

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 407/92 (AMR 23/74/92, 22 December 1992) -  
Torture/Fear for Safety

Colombia:Luís Fernando MARTINEZ  
Sonebia PINZON HERRERA (female)  
Marcela BECERRA PINZON (female), aged 2

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Amnesty International has received information from the Colombian Presidential Adviser on Human Rights, Consejero Presidencial para los Derechos Humanos concerning the case of Luís Fernando Martínez, Sonebia Pinzón Herrera and Marcela Becerra Pinzón.

Amnesty International was concerned at reports that on 7 November 1992 Luís Fernando Martínez and his family were subjected to torture, ill-treatment and threatened by members of the army's 2nd Mobile Brigade, Brigada Móvil No. 2. According to a written statement made by Sonebia Pinzón, Luís Fernando Martínez was forcefully taken from his home whilst soldiers raped Sonebia Pinzón and her two year-old daughter Marcela Becerra Pinzón. Medical examinations confirmed the allegations of rape.

The Presidential Adviser was informed by the Colombian Minister of Defence that preliminary investigations into the case had established that the soldiers had been formally charged with violent sexual assault, abusive sexual assault against a defenceless individual, rape and conspiracy to commit a crime, *acceso carnal violento, acceso carnal abusivo con incapacidad para resistir, violación ... y concierto para delinquir*. Four soldiers from the army's counter-guerrilla force battalion No. 18 "Cimarrones", Batallón de Contraguerrillas No. 18 "Cimarrones", attached to the 2nd Mobile Brigade, Brigada Móvil No. 2 are in military detention, from where they will be transferred to the civilian prison in Barrancabermeja.

While Amnesty International welcomes the progress of this investigation, there is concern that whilst many such investigations are opened in Colombia, they very rarely lead to the identification and prosecution of those responsible for the human rights violations.

Amnesty International is also concerned that the Colombian government should ensure effective protection of the lives of Luís Fernando Martínez, Sonebia Pinzón Herrera and Marcela Becerra Pinzón, as witnesses who have testified against human rights abuses in Colombia have on many occasions been the victims of further threats and harassment.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and

**airmail letters in Spanish, English or your own language:**

- welcoming the progress of the official investigation into the allegations of torture, ill-treatment and threats against Luís Fernando Martínez, Sonebia Pinzón Herrera and Marcela Becerra Pinzón and urging that those found responsible be brought to justice and the results made public;

- urging the authorities to take all possible measures to protect the lives of Luís Fernando Martínez, Sonebia Pinzón Herrera and Marcela Becerra Pinzón.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) 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**

2) Minister of Defence:

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda  
Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**

**Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) 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 Organization:

Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos  
AA 12817  
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 21 June 1993.