

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/45/90
Distr: UA/SC

19 September 1990

Further information on UA 92/89 (AMR 23/15/89, 6 April, and follow-up AMR 23/32/89, 14 July 1989) - Legal Concern/Fear of "Disappearance"

COLOMBIA Sandra Patricia VELEZ VELEZ

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Amnesty International has learnt with concern that the body of Sandra Patricia Vélez Vélez has been found. There had been no information as to her whereabouts since 25 February 1989, when she reportedly went missing following heavy bombardment by the army's XIV Brigade of the area in which she lived, apparently as part of an anti-guerrilla operation. Witnesses claimed to have seen her being detained by soldiers during the operation. Two other minors who "disappeared" at the same time and who were later handed over to their families by the military, claimed to have been held at an army base and to have seen Sandra Vélez there. However, her detention was denied by the military and Sandra Vélez, who was aged 15 and four months pregnant at the time of her "disappearance", did not reappear.

Her body was reportedly found by her parents in a shallow grave close to their house. Following an official exhumation, they were able to identify her by a ring and clothes she was wearing when she was last seen and by an old bone fracture. Close to the grave remains of army ration packs were reportedly found.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the killing of Sandra Patricia Vélez Vélez in circumstances suggesting she may have been the victim of extrajudicial execution;
- urging that there be an independent enquiry into her killing, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;

APPEALS TO

Dr Alfonso Gómez Méndez
Procurador General de la Nación
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, 15-80
Bogotá
Colombia

Brigadier General
Rodolfo Herrera Luna
Comandante de la XIV Brigada
Puerto Berrio
Antioquia
Colombia

Telegrams: Procurador General,
Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO; 412133

Telegrams: Comandante XIV Brigada
Puerto Berrio, Antioquia, Colombia

COPIES TO:

Señores
CINEP
AA 25916
Bogotá, 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 31 October 1990.