

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AMR 23/50/94
Distr: UA/SC**

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 25 per Section

30 June 1994

**Further information on UA 241/94 (AMR 23/48/94, 21 June 1994) - "Disappearance"
/ Death Threats**

**COLOMBIA Lacides BANDERA ARIZA
 Eliás MARÍA
new names: Julia Isabel AVILA PACHECO (f)
 Ledis Teresa VILLALOBOS (f)**

Amnesty International has just received news of the release of Lacides Bandera Ariza who was feared "disappeared" after his arbitrary detention by soldiers of the *Batallón de Magangué* (Magangué Battalion). He had been detained in Puerto Rico, Municipality of Pinillos, department of Bolívar on 3 June 1994, reportedly interrogated by the army and released several days after his detention. Reports state that he is in good health.

However, on 17 June, two women, Julia Isabel Avila Pacheco, mother of a seven-year-old child and Ledis Teresa Villalobos, mother of a one-year-old child, "disappeared" from the same village of Puerto Rico.

Reports indicate that the two women left their homes at 6.00pm on 17 June to buy medicines for one of the children who was ill. Julia Isabel's mother expected the two women to return that night, and when they did not she reported that they were missing to the community authorities. She was told that some people had seen the women going towards the military base.

The family members and the municipal police inspector went to the base where the *Patrulla Mixta del Batallón Nariño No.2 de Magangué* (Mixed Patrol of the Nariño No.2 Battalion of Magangué), the same battalion responsible for the detention of Lacides Bandera Ariza, is situated. There, the same lieutenant who had previously denied the detention of Lacides Bandera, claimed that the two women were not at the base.

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of the two women given that members of the community, including Eliás María, had received death threats when Lacides Bandera Ariza had been detained and that the local community is facing frequent verbal and physical threats from the army.

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

- welcoming Lacides Bandera Ariza's release, and urging that his safety be guaranteed;
- expressing concern for the safety of Julia Isabel Avila Pacheco and Ledis Teresa Villalobos who have not been seen since 17 June 1994 when they "disappeared" from the community of Puerto Rico, Municipality of Pinillos, department of Bolívar;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to establish 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 released immediately;

- urging that immediate and concrete steps be taken to guarantee the safety of all members of the community of Puerto Rico, particularly in view of the death threats received by some of them when Lacides Bandera Ariza was in detention;
- urging that these death threats be investigated, the findings be made public and those responsible brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:**1) President of Colombia:**

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Santa Fé 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

2) 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 1 342 9723

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

3) Mayor General Rodolfo Torrado Quintero
 Comandante de la Primera División del Ejército
 Santa Marta
 Magdalena

Telegrams: Mayor General Quintero, Santa Marta, Magdalena, Colombia

Salutation: Sr. Mayor General/Major General

4) Minister of Defence

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
 Santafé 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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Intercongregational Commission for Justice and Peace
 Comisión Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz
 AA 31.861
 Santa Fé 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 11 August 1994.