

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/65/99

15 September 1999

Further information on UA 103/99 (AMR 23/40/99, 11 May 1999) - Possible "disappearance" / Fear for safety

COLOMBIA Professor Dario Betancourt Echeverry

The remains of Professor Dario Betancourt Echeverry's body were discovered on 2 September 1999 in a rural area outside the capital, Bogotá.

Since his abduction on 30 April, it has been reported that his name had been linked to armed opposition groups in military intelligence files. Academics, human rights defenders and trade unionists whose names have appeared in such files have also been threatened, "disappeared" and extrajudicially executed.

In 1998 the 20th Brigade of the Colombian army, responsible for military intelligence, was disbanded after it was implicated in human rights violations against people on whom they had filed false information.

The Colombian government has repeatedly said it is committed to revising military intelligence archives in order to prevent further human rights violations. It has failed to fulfill these commitments.

An investigation has been launched by the authorities into his abduction on 30 April and his subsequent murder.

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

- urging the Colombian authorities to continue their investigations into the abduction and killing of Professor Echeverry, to make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- calling on the Colombian government to fulfill its commitment to revise military intelligence archives to prevent further human rights violations.

APPEALS TO (fax numbers can be very difficult to obtain at certain times):

President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana, Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes:44281 PALP CO

Faxes:+ 57 1 284 2186 / 286 7434 / 337 1351

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Pastrana

Attorney General

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez,

Fiscal General de la Nación, Fiscalía General de la Nación,
Diagonal 22B 5201, Apartado Aéreo 29855, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 570 2022 (If the call is answered, say "Fax, por favor" and wait for the signal)

Salutation: Estimado Dr. / Dear Dr.

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Néstor Humberto Martínez, Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior, Carrera 8, No.8-09, Piso 2

Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telexes:45406 MINGO CO

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Faxes: + 57 1 2868025 / 281 5884 / 342 3201
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Fundación Manuel Cepeda Vargas
AA 28233
Santafé 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 27 October 1999.