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@TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

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Amnesty International is concerned about the reported torture and ill-treatment by members of the police of Ecuadorian citizen Oscar Soto and Colombian refugee John Kennedy García Petevi.

On 12 April 1994 Oscar Soto and John Kennedy García Petevi were detained at the home of the latter, in Quito, the capital. Oscar Soto was reported to have been tortured during police interrogation, and to have signed a self-incriminatory statement. Human rights workers who visited him after he was transferred to the *Centro de Detención Provisional*, CDP, Provisional Detention Centre, in Quito, said his torso showed a large area which was bruised. Following a request by a human rights defender for a medical examination and a radiography, a medical report, signed by the Detention Centre's doctor, reportedly stated that Oscar Soto was in good health and no radiography was taken. Oscar Soto was later transferred to another detention centre. A radiography was again requested. This was taken on 18 May and showed that he had a fractured rib.

The reports also indicate that during interrogation by the police, John Kennedy García was forced, under threats of being submerged in dirty water, to sign a self-incriminating statement and to denounce Sister Elsie Monge, director of the *Comisión Ecuménica de Derechos Humanos*, CEDHU, (Ecumenic Commission of Human Rights) and Dilva Stepp, director of the *Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas*, ACNUR, UN High Commission for Refugees in Ecuador, as aiding and abetting John Kennedy García and other Colombians with carrying out common crimes. On 17 April 1994, five days after John Kennedy García's detention, newspapers published reports linking both human rights defenders to the activities of Colombians accused of carrying out common crimes in Ecuador.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received frequent reports of torture by members of Ecuador's police. During the past few years, some of these reports have been backed by detailed testimonies. In spite of the persistent efforts of national and international human rights organizations to have reported cases of torture investigated independently and thoroughly, they are almost invariably carried out by the security forces alleged to be responsible for the

violations. Under such circumstances most investigations do not result in the perpetrators being brought to justice and punished.

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