

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 419/91 Fear of "Disappearance"

29 November 1991

COLOMBIA Samuel MIRANDA CHAPARRO

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of 35 year-old farmer Samuel Miranda Chaparro, who has not been seen since 20 November 1991.

According to reports, Samuel Miranda left his home in the municipality of Rionegro, Santander department at 6 am that day on a bus going to the provincial capital Bucaramanga to look over a small farm in the nearby municipality of Matanza. He was last seen at 9 am in the central square of Bucaramanga. Since that time his family have been unable to ascertain his whereabouts.

Samuel Miranda, a father of six, is a political activist and member of the Asociación Nacional de Usuarios Campesinos, National Peasants Association. He was imprisoned for political reasons in September 1989 and conditionally released January 1990. After his release he was forced to move to a different part of the country as a result of threats to his life. In view of his political activities and the threats against him, Amnesty International fears he may have "disappeared" following arrest by members of the security forces.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports of human rights abuses including "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions. Principal targets have been people associated with legal left-wing parties, civic and community movements and trades unions. The majority of abuses have been attributed by Colombian authorities to civilian "death squads" which it claims it is unable to control. However independent investigations, including judicial inquiries, have concluded that many such groups operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian armed forces.

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

- expressing concern for the physical safety of Samuel Miranda Chaparro, who has not been seen since 20 November 1991;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry to establish his whereabouts;
- urging that if in detention, his legal situation be clarified and he be immediately released unless charged with a recognizable criminal offence and that he be allowed access to a lawyer and relatives;

- urging that he be humanely treated whilst in detention.

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, Bogota, 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, Bogota, 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, Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO
Faxes: +57 1 222 1874

[Salutation: **Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**]

COPIES TO:

Association of Relatives of the Disappeared:
Señores
ASFADDES
AA011446
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 January 1992.