

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 28/04/00

28 January 2000

Further information on UA 10/00 (AMR 28/01/00, 18 January 2000) and follow-up (AMR 28/02/00, 21 January 2000) - Fear for safety / Possible prisoners of conscience

ECUADOR Arbitrary detentions

Although the state of emergency that came into effect on 5 January 2000 is still in effect, mass detentions have stopped. The country is no longer in the situation that led to last week's mass demonstrations by indigenous groups, trade unions and grassroots organizations.

In a dramatic sequence of events President Jamil Mahuad was forced to resign on 21 January by a newly formed *Junta de Salvacion Nacional*, National Salvation Junta.

The junta was dissolved the next day by the then Chief of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces, General Carlos Mendoza Poveda. Shortly afterwards, vice-president Gustavo Noboa Bejarano, backed by General Mendoza, was appointed to the presidency.

On 25 January, Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action on behalf of Colonel Lucio Gutiérrez Borbua, one of the three-member junta, and Colonel Celso Andrade, an army officer who supported the junta, both of whom are in military police custody (see UA 17/00, AMR 28/03/00, 25 January 2000).

No more appeals are required by the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.