

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 307/91 (AMR 23/50/91, 11 September 1991) and follow-up (AMR 23/53/91, 24 September 1991) - Fear of "Disappearance"/ Torture

COLOMBIA:Gildardo GOMEZ

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Amnesty International has received information that the Military Investigative Court of Barrancabermeja, Santander department, has issued warrants for the arrest of three members of the Colombian armed forces in connection with the "disappearance" and subsequent killing of Gildardo Gómez. Gildardo Gómez was last seen alive on 6 September 1991, when he was detained by members of the armed forces. His body was found, showing signs of severe torture and gunshot wounds, on 18 September.

Whilst Amnesty International welcomes the progress of the investigation into the killing of Gildardo Gómez, there is concern that only exceptionally do such investigations lead to the prosecution and conviction of those actually responsible for human rights violations in Colombia. In September 1991 the Procurator General's office produced an official report which stated 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"*.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- welcoming the progress of the investigation into the killing of Gildardo Gómez, urging that the investigation be thorough and that the results continue to be made public;
- urging that once criminal responsibility has been established, adequate compensation be made to the relatives of Gildardo Gómez.

FURTHER APPEALS TO:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo                      Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogota, Colombia  
Telexes:    44281 PALP CO  
Faxes:        + 57 1 283 3066  
              + 57 1 286 7324  
              + 57 1 287 7937

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla                      Sr. Procurador General de la Nación  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Procuraduría General  
Edificio Banco Ganadero  
Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogota, Colombia  
Telexes:    41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO  
Faxes:        + 57 1 284 0472

Capitán Rafael Neira    Sr. Capitán  
Batallón Nueva Granada  
Comandante de la Base Militar  
Yondó  
Antioquia, Colombia

Telegrams: Capitan Neira, Batallon Nueva Granada, Base Militar, Yondo,  
Antioquia, Colombia

COPIES TO:

CREDHOS  
AA 505  
Barrancabermeja  
Santander, 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 27 November 1991.