

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/25/91
Distr: UA/SC

UA 136/91 Possible Extrajudicial Execution

24 April 1991

COLOMBIA: Gloria Elsa RODRIGUEZ, student leader (f)
Alfredo Eduardo HUL

Amnesty International is concerned about the killing of Gloria Elsa Rodríguez and Alfredo Eduardo Hul between 15 and 19 April 1991 in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution.

Gloria Elsa Rodríguez and Alfredo Eduardo Hul were last seen on 15 April 1991 in the municipality of Dagua, Juntas, Valle del Cauca department, when eye-witnesses report that they were detained by members of the army's *Batallón Palacé*, Palacé Battalion, based in Buga, Valle del Cauca. They were reportedly made to climb into an army truck with ropes around their necks and were then driven away. On 17 April, the army's III Brigade issued a communique by radio, which was later repeated in the written press, that two guerrillas from the armed opposition group *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias Colombianas (FARC)*, Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces, had been killed during a confrontation with the army in Dagua. They named Gloria Elsa Rodríguez and Alfredo Eduardo Hul. Two days later, their bodies were discovered, in an isolated place seven hours walk from where their detention allegedly took place, at the source of the river Pepitas. According to the doctor who carried out an examination of the bodies, they had been shot in the head at point-blank range and their bodies showed signs of torture.

Gloria Elsa Rodríguez was a law student and well known as a student leader in Cali, the capital of Valle del Cauca. She had apparently visited Dagua to collect information for her university thesis on the subject of human rights violations. Alfredo Eduardo Hul was a local man who was accompanying her in the collection of information.

The killings have been denounced to the regional procurator, who has a human rights monitoring role in Colombia.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years, widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia. Counter-insurgency operations by the Armed Forces have been progressively intensified to combat the country's guerrilla groups. In areas where guerrilla forces are active, the local civilian population is often perceived by the armed forces as potential collaborators and has, as a result, been subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution by army personnel and civilians working for them. Civic, community and student leaders have been particular targets.

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

- expressing concern at the torture and killing of Gloria Elsa Rodríguez and Alfredo Eduardo Hul in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution;
- urging that there be an immediate inquiry into their deaths, the results of which should be made public;

- urging that all possible measures should be taken to protect the lives of student leaders to ensure that they are able to carry out their lawful activities.

APPEALS TO:

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

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

General Oscar Botero Restrepo
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
 Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO
Faxes: +57 1 222 2401; +57 1 222 1874

Dr. Gustavo Arrieta
 Procurador General de la Nación
 Edificio Banco Ganadero
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80
 Bogotá, Colombia

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

Brigadier General Manuel José Bonnet Locarno
 Comandante de la III Brigada
 Avenida 4 N, Calle 18 y 19
 Cali
 Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Telegrams: Comandante 3-Brigada, Cali, Colombia

COPIES TO:

Señores (Comité de Solidaridad con Presos
 CSPP Políticos)
 AA 22803
 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 5 June 1991.