

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "Disappearance"/Torture

12 October 1990

COLOMBIA

Marino OCAMPO OCAMPO, aged 32

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Marino Ocampo Ocampo who was last seen on 9 October 1990 in Cali, capital of Valle del Cauca department.

According to reports, Marino Ocampo was seized on the street in the El Jardín district of Cali on the morning of 9 October by several armed men who arrived in two cars. Marino Ocampo had just left his home in order to collect his fortnightly wages. According to eye-witnesses one of the assailants wore military uniform. Marino Ocampo was driven away in one of the vehicles to an unknown destination. Military and police authorities have denied Marino Ocampo is in their custody.

Marino Ocampo, a 32-year-old bus driver, is a well-known civic leader involved in community issues in El Jardín. He is married with a 3-year-old son.

Regional authorities, including the Procurator, who has a human rights monitoring role, have been informed of the case of Marino Ocampo.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports of human rights violations in Colombia, including "disappearances". Local human rights groups estimate that over 1,500 people have "disappeared" and remain unaccounted for since 1980. Principal targets have been people associated with trade unions, civic and community movements and legal left-wing parties, as well as alleged members of or sympathisers with armed opposition groups. Amnesty International is not always in a position to establish responsibility for each individual "disappearance", as perpetrators are often not fully identified. However, on the basis of available evidence the organization concludes that many such abuses are carried out by members of the Colombia security forces or civilians working under their command. Cali has been particularly affected by "disappearances" in recent months.

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

- expressing concern at the possible "disappearance" of Marino Ocampo Ocampo;

- urging that there be an immediate investigation to establish his whereabouts;
- urging that if in detention, his legal situation be clarified and he be immediately released unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence and also allowed access to a lawyer and relatives;
- urging that he be humanely treated while in detention.

**APPEALS TO:**

Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio de Nariño  
 Bogotá  
 COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia  
 Telexes: 44281 PALP CO  
 Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324

General Oscar Botero  
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
 Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogotá, Colombia  
 Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO or 44561 CFAC CO  
 Faxes: +57 1 222 1874

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez  
 Procurador General de la Nación  
 Edificio Banco Ganadero  
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
 Bogotá  
 COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Procurador General Gómez, Bogotá, Colombia  
 Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO

**COPIES TO:**

Dra Zylia Márquez  
 Calle 2, 38 D, 37  
 Cali  
 Valle del Cauca  
 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 22 November 1990.

