

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 158/92 (AMR 23/22/92, 13 May 1992) - Possible
"Disappearance"

COLOMBIA: Efraín RINCON RAMIREZ, farm worker
Efraín PINZON, farm worker

Amnesty International has received further information concerning farm workers Efraín Rincón and Efraín Pinzón, who were detained by members of the Colombian army's XIV Brigade on 9 May 1992 in Bajo Simacota in the central Magdalena Medio region of Colombia.

The army had reportedly denied holding the two men and despite efforts by their families, local human rights organizations and the provincial procurator's office, Procuraduría Provincial de Barrancabermeja, their whereabouts had not been established and there was serious concern for their safety.

According to the information received, the detention of Efraín Rincón and Efraín Pinzón was acknowledged by the army on 15 May, when they were handed over to a judge in the town of Puerto Parra. The army had reportedly obliged the two men to take part in military patrols in the Baja Simacota region.

Amnesty International has received several reports of members of rural communities being seized by the army in order to employ them as "guides" in areas of guerrilla activity. The "guides" are often required to carry heavy equipment for troops and lead the military patrol in their march to suspected guerrilla zones. They are sometimes killed in ensuing armed confrontations or by the soldiers if they are suspected of being "guerrilla sympathisers".

No further appeals from the UA network are necessary at this time. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. The human rights organization which sent Amnesty International this information, expressed their thanks for the action taken by Amnesty International members which, in their opinion, had led to the reappearance of Efraín Rincón and Efraín Pinzón.