

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"/Fear for Safety

28 July 1995

COLOMBIA

John Ricardo Ubate Monroy
Gloria Bogotá (f)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of John Ricardo Ubate Monroy and Gloria Bogotá, whose whereabouts have been unknown since they were abducted on 19 May 1995 in Cali, Valle department.

According to reports a number of passers-by witnessed John Ricardo Ubate and Gloria Bogotá being forced into a car by six heavily armed men. Both young people struggled with the armed men for 10 minutes and shouted out to witnesses to call the police. A woman called the Cali Metropolitan Police and informed them of the situation.

According to police information, between 20 and 25 members of the Cali Metropolitan Police force pursued the abductor's car until it was located. When the police had almost caught up with the gunmen, they received from a Metropolitan Police official of high rank a radio order to halt their pursuit.

According to information received by relatives of the victims, the judicial and administrative authorities of Cali are reluctant to investigate the case, giving the impression that they do not want to confront the officer who gave the order, thereby protecting those responsible for the abduction and "disappearance" of John Ricardo Ubate Monroy and Gloria Bogotá.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearance", torture and arbitrary arrest. President Ernesto Samper Pizano, who assumed office on 7 August 1994, has publicly stated that tackling the human rights situation will be a priority for his government. His promises include a commitment to dismantle paramilitary forces. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces together with their paramilitary allies continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity. Only exceptionally are perpetrators brought to justice; the vast majority of members of the armed forces responsible for gross human rights violations remain in active service.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of John Ricardo Ubate Monroy and Gloria Bogotá, who have not been seen since they were abducted by six armed men on 19 May 1995;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough investigation into their whereabouts, the results of which should be made public and those found responsible for their abduction brought to justice;
- urging that, if they are in detention, that they be humanely treated, allowed access to lawyers and to their family and that they be released unless charged with a recognized criminal offence;
- asking for an investigation to establish the responsibility of the officers of the Metropolitan Police of Cali who ordered a halt to the pursuit of the abductors.

APPEALS TO

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Samper Pizano, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 289 3377/286 7434/287 7939

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2) Minister of the Interior

Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Carrera 8a, No.8-09, Piso 7
Santafé de Bogotá
COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior Serpa, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:45406 MINGO CO

Salutation:Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Fax:+ 57 1 286 65 24/ 286 00 53/ 286 04 85

3) Procurator General:

Dr. Orlando Vásquez Velásquez
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Procurador General Vásquez, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 342 9723/281 7531

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

4) Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento
Fiscal General de la Nación
Fiscalía General de la Nación
Apartado Aéreo 29855
Santafé de Bogotá
Colombia

Telegrams:Fiscal General Valdivieso, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 245 5292 or 287 0939 or 288 2828

Salutation: Estimado Dr. Valdivieso/Dear Dr. Valdivieso

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Intercongregational Commission for Justice and Peace

Comisión Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz
AA 31861
Santafé 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 8 September 1995.