

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**29 June 1992**

**Further information on UA 213/92 (AMR 23/37/92, 25 June 1992) - Fear of Torture/"Disappearance"**

**COLOMBIA: Gabriel FLOREZ OVIEDO, peasant leader and human rights activist and two other men (names unknown)**

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Amnesty International has learned that Gabriel Flórez Oviedo and the two men arrested with him have been released. According to information received, the three men were tortured while in the custody of the Colombian army.

Gabriel Flórez and the two other men (whose first names are believed to be Pedro and Salomon) were detained by an army patrol early in the morning of the 22 June 1992 in the hamlet of Montebello, municipality of San Vicente de Chucuri, department of Santander. According to statements made by the three men after their release, they were made to wear army camouflage uniforms and were taken by the patrol to search for guerrilla camps in the area. They were allegedly subjected to beatings and other torture in an attempt to extract information from them about the whereabouts of the guerrilla forces.

Amnesty International has received numerous reports of members of rural communities being seized by the army in order to employ them as "guides" in areas of high guerrilla activity. The "guides" are often required to carry heavy equipment for troops and to lead the military patrol in their march to suspected guerrilla zones. They are sometimes killed in ensuing armed confrontations or by the soldiers if they are suspected of being guerrilla sympathisers.

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

- welcoming the release of Gabriel Flórez Oviedo and the two men detained with him by the Colombian army;

- expressing concern at reports that the three men were tortured by army personnel and were made to accompany the army patrol in its search for guerrilla camps;

- urging that a full and impartial investigation be conducted into the arbitrary detention and alleged torture of Gabriel Flórez and two other men and that those responsible be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 286 3066; + 57 1 286 7323**

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

2) Procurator General

Dr Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Edificio Banco Gandero  
Carrera 5, No 15-80  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Procurator General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO, 41213 PGNDP CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 284 0471**

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador 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 de Defensa Pardo Rueda, Bogotá,**  
**Colombia**  
**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO, 44561 CFAC CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro**  
**Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Human Rights Group  
Señores  
CSPP

AA 22803  
Santa Fe de Bogotá  
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 10 August 1992.