
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 245/94

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INTERNAL

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **VENEZUELA** (This item is for use primarily by the Venezuelan section. It is For Response Only for other sections. EDAI PLEASE NOTE: The Spanish translation of this item is enclosed, it was done at the IS because the item was needed urgently to send to the Venezuelan media, please would you distribute it to your sections. Many thanks - Dina S.)

PLEASE NOTE: CORRECTION - The title of the Turkey news item (AI index: EUR 44/WU 18/94) sent out in News Service 243/94 was incorrect it should read: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHER DENIED ACCESS TO TURKEY. The organization as a whole has not been denied access only the particular country researcher working on Turkey.

PLEASE NOTE: INDONESIA - There have been some wire reports of a memorandum from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Indonesian Government. The Indonesia research team at the IS have been trying to find out more about this and to get a copy of the memorandum. At this stage we do not have enough information to say anything about this publicly. But it is possible that there may be media inquiries about the memorandum nearer to the APEC conference so the research team will be preparing a briefing about how to deal with such queries.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

APEC - 3 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 243 AND NEWS SERVICE 212/94

Peru/Committee against Torture - 9 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 243/94

Iraq - 29 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

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VENEZUELA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DENIES ALLEGATIONS IN THE PRESS

Amnesty International denies formally and categorically the information which appeared in the Venezuelan press between 25 and 27 October 1994, quoting declarations made by Larry Tovar Acuña's lawyer claiming that Amnesty International requested Mr Tovar's presidential pardon in November 1993. Mr Tovar is currently detained in Colombia for non-political charges and the Venezuelan authorities have requested his extradition.

Amnesty International works for the unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience. The organization has not adopted and is not considering adopting Mr Larry Tovar Acuña as a prisoner of conscience and has never requested his release.

Amnesty International does not oppose the extradition of prisoners to face criminal charges, provided that there are adequate safeguards to ensure that the person concerned will not be subjected to human rights violations - in particular execution, torture or ill-treatment - in the country they are returned to.

Amnesty International believes that these declarations should be immediately rectified as they are false and defamatory. The organization reserves the right to take any legal action it may deem necessary in this case.

ENDS\

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Servicio de noticias 245/94

VENEZUELA: AMNISTÍA INTERNACIONAL DESMIENTE ALEGACIONES APARECIDAS EN LA PRENSA

Amnistía Internacional desmiente formal y categóricamente las declaraciones del abogado del Sr. Larry Tovar Acuña. En estas declaraciones, difundidas en la prensa venezolana entre los días 25 y 27 de octubre de 1994, se vincula a la organización con la concesión del indulto presidencial al Sr. Tovar. El Sr. Tovar se encuentra actualmente detenido en Colombia bajo cargos no políticos. Las autoridades venezolanas han solicitado su extradición.

Amnistía Internacional pide la liberación incondicional de las personas que califica como presos de conciencia. La organización no ha adoptado ni está considerando adoptar el caso del Sr. Tovar como preso de conciencia, y en ningún momento ha pedido su puesta en libertad.

Amnistía Internacional no se opone a la extradición de presos acusados de delitos penales, mientras existan las necesarias salvaguardias que impidan que la persona en cuestión sea víctima de violaciones de los derechos humanos --particularmente ejecución, tortura o malos tratos--, en el país al que se la extradita.

Amnistía Internacional pide que estas declaraciones sean rectificadas inmediatamente por ser falsas y difamatorias. La organización se reserva el derecho a tomar cualquier medida legal que considere oportuna a este respecto.