

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 22/93 (AMR 23/04/93, 29 January 1993) and follow-up AMR 23/05/93 of 2 February 1993 - Fear of "disappearance"/torture and new concern Possible extrajudicial executions

COLOMBIA: Ramón VILLEGAS

Gustavo CORONEL

Luis Alfonso ASCANIO

Wilson QUINTERO

Luis Ernesto ASCANIO, aged 15 and family (incorrectly given as family of Luis Alfonso ASCANIO in AMR 23/05/93)

Amnesty International has learned with concern that the bodies of Gustavo Coronel, Luis Alfonso Ascanio and Wilson Quintero have been found and identified. There was serious concern for the safety of these three men and of Ramón Villegas, following their detention on 12 January 1993 by members of the Colombian army's Mobile Brigade No. 2, Brigada Móvil No. 2. They were taken from their homes in the community of San José del Tarra, Hacarí, Norte de Santander department, but their detention was later denied by military authorities.

The Mobile Brigade No. 2 handed over the bodies of a number of men they claimed were "killed in combat" to the local magistrate's office, Unidad Regional de Fiscalía, in the nearby town of Ocaña. The armed forces frequently claim that victims of extrajudicial execution by members of the armed forces are "guerrillas killed in combat".

Following the "disappearance" of the above four men, a unit from the Special Investigations department of the Procurator General's Office, Oficina de Investigaciones Especiales de la Procuraduría General de la Nación was sent to the area to carry out an investigation and was reportedly able to identify three of the bodies handed over by the Mobile Brigade as being those of Gustavo Coronel, Luis Alfonso Ascanio and Wilson Quintero. As a result of their investigation they reportedly learnt that Ramón Villegas, the fourth man, was still being held by the army, though the circumstances of his detention are unclear.

In AMR 23/05/93, of 2 February 1993, Amnesty International stated its concern for the safety of the family of Luis Alfonso Ascanio. The organization has now learned that the family in question was that of Luis Ernesto Ascanio (who is no relation to Luis Alfonso Ascanio). Luis Ernesto Ascanio has not been seen since 26 January 1993 when he reportedly left the *finca*, small farm, where he was working to return home after becoming concerned about the safety of his family, who were being held hostage by the Mobile Brigade No. 2. At the time, the area in which he "disappeared" was heavily militarized, but the armed forces have denied his detention and his whereabouts remain unknown. His family were reportedly held hostage by the Mobile

Brigade No. 2 until 7 February, when his mother, Ana Avelina Ascanio and her other, younger children managed to leave the area. She has denounced her treatment by the Mobile Brigade to the Procurator's office and to a delegation of the International Red Cross.

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

- expressing concern that Gustavo Coronel, Luis Alfonso Ascanio and Wilson Quintero were killed in circumstances suggesting they were extrajudicially executed;

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- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into the killing of these men, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;

- expressing concern for the safety of Luis Ernesto Ascanio, who "disappeared" on 26 January 1993 from the heavily militarized area of Hacarí and urging that there be a thorough investigation into his whereabouts;

- urging that if he is in detention that he be humanely treated, allowed access to lawyers and relatives, and that he be charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought before a competent court or immediately released;

- urging that there be an immediate investigation into the treatment of Ana Avelina Ascanio and her family by the Mobile Brigade and that all possible measures be taken to protect them.

APPEALS TO:

1) 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,

**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO;
44561 CFAC CO**
Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874

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

**Bogotá,
Colombia**

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

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

2) 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, Bogota, Colombia**

3) Commander of 2nd Mobile Brigade:
Brigadier General Agustín Ardila Uribe
Comandante Brigada Móvil No. 2
Ministerio de Defensa
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
**Telegrams: Comandnante Brigada Móvil No
2, Ministerio Defensa,
Bogotá, Colombia**
**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO;
44561 CFAC CO**
Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874

**Salutation: Estimado Comandante /
Dear Sir**

4) 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 7324
+ 57 1 287 7937**

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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights Organization:
Señores
CSPP
AA 22803
Santafé 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 5 March 1993.