

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 53/13/95

15 November 1995

Further information EXTRA 123/95 (AMR 53/11/95, 23 October 1995) and follow-up (AMR 53/12/95, 2 November) - Fear of torture / Legal concern

VENEZUELA

Carlos José González, student

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Carlos José González has been released by order of the Governor of the State of Carabobo, who intervened before the court of first instance was able to consider an appeal against the detention. Amnesty International welcomes his release, which the organization had called for since his arbitrary arrest along with five other students on 17 October 1995 at a peaceful student demonstration.

The other five were released on 26 October, but Carlos José González was given a four-month prison sentence, under the Law of Vagrants and Crooks (*Ley de Vagos y Maleantes*) for participating in a public disturbance.

Amnesty International will continue to call for the abolition of the Law of Vagrants and Crooks which enables administrative authorities to imprison people without trial for up to five years under vague charges. The law infringes the defendant's fundamental right to a fair, prompt and impartial trial, as established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the American Convention on Human Rights. Both instruments have been adopted by Venezuela.

No further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested on this case. Thank you to all who sent appeals.