

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

25 May 1995

COLOMBIA

Jaime Enrique Quintero Cano

Jaime Enrique Quintero Cano has not been seen since 4 March 1995 when he was arrested and taken to a military prison cell by members of the armed forces. There is serious concern for his safety.

According to reports, on 1 March, Jaime Enrique Quintero reported to the army's IV Brigade headquarters in Medellín, department of Antioquia, for compulsory military service. On 2 March he phoned his family to inform them that he was going to the Urabá region, where he was to present himself to the *Batallón Voltígeros*, Voltígeros Battalion.

On 4 March, Jaime Enrique Quintero's sister tried to telephone him at the barracks of the Voltígeros Battalion, but the commander there told her that her brother was not on his list of recruits. The next day Jaime Enrique Quintero's family sent a letter with a soldier to the commander. The commander told the soldier that he had ordered that the "*muchacho tan grosero*" ("very rude boy") be sent back to Medellín by plane, after he had attacked him with a broken bottle and torn his uniform.

An intelligence officer belonging to the B2 military intelligence unit attached to the IV Brigade told the family that he was instructed by the Voltígeros Battalion to exchange Jaime Enrique Quintero for another soldier, and to send Jaime Enrique Quintero back to Medellín by bus. The intelligence officer declared that he had put him on a bus on the afternoon of 4 March.

However, soldiers belonging to the Voltígeros Battalion informed members of Jaime Enrique Quintero's family that he had arrived at the Voltígeros Battalion in a very depressed state of mind and that the commander treated him very badly. On 4 March he reacted to this treatment by attacking the commander. He was arrested and soldiers told the family that they saw Jaime Enrique Quintero being very badly beaten as he was taken to the military prison cell. Soldiers also told the family that they saw Jaime Enrique Quintero being driven away in a car on the same day.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, arbitrary arrest, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. President Ernesto Samper Pizano, who assumed office on 7 August 1994, made several promises, both during his election campaign and subsequently, to improve the human rights situation. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces, together with their paramilitary allies, continue to commit serious human rights violations with virtually total impunity.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Jaime Enrique Quintero Cano;
- calling for a full and impartial investigations into his whereabouts, the results of which should be made public;
- urging that, in the event of the inquiry concluding that Jaime Enrique Quintero was "disappeared", those responsible be brought to justice;

- urging that if he is in detention, he be treated humanely and allowed access to lawyers and relatives;
- asking that, if in detention, he be charged immediately with a recognizable criminal offence or released.

APPEALS TO

1) Minister of Defence

Dr. Fernando Botero Zea
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa Botero, Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO
Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

2) 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

3) Presidential Advisor on Human Rights

Dr. Carlos Vicente de Roux Rengifo
Consejero Presidencial para la Defensa, Protección y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
Calle 7, No 6-45. Of. 305
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Faxes: + 57 1 337 1351 / 288 0195
Telegrams: Dr de Roux, CPDPPDH, Bogota, Colombia
Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Roux / Dear Dr de Roux

4) Commander of IV Brigade

Brigadier Jorge Enrique Mora Rangel
Calle 50, 76-126
Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia
Telefono: + 57 4 230 5222
Telegrams: Commander IV Brigade, Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia
Salutation: Sr. Brigadier General / Dear Brigadier General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"
Señores
ASFADDES
AA 011446
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 12 July 1995.