

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 53/10/95

15 September 1995

Further information on UA 176/95 (AMR 53/09/95, 19 July 1995) - Fear of Torture

VENEZUELA                    Isabelino Bustamante, aged 60 (corrected age)

and new names:            José Hernández, aged 27  
                             Miguel Angel Guerrero, aged 55  
                             Francisco Lara, aged 51  
                             Martín Alavarez, aged 54  
                             Juan Gómez, aged 47  
                             Rodolfo Alvarez, aged 22  
                             Antonio Domínguez, aged 61  
                             Justo Pereira, aged 65  
                             Trina Díaz (f), aged 58  
                             José Ballona, aged 40  
                             Alvaro Ballona, aged 29  
                             Guillermo López, aged 48  
                             Ana de López (f), aged 49  

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                             ~~Mirian López (f), aged 17~~  
                             Judith Baldozo (f), aged 24  
                             Octavio Sabogal, aged 34  
                             Luis Arguello, aged 39  
                             Marcos Sánchez, aged 60

Amnesty International has received detailed reports of the torture of the 19 people named above (originally thought to have been 20). All have now been released from detention. The 19 had been arrested in Guasdalito, Apure State, by the *Policia Técnica Judicial* (PTJ), Judicial Technical Police, between the 8 and 27 July 1995 (not all on the 19 July, as previously reported).

The detainees have been interviewed and examined by medical personnel from the well-known Caracas-based non-governmental organization, *Red de Apoyo por la Justicia y la Paz*, Support Network for Peace and Justice. All were reportedly suffering from various post-traumatic symptoms, both psychological and physical. The detainees have described the various torture methods and threats that were used against them. They also stated that, while in detention, they were forced into signing statements that they had not been tortured, and they had been denied medical care before and after their torture.

The official forensic doctor of Guasdalito is said to have stated in a report to the government that the detainees were in perfect physical condition, and the state attorney (*Fiscal*) of Guasdalito has also apparently stated that the detainees were not tortured. However, one of the detainees alleges that he asked the prosecutor to intervene to stop the torture, but when she (the state attorney) communicated this to the authorities, the detainee in question was subjected to further torture.

To Amnesty International's knowledge, no investigation has been initiated into the detainees' allegations of torture and the subsequent medical confirmation of these allegations by the medical personnel of *Red de Apoyo*.

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

- expressing serious concern at the allegations of torture of 19 detainees arrested by the *Polícia Técnica Judicial* between the 8 and 27 July 1995, which have been confirmed by independent medical examinations;
- expressing serious concern at the allegation that one of the detainees was tortured a second time, apparently as punishment for having asked the state attorney to intervene to stop the torture;
- expressing concern that the official government forensic report is said to have claimed that the detainees were in good health, which is contrary to convincing evidence (including independent medical documentation) that the detainees were tortured;
- urging a thorough and impartial investigation into these allegations and for any official found responsible to be brought to justice; asking to be kept informed of the outcome of these investigations;
- calling for the 19 to be granted appropriate compensation and medical care as required.

*Appeals from doctors would be welcome.*

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Interior

Dr. Ramón Escovar Salom  
 Ministro de Relaciones Interiores  
 Ministerio de Relaciones Interiores  
 Carmelitas a Santa Capilla  
 Caracas, Venezuela

**Telegrams: Ministro Interior, Caracas, Venezuela**

**Telexes: 26429 EXTER VC**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

2) Attorney General

Dr. Iván Darío Badell  
 Fiscal General de la República  
 La Candelaria, Caracas, Venezuela

**Telegrams: Ministro del Interior, Caracas, Venezuela**

**Telexes: 24787 EXTER VC**

**Faxes: + 582 564 7461**

**Salutation: Señor Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General**

3) Minister of Defence

General Orozco Graterol  
 Ministro de Defensa  
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
 Fuerte Tiuna, Conejo Blanco  
 El Valle,  
 Caracas, Venezuela

**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Caracas, Venezuela**

**Faxes: + 582 662 8829**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro de Defensa, Caracas, Venezuela**

**COPIES TO:**

Human rights group

Sres.

Red de Apoyo

Apartado 17.476

Parque Central  
Caracas, 1015-A  
Venezuela  
**Faxes: + 58 2 574 1949 / 8005**

and to diplomatic representatives of Venezuela accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 November 1995