

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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THIS IS A LIMITED ACTION: PLEASE LIMIT YOUR APPEALS TO 15 PER SECTION.

UA 08/94 Fear of Disappearance/Fear for safety 13 January 1994

COLOMBIA: Marisela CARDENAS BUSTAMENTE, aged 13.

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the "disappearance" of Marisela Cardenas Bustamente on 4 January 1994 in Remedios, department of Antioquia.

According to reports, Marisela Cardenas Bustamente was last seen going to visit a soldier friend stationed at the military base in the town. Since that time her whereabouts remain unknown.

In attempts to locate Marisela Cardenas Bustamente, the town's human rights ombudsman (*personero*) and two members of the local human rights committee (*Comité de Derechos Humanos*), together with three of Marisela's relations, went to the military base. They were received by the corporal in charge of the military base who reportedly proceeded to attack the delegation verbally and reprimand his subordinate on guard duty for not having opened fire on the visitors. He denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of Marisela Cardenas Bustamente.

The ombudsman has also visited military bases in the vicinity of Remedios looking for the Marisela Cardenas Bustamente, but to no avail. There is serious concern for her safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, arbitrary arrest, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. President César Gaviria Trujillo has repeatedly pledged his government's commitment to protect human rights. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces continue to commit serious abuses including extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" with virtual impunity. Civic leaders, trade unionists and human rights activists are amongst the groups frequently targeted by the security forces for arbitrary arrest and other forms of human rights abuse.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Marisela Cardenas Bustamente who has not been seen since 4 January 1994, when she went to visit a soldier friend at the military base in Remedios, department of Antioquia;

- urging that she be immediately released if held by the security forces;

- urging that there be an immediate and thorough enquiry by the national authorities to establish her whereabouts, in support of enquiries already initiated by the town's ombudsman;

- urging that the investigators be given full access to the military base concerned and that the reported threatening and intimidatory behaviour of the army corporal be investigated;

APPEALS TO:1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324/7434/287 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 Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472

Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación

Dear Dr. Arrieta

3) Governor of Antioquia:

Sr. Juan Gómez Martínez
 Gobernador de Antioquia
 Gobernación de Antioquia
 Carrera 42B, No.52-106
 Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

**Telegrams: Gobernador de Antioquia, Sr.
 Gómez Martínez, Medellín, Colombia**

Faxes: +57 4 251 8539 or 251 8559

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor

4) Commander of IV Brigade:

Brigadier General Mario Hugo Galán Rodríguez
 Comandante de la IV Brigada
 Calle 50, No.76-126
 Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

**Telegrams: Comandante de la IV Brigada,
 Medellín, Colombia**

Faxes: +57 4 260 3850

Salutation: Sr.Comandante/Dear Commander

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:1) Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared":

Señores
 ASFADDES
 AA 011446
 Santa Fé de Bogotá
 Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 February 1994.