

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 263/93 (AMR 23/49/93, 6 August 1993) - Fear for Safety

COLOMBIA: About 150 human rights workers, trade unionists and grassroots leaders.

Amnesty International has received further information about efforts to prevent the publication of a list of 150 human rights workers, trade unionists and grassroots activists allegedly considered "subversive" by military intelligence. The publication of the list would put the lives of those named at serious risk.

The list of people and institutions considered by military intelligence to be collaborators or supporters of guerrilla organizations was passed to QAP television station in August, 1993. In response to an *acción de tutela*, a procedure intended to protect the constitutional rights of individuals, the judge of the 5th criminal circuit of Bogotá (*Juez V penal del circuito de Bogotá*) ordered the QAP and all other media organizations to refrain from publishing details of the list. The judge also ordered the Ministry of Defence to abstain from making public intelligence information on individuals. However, the Ministry of Defence appealed and the initial ruling blocking the publication of the list was overturned by the Bogotá Appeals Court (*Tribunal Superior de Bogotá*) in October. In ruling, the Appeals Court judges reportedly reasoned that given the impossibility of locating the list or establishing the accuracy of the intelligence information on which it is based, it would be legally impossible to protect the constitutional rights of the individuals concerned.

Amnesty International considers that due to the seriousness of the allegations and the officially admitted unreliability of such a list, it is all the more important to protect the constitutional rights of those people named. There is serious concern that publication of the names of the individuals will put their lives at risk. In recent years thousands of people considered to be guerrilla sympathizers or collaborators have been killed or "disappeared" by the security forces and their paramilitary allies.

The Andean Commission of Jurists (*Comisión Andina de Juristas - Sección Colombiana*) is seeking to revise the latest judgement and has asked the People's Defender (*Defensor del Pueblo*) to take the matter before the Constitutional Court (*Corte Constitucional*), the highest court in Colombia.

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

- reiterating concern for the safety of the 150 people named in the report compiled by military intelligence and made available to QAP TV station;

- continuing to urge the authorities to take appropriate steps to ensure that personal information on the individuals and institutions named in the report is not made public in breach of their constitutional rights;
- continuing to request a full impartial inquiry to determine how the information was obtained by the TV station and urging that administrative measures are taken against those responsible for such a breach of confidence.

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 7324/7434 or + 57 1 287 7937

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Gaviria

2) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
 Defensor del Pueblo
 Defensoría del Pueblo
 Avenida 39, No. 16-42
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo, Bogota, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 232 4640

Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/Dear Dr. Triviño

3) President of the Constitutional Court:

Sr. Hernando Herrera Vergara
 Presidente
 La Corte Constitucional
 Calle 72, No.7-96
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Sr. Presidente de la Corte, Constitucional, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes: + 57 1 212 8264

Salutation: Sr. Presidente de la Corte Constitucional

4) Minister of Defence:

Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
 Santa Fé 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:1) Andean Commission of Jurists:

Comisión Andina de Juristas
 AA 58533
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

2) Attorney General:

Dr. Gustavo de Greiff
Fiscal General de la Nación
Fiscalia General de la Nación
Apartado Aéreo 29855
Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia
Faxes: + 57 1 287 0939

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 23 December 1993.