

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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PLEASE SEND UP TO 15 APPEALS PER SECTION

UA 64/92      Threats and Harassment

20 February 1992

COLOMBIA

Hernando CRUZ MODESTO

Amnesty International has learned that Hernando Cruz Modesto has been the victim of threats and harassment by Colombian military intelligence is concerned for his safety.

According to eye-witness reports, at approximately 3 pm on 15 February 1992, between six and ten men arrived at Hernando Cruz' home. They identified themselves to his family as members of Military Intelligence Battalion "Charry Solano", Batallón de Inteligencia "Charry Solano". Although not carrying a legal search warrant, two of the men went to the second floor of the building and questioned one of Hernando Cruz' children as to the whereabouts of his father. When another of his children asked them to explain their presence, they refused. They stayed for an hour, asking questions about several people including a brother of Hernando Cruz who is leader of the National Peasants Association ANUC, Asociación Nacional de Usuarios Campesinos, with whom Hernando Cruz had not reportedly had contact for 15 years.

Between the years 1972 to 1981 Hernando Cruz was detained three times by Colombian security forces and suffered one attempt on his life. After each period of detention, during each of which he alleges he was tortured, he was released without charge or acquitted by the courts.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** (note for translators: please see UA 51/92 AMR 23/09/92)

In September 1991 the Procurator General's office produced an official report which stating that more than 2,300 complaints had been lodged against the army and police in the last two years for human rights violations. President César Gaviria Trujillo, on presenting the report, stated:

***"No puede el Gobierno desconocer la gravedad de las acusaciones que se hacen en forma reiterada y masiva contra sus agentes, ni ignorar hasta que punto reina la impunidad por violación de derechos humanos."***

***"The government cannot fail to recognise the seriousness of the accusations made constantly and on a massive scale against its agents, nor ignore the extent of impunity in cases of human rights violations".***

However, despite the government's commitment to uphold respect for human rights, members of the Colombian armed forces have continued to commit serious abuses, including torture,

extrajudicial execution and "disappearance" with virtual impunity.

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

- expressing concern for the physical integrity of Hernando Cruz Modesto;
- urging that there be an immediate investigation into the threats and harrassment against him;
- urging that the Colombian government take all possible measures to protect the lives of civilians and ensure that they are able to carry out their lawful activities.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of the Republic:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño, Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 283 3066, + 57 1 286 7324, + 57 1 287 7937**

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Gaviria**

2) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Procuraduría General

Edificio Banco Ganadero

Carrera 5, No. 15-80, Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472**

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador General de la Nación / Dear Dr Arrieta**

3) Minister of Defence:

Dr Rafael Pardo Rueda

Ministro De Defensa Nacional

Ministerio de Defensa Nacional

Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52

Santa Fe de Bogotá , Colombia

**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874**

**Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister**

4) Chief of Military Intelligence:

General José Manuel Bonnet Locarno

Jefe de Inteligencia de las Fuerzas Armadas

Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52

Santa Fe de Bogotá

Colombia

**Telegrams: General Bonnet Locarno, Jefe Fuerzas Armadas, Santa Fe de**

Bogota, Colombia

Salutation: Estimado General / Dear General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Lawyers' Organization:

Corporación Colectivo de Abogados

AA 44456

Santa Fe de Bogota

COLOMBIA

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 April 1992.