

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/60/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 345/92 Fear of torture/"disappearance"

9 November 1992

COLOMBIA: Gustavo SALGADO RAMIREZ, aged 45, development and human rights worker

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Gustavo Salgado Ramirez who has not been seen since leaving his home in the Barrio Prado Veraniego of Santa Fe de Bogotá on 4 November 1992.

Gustavo Salgado is a development and human rights worker. He is a consultant on community projects supported by the European Non Government Organization "Terre des Hommes" in Santa Fe de Bogotá and as a human rights worker collaborates with the organization Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad (LIMPAL), International League of Women for Peace and Freedom.

According to reports, Gustavo Salgado left his home at 8am and called his office to say that he would be in later as he was planning to visit communities where he has been acting as adviser, but he did not arrive. Despite enquiries made by friends and family at hospitals, medical centres, morgues and police stations, as well as to the judicial police, Dirección de Policía Judicial e Investigación (DIJIN), and the Department of State Security, Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS), the whereabouts of Gustavo Salgado remain unknown and there is serious concern for his safety. A petition of *habeas corpus* has been presented on his behalf.

Approximately two months ago an anonymous caller reportedly threatened Gustavo Salgado with death as a result of his work, saying that he would be killed "if he carried on with what he was doing" (*si continuaba en lo que estaba haciendo*). Other members of the organization LIMPAL report that they have been followed between the offices and their homes and have been aware of the presence of state security agents close to the offices. As a result of these events, LIMPAL wrote to the DAS and to the Defensor del Pueblo, the People's Advocate, in order to clarify the nature of LIMPAL's work. On 3 November, two DAS agents came to the offices as a result of this letter and stated that they were investigating the reports of threats and harassment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. Community and human rights workers, trade unionists and members of legal left-wing parties have been particular targets. The majority of such abuses have been attributed by the Colombian authorities to civilian "death squads", which it claims it is unable to control. However independent investigations have concluded that many such groups operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian armed and security forces.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Gustavo Salgado Ramírez and requesting a full and thorough investigation to establish his whereabouts;

- expressing concern that his "disappearance" has occurred despite his having reported being the victim of serious death threats and harassment to the authorities;

Page 2 of UA 345/92

- urging that if he is in detention, his legal situation be clarified and that he be treated humanely and allowed full access to family and to lawyers;

- urging that if he is in detention, that he be released unless charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought before a competent court;

- urging that the government take all possible measures to protect the lives of community and human rights works so that they can carry out their legal activities without fear.

APPEALS TO:

1) Director of the Department of State Security:

Dr. Fernando Brito
Director

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. Brito/
Dear Dr. Brito**

Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad
Carrera 28, No. 17A-00
Santa Fe de Bogotá
COLOMBIA

**Telegrams: Director, Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad, Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 43363 JEDAS**

2) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr.
Presidente/
Dear President Gaviria**

Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 283 3066, + 57 1 286 7324, + 57 1 287 7937

3) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
Defensor del Pueblo
Defensoría del Pueblo
Calle 34, Carrera 5
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/
Dear Dr. Triviño**

Telegrams: Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

4) Attorney General:

Dr. Gustavo de Greiff
Fiscal General
Fiscalia General

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

Hotel Orquidea Real
Carrera 7, No 32-16
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia
Faxes: + 57 1 287 7480

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

<u>Procurator General:</u>	<u>Human Rights and Educational</u>
Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla	<u>Organization:</u>
Procurador General de la Nación	Señores
Procuraduría General	CINEP
Edificio Banco Ganadero	AA 25916
Carrera 5, No. 15-80	Santa Fe de Bogotá
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia	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 21 December 1992.