

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 356/93      "Disappearance"

7 October 1993

COLOMBIA: José Drigelio DIAZ FIERRO known as "Polo", aged 27

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of José Drigelio Díaz Fierro, who has been missing since 30 September 1993 when he was abducted by armed men in Ibagué, department of Tolima.

José Drigelio Diaz Fierro was riding his motorbike to the San Roque Shopping Centre (Centro Comercial San Roque) when he was intercepted by a car and a pick-up truck. Two armed men got out of the car, forced José Drigelio Díaz Fierro into their vehicle, and drove off towards the centre of the city.

José Drigelio Díaz Fierro has worked at a local ironmongers, (Ferretería Distribuidora Martínez de Ibagué), since he was demobilized from the guerrilla organization, the 19 April Movement, Movimiento 19 de Abril (M-19). According to his family, there were no prior death threats or warnings issued against him. His girlfriend has reported the "disappearance" to the Ibagué police, to the VI Brigade of the army and to the regional Procurator.

Since 1990, several guerrilla organizations have demobilized after reaching peace agreements with the government. This includes the M-19, whose members were granted an amnesty and re-organized as a political party. A number of former M-19 guerrillas have been killed or "disappeared" since then.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution.

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 armed opposition groups or to civilian "death squads" which it claims it is unable to control.

Amnesty International is not always able to establish responsibility for each "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 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, English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of José Drigelio Diaz Fierro, who has not been seen since 30 September 1993 when witnesses observed his abduction by two armed men on the street in Ibagué, department of Tolima;
- urging an immediate and thorough inquiry into his whereabouts;

- urging that if he is in detention, that he be humanely treated and allowed access to lawyers and relatives;
- urging that if in detention, that he be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or released immediately.

**APPEALS TO**

1) 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 7324/7434, 287 7937**

**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  
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**

3) Attorney General

Dr. Gustavo de Greiff  
Fiscal General de la Nación  
Fiscalia General de la Nación  
Apartado Aéreo 29855  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams:Fiscal General, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia**

**Faxes:+ 57 1 287 0939**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff/Dear Dr. de Greiff**

4) Governor of the Department of Tolima:

Señor Ramiro Lozano Neira  
Gobernador del Departamento del Tolima  
Gobernacion del Tolima  
Calle 10 y 11, Carrera 3  
Ibagué, Tolima

**Telexes: 47156**

**Faxes: + 57 82 638588**

**Salutation: Estimado Senor Lozano / Dear Mr Lozano**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño  
Defensor del Pueblo

Defensoría del Pueblo  
Avenida 39, No. 16-42  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Faxes: + 57 1 232 4640**

2) Association for Relatives of the "Disappeared"

Señores  
ASFADDES  
AA 011446  
Santa Fe 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 18 November 1993.