Herrera following his abduction by armed men on 19 April 1993 and whose whereabouts are still unknown;

- welcoming the information received from the Colombian Adviser on Human Rights

on the progress of investigations into the "disappearance" of Delio Vargas Herrera;

- urging that the investigations into the "disappearance" of Delio Vargas be thorough and result in the prosecution and conviction of those found responsible so that they do not continue to act with virtual impunity

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APPEALS TO:

1) Governor of Meta department:

Señor Omar Armando Baquero
Gobernador del Departamento del Meta
Gobernación del Meta
Carrera 33, No 38-45
Villavicencio
Meta, Colombia

Telegrams: Gobernador Baquero, Villavicencio, Meta, Colombia

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Sr Baquero

2) 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

**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta,
Bogotá, Colombia**

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

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

3) Attorney General

Dr. Gustavo de Greiff
Fiscal General de la Nación
Fiscalía General de la Nación
Apartado Aéreo 29855
Santafé de Bogotá
Colombia

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 1 287 0939

Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff/Dear Dr. de Greiff

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights and Educational Organization

Señores
CINEP
AA 25916
Santa Fe de Bogotá
Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia accredited to your country. The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of Colombia in Austria during June at the following address:

Colombian Embassy:

The Ambassador

Botschaft von Kolumbien

Stadiongasse 6-8, 1010 Wien

Austria

Faxes: + 43 1 408 83 03

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 August 1993.