

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/30/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 121/94

Fear of "disappearance"

25 March 1994

COLOMBIA:

Luis Eduardo DIAZ, aged 34

Julio Edgar GALVES QUIMBAY, aged 33, lawyer

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Luis Eduardo Díaz and Julio Edgar Galves Quimbay, who were last seen on 18 March 1994 in the Colombian capital of Bogotá. Despite extensive inquiries since that date, their whereabouts remain unknown.

According to sources, lawyer Julio Galves called his wife at 6 pm on 18 March and said that he was on his way to meet a friend. He never arrived at the meeting place and was not seen again. Luis Eduardo Díaz was at home on 18 March looking after his small child. However, when his partner arrived home in the evening, he was not there and there was no indication as to what had happened to him.

On 20 March both families received an anonymous phone call, stating that the men had been abducted and giving the license plate of a vehicle used in the abduction of one of them. Friends and relatives immediately proceeded to make extensive inquiries at branches of the city's security forces, including the Judicial Police, (*SIJIN*), Police Intelligence, (*F-2*), and the Civilian Security Department, *Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS)*, as well as at the city morgue, but without any results. However the vehicle reportedly used in the abduction of one of the men was located in the DAS car park.

The "disappearance" of the two men was denounced to the Judicial Police the same day, who reportedly confirmed the location of the vehicle. A formal complaint was also made to several official human rights agencies including the Procurator General, *Procuraduría General de la Nación*, and the Procurator's Special Investigations Unit, *Oficina de Investigaciones Especiales*, the People's Defender, *Defensoría del Pueblo*, and the Presidential Adviser on Human Rights, *Consejería Presidencial para los Derechos Humanos*.

Both Luis Eduardo Díaz and Julio Edgar Galves were members of armed opposition groups which demobilized in 1990 and 1991 to form legal opposition political parties, after reaching peace agreements with the government. A number of ex-guerrillas have since become victims of "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearance", torture and arbitrary arrest. Particular targets have been members of left-wing parties, community and trade union leaders. The majority of such abuses have been attributed by the Colombian authorities to civilian "death squads" which it claims it is unable to control. However, on the basis of available evidence, the organization concludes that many such abuses are carried out by members of the Colombian security forces or civilians working under their command or with their support.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Luis Eduardo Díaz and Julio Edgar Galves, who have not been seen since 18 March 1994 when they were reportedly abducted in Bogotá;

- urging that there be an immediate inquiry into their whereabouts;

- urging that, if in detention, they be humanely treated and allowed access to lawyers and relatives;

- urging that, if in detention, they be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or immediately released.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Director of the Department of State Security:

Dr. Fernando Brito

Director

Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad

Carrera 28, No. 17A-00

Santafé de Bogotá

COLOMBIA

**Telegrams: Director, Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad,  
Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes: 43363 JEDAS**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. Brito/Dear Dr. Brito**

2) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo

Presidente de la República

Palacio de Nariño

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 44281 PALP CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434/287 7939**

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

3) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla

Procurador General de la Nación

Procuraduría General

Edificio Banco Ganadero

Carrera 5, No. 15-80

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472**

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

4) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño

Defensor del Pueblo

Defensoría del Pueblo

Calle 35 No. 7-25 piso 5

Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo,  
Bogota, Colombia**

**Faxes: + 57 1 288 6683**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/Dear Dr. Triviño**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

Señores

ASFADDES

AA 011446

Santafé 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 6 May 1994.