

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 121/92 Fear of Torture/"Disappearance"

COLOMBIA: Adela ACEVEDO LOMBANA (female)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Adela Acevedo Lombana, who has not been seen since her reported detention by Colombian army intelligence officials on 5 April 1992, close to the town of Paipa, Boyacá department.

According to reports, Adela Acevedo was travelling on a bus which was stopped by two army intelligence officials from the "Silva Plazas" army battalion, Batallón "Silvia Plazas". Eye-witnesses say that the army officials made her get off the bus, reportedly declaring that they had come for "the whore of a guerrilla", "*la hijueputa guerrillera*"; and that she was ill-treated before being forced into a waiting taxi. Passengers on the bus report seeing Adela Acevedo being taken into the Batallón "Silvia Plazas" army base.

Her detention was denounced to the local ombudsman, Personero Municipal, of nearby Duitama, who made inquiries with the Battalion Commander as to her detention. He reportedly denied that she was being held by the "Silvia Plazas" Battalion and military authorities are still denying holding her. The whereabouts of Adela Acevedo remain unknown and there is serious concern for her safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (Translators: please see UA 105/92, AMR 23/15/92, 30 March, for same text)

In September 1991 the Procurator General's office produced an official report stating 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".

However, despite the government's declared commitment to uphold respect for human rights, members of the Colombian armed forces continue to commit serious abuses, including torture, extrajudicial execution and "disappearance" with virtual impunity.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Adela Acevedo Lombana, who has not been seen since her reported detention by members of military intelligence on 5 April 1992;
- expressing concern at her reported ill-treatment at the time of detention;
- urging an immediate and thorough inquiry into her whereabouts;
- urging that she be released unless charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- urging that while in detention she be humanely treated and provided with full access to lawyers and relatives.

APPEALS TO:

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1. Battalion Commander:

Comandante del Batallón "Silvia Plazas"
 Km 10 Duitama, vía a Paipa-Bonza
 Boyacá
 COLOMBIA

**Sr. Comandante /
 Dear Commander**

Telegrams: Comandante, Batallon "Silvia Plazas", Boyaca, Colombia

2. President of the Republic:

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

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

Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 283 3066; + 57 1 286 7324; + 57 1 287 7937

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

**Sr. Ministro /
 Dear Minister**

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO

Faxes: +57 1 222 1874

4. 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

**Sr. Procurador General de la Nación /
 Dear Dr. Arrieta**

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

5. Advocate for the People:

Dr Jaime Córdoba Triviño
 Defensor del Pueblo
 Procuraduría General
 Edificio Banco Ganadero
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80
 Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Estimado Dr Triviño /
 Dear Dr. Triviño**

Telegrams: Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, c/o Procuraduria General, Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 41224 PREGN CO OR 41213 pgndp CO
Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Lawyers Collective
Corporación Colectivo de Abogados
AA 44456
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 22 May 1992.