

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 308/94 (AMR 53/07/94, 23 August 1994) - Ill-treatment / Fear of torture

VENEZUELA José Manuel FLORES, teacher and community organizer
 José Gregorio GUEDEZ
 Rubén SÁNCHEZ
 José Luis SÁNCHEZ

and new names Freddy PÉREZ PANIAGUA, student
 and another student named PARRA (first name unknown)

A relative of José Manuel Flores who saw him briefly on 22 August 1994, obtained confirmation that the four men named above had been tortured. José Manuel Flores told his relative that they had been subjected to electrical shocks to the testicles, armpits and mouth, hung by the hands with chains and beaten severely on the back and the buttocks by members of the *Dirección de los Servicios de Inteligencia y Prevención (DISIP)*, Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services, in Valencia, state of Carabobo, between 17 and 20 August, after which they were transferred to Caracas. The four remain under the direct supervision of military intelligence, *Dirección de Inteligencia Militar (DIM)*, in Caracas.

Freddy Pérez Paniagua, a student of engineering at the University of Carabobo was detained by four members of the DIM in Valencia on 26 August. He was reportedly held in incommunicado detention until 29 August. A student of law at the University of Carabobo, whose surname is Parra, was detained with Freddy Pérez Paniagua and released shortly afterwards. He claims to have been tortured with electricity by the DIM, using the method known as the *garrocha*, a type of electrical prod wrapped around in a cloth. Parra says that Freddy Pérez was also tortured. A member of the Human Rights Commission of the Carabobo State Legislature visited Freddy Pérez on 29 August and confirmed that he showed signs of having been tortured.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing serious concern about reports that José Manuel Flores, José Gregorio Guedez, Rubén Sánchez and José Luis Sánchez, who continue to be held by the *Dirección de Inteligencia Militar* since their arrest on 17 August 1994, were tortured by members of the *Dirección de los Servicios de Inteligencia y Prevención (DISIP)*;
- expressing serious concern about reports that Freddy Pérez Paniagua, held since 26 August by the *Dirección de Inteligencia Militar* in Valencia, state of Carabobo, has been tortured while in incommunicado detention; expressing concern that another student named Parra was also reportedly tortured by members of the *DISIP*;
- requesting that an immediate and impartial investigation be carried out into all these allegations of torture and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- seeking assurances that all detainees are treated humanely in accordance with international standards of detention such as the UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment; urging that all be granted immediate access to relatives, lawyers,

representatives from the attorney general's office (*Fiscalía General de la República*) and that they receive an independent medical examination.

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

Faxes: +58 2 812861 / 812867 / 812890 (if voice line, please say: "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. 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

Salutation: Sr Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human rights group

Sres.
Asociación de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
Edif. Facultad de Derecho
Entrada por Boulevard
Valencia
Estado Carabobo, Venezuela

Daily newspaper

Sres. El Diario de Caracas
Final Av. Principal
Boleíta Norte
Caracas, Venezuela

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 11 October 1994.