

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture/"Disappearance"

3 June 1992

COLOMBIA:

David GIRALDO, aged 33
Edgar GRANADA, aged 16

Amnesty International is concerned for the physical integrity of two people, one a minor, following their detention by the army on 29 May 1992 in central Colombia's Magdalena Medio region.

According to eye witness reports, David Giraldo, aged 33, and Edgar Granada, aged 16, were detained by members of the army's Mobile Brigade No.2 (*Brigada Móvil*) at noon on 29 May in the village (*vereda*) La Concha, municipality of Yondó in Antioquia department. Their detention is being denied by the army and despite efforts by their families and the local human rights organization, their whereabouts have not been established. Three other people were detained by the Mobile Brigade at the same time, two of whom were later released and a third man killed in circumstances which remain unclear.

Amnesty International has no further details about the detentions, but is concerned for the safety of David Giraldo and Edgar Granada following reports of the presence of the Mobile Brigade No.2 in the region ten days prior to their detention, during which time attacks took place on the local peasant communities by the brigade.

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 subsequent militarization of the region during the 1980s. The regional human rights committee, Comité Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, (CREDHOS) has expressed serious concern about the escalation of human rights abuses in recent months, including enforced recruitment, torture, extrajudicial execution and "disappearance" committed by the Colombian army, police and paramilitary organizations working with them, against members of the civilian population perceived as potential guerrilla collaborators.

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

- expressing concern at the possible "disappearance" of David Giraldo and Edgar Granada, a minor aged 16, following their detention by the Colombian army ;
- urging that their legal situation be clarified and that they be treated humanely and allowed full access to family and lawyers;
- urging that they be immediately released unless charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought before a competent court.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of Colombia: **Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /**
Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo **Dear President Gaviria**
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 3066;
+ 57 1 286 7324; + 57 1 287 7937

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2) Procurator General:
Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla **Sr. Procurador de la Nación /**
Procurador General de la Nación **Dear Dr Arrieta**
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia
Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO; 41213 PGNDP CO
Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

3) Minister of Defence
Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda **Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda, Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO
Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874

4. Commander, Mobile Brigade No.2
Brigadier General Fernando Tapias Sterling **Sr. Brigadier General/ Dear Sir**
Comandante
Brigada Móvil No. 2
c/o Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Brigadier General Tapias Sterling, Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO
Faxes:+ 57 1 222 1874

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Señores
CREDHOS
AA 505
Barrancabermeja
Santander
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 15 July 1992.