

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 134/93 Fear of "disappearance"

26 April 1993

COLOMBIA: Reinaldo AMOROCHO, travelling salesman

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Reinaldo Amorocho, identity card no. 13 640.051 of San Vicente de Chucuri, Santander department, who has not been seen since 7 April 1993 when he was reportedly detained by members of the armed forces.

According to eyewitnesses, Reinaldo Amorocho was detained at approximately 6.30 am on 7 April by members of the army's Guane battalion, which is attached to the Vth Brigade, batallón Guane de la V Brigada. At the time of his detention he was travelling in the department of Santander in the area where the three departments of Santander, Norte de Santander and César meet. His detention has not been acknowledged and there is serious concern for his safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The largely rural area of the Magdalena Medio in central Colombia has been a focus of political violence for several years following the emergence of guerrilla groups in the 1960s and the subsequent militarization of the region during the 1980s. Peace talks between the remaining active guerrilla groups and the government broke down last year and there has been a resultant increase in guerrilla activity and in the armed forces counter-guerrilla operations. The government declared a national state of emergency in November 1992. In areas where guerrilla forces are active, members of the local population are often perceived by the armed forces as potential guerrilla collaborators and have, as a result, been subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution by army personnel and paramilitary forces.

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 Reinaldo Amorocho, who has not been seen since 7 April 1993 when witnesses observed his detention by soldiers from the army's Guane battalion, attached to the Vth Brigade;
- urging an immediate and thorough inquiry into his whereabouts;
- urging that if he is in detention, that he be humanely treated and allowed access to lawyers and relatives;
- urging that if in detention, that he be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or released immediately.

APPEALS TO

1) Commander of the army's Fifth Brigade
Brigadier General Roberto Cifuentes Ordoñez
Comandante de la V Brigada
Bucaramanga
Calle 14, Carrera 33
Santander

**Salutation: Estimado
Comandante /
Dear Sir**

Telegrams: Comandante V Brigada, Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Page 2 of UA 134/93

2) Attorney General:
Dr. Gustavo de Greiff
Fiscal General
Fiscalia General
Apartado Aéreo 29855
Santafé de Bogotá
Colombia

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia
Faxes: + 57 1 287 0939

Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff / Dear Dr. de Greiff

3) 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, Bogotá, Colombia
Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

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

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 and Educational Organization:
Señores
CINEP
AA 25916
Santa Fe 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 7 June 1993.