

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AMR 23/62/93  
Distr: UA/SC**

**UA 361/93    "Disappearance"**

**8 October 1993**

**COLOMBIA:    William FRANCO DÁVILA**

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of William Franco Dávila who has been missing since 28 September 1993, when 10 men visited his home in Tuluá, Valle Department, beat him up and forcibly took him away.

At 9.30pm on 28 September 1993, 10 men who identified themselves as agents of the Department of State Security, Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS) but who did not show any documentation to verify their identity, were taken to William Franco Dávila's home by another man. After beating William Franco Dávila up, they forcibly took him away. The DAS have not acknowledged the detention and his whereabouts remain unknown.

#### **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. However, independent investigations have concluded that many such groups operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian armed and security forces. There is also evidence to suggest that members of the National Police are members of these "death squads".

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

- expressing concern for the safety of William Franco Davila, who has not been seen since 28 September 1993, when he was taken from his home in Tuluá by 10 men, who identified themselves as members of the DAS;
- urging for 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  
Fiscalía General de la Nación  
Apartado Aéreo 29855  
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

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

**Faxes:+ 57 1 287 0939**

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

4) Director of the Department of State Security:

Dr. Fernando Brito  
Director  
Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad  
Carrera 28, No. 17A-00  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Director, Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad, Bogota, Colombia**

**Telexes: 43363 JEDAS**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. Brito/Dear Dr. Brito**

**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 19 November 1993.