

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 97/95 (AMR 18/01/95, 21 April 1995) - Fear of ill-treatment / Legal Concern / Health Concern

BOLIVIA David OLIVARES, Trade Unionist
Roberto PANCORBO, Trade Unionist
Rafael PUENTE CALVO, Trade Unionist
Rubén CORTÉS - Secretary General, Central Obrera Departamental
(COD) Departmental Bolivian Labour Federation - Cochabamba
Jesús JAVARI, leader COD - Santa Cruz
Victor FLORES ALVAREZ, leader COD - Sucre
Marcelo GONZÁLEZ BARRIOS, leader of health sector union - Sucre
Eduardo PANOSO, leader Rural Teachers Union - Sucre
Carlos CAMARGO, leader teachers' union
and many others (names unknown)

Health Concern (in internal exile):

Oscar SALAS, Secretary General COB
Miguel HUMEREZ, University student
Hugo CAMPOS, Leader COD, Cochabamba
Juvenal GARAVITO, (64 yr old), teacher, former leader of
urban teachers' union

Nine Bolivians Arrested in Copacabana, held in La Paz

Evo MORALES, leader of the Federation of Tropical Region Peasant Workers and
the following regional leaders:

Modesto CONDORI GUIZA,
Crisólogo MENDOZA ARIAS,
Miguel CALIZAYA,
Sabino ARROYO GONZÁLEZ,
Secundino MONTEVILLA,
Juan Bautista TORRES QUISPE

also: Maruja MACHACA (f), Board member of Andean Council in Bolivia
Dante LORINI, Adviser Andean Council

Peruvian Nationals - Released

Antonio MORENO VARGAS, Augusta TEJADA HUALLPA (f), Eliseo CONDORI, Genaro
CAHUANA SERNA, Hugo CABIESES, Ricardo SOBERÓN, Roger RUMRRILL,
Alberto QUINTANILLA, Baldomero CACERES, Guido GONZALEZ

The wave of indiscriminate mass arrests of trade unionists in Bolivia has continued under the state of siege legislation declared on 18 April. Reports indicate that many of those detained have been subjected to ill-treatment, beatings and electric shocks during the initial hours of arrest. Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of all those arrested.

Reports indicate that the official number of those arrested and still in detention is 362, most of them held in internal exile (*confinados*) in five remote areas in the country: Colcha K, Ramón Darío and San Joaquín (Beni Department), Puerto Rico (Pando Department) and Apolo (La Paz Department).

Minister of Government, Carlos Sánchez Berzaín has reportedly stated that visits by relatives and members of the press to those held in detention will not be

allowed, although access will be permitted to members of the Human Rights Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. A total of 74 people have reportedly been released, including all foreigners detained a few hours before the state of siege was declared on 18 April in the town of Copacabana, while attending an international meeting. All were released within 36 hours and most of them subsequently expelled from Bolivia. It is not clear how many of the other scores of people also arrested by police on the same day, prior to the declaration of the state of siege, remain in detention. However, it is known that nine Bolivian nationals members of trade unions of coca-leaf growers arrested in Copacabana are held at the headquarters of the Policía Técnica Judicial, Judicial Police in La Paz.

There is concern regarding the health condition of at least three people. COB leader Oscar Salas has been reported seriously ill. He is held in custody at the Air Force Headquarters in El Alto, a neighbourhood of La Paz. Although the Minister of Government stated that Oscar Salas is receiving medication, no information has been forthcoming regarding the nature and cause of his ill-health. Also reportedly ill are Miguel Humerez, Hugo Campos and Juvenal Garavito Gamboa, all held in Colcha K, an area where climatic conditions are known to be unhealthy and where medical attention is inadequate.

AI has received no information indicating that any of those named above have been involved in violent activities. The organization will consider as prisoners of conscience those who have not used or advocated violence and have been arrested for their peaceful trade union activities.

PLEASE CONTINUE ACTION AS RECOMMENDED IN ORIGINAL ACTION AND IN ADDITION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- seeking assurances that the physical integrity of all detainees is being guaranteed;
- requesting guarantees that the state of siege will not be used as justification for the arbitrary arrest of people on the grounds of their legal trade union activities; and that its application does not infringe the basic rights of those detained guaranteed by the Constitution such as the right of *Habeas Corpus* and of not being held in incommunicado detention over 24 hours;
- asking for information on the present health condition of the four men mentioned above and request that adequate medical attention be provided.

APPEALS TO:

PRESIDENT

Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente
Lic. Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada
Palacio de Gobierno, La Paz, Bolivia

Faxes: + 5912 392606

Telegrams: Sr. Presidente, Palacio de Gobierno, La Paz, Bolivia

Salutation: Su Excelencia / Your Excellency

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Sr. Ministro de Relaciones
Exteriores y Culto
Dr. Antonio Aranibar Quiroga
Ministerio de Relaciones
Exteriores y Culto, La Paz, Bolivia

Faxes: + 5912 371155

Telegrams: Sr. Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, La Paz, Bolivia

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT (formerly Minister of Interior)

Sr. Ministro de Gobierno

Dr. Carlos Sánchez Berzaín

Av. Arce esq. Belisario Salinas, La Paz, Bolivia

Faxes: + 5912 371334

Telegrams: Sr. Ministro de Gobierno, La Paz, Bolivia

Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Permanent Assembly for Human Rights

Asamblea Permanente de los Derechos Humanos de Bolivia

Cajón Postal 9282, La Paz Bolivia

Human Rights Commission Chamber of Deputies

Comisión de Derechos Humanos

Cámara de Diputados

Sr. Presidente Juan del Granado

Palacio Legislativo (edf.anexo)

La Paz, Bolivia

and to diplomatic representatives of BOLIVIA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 June 1995.