

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 28/05/97

3 November 1997

Further information on UA 312/97 (AMR 28/04/97, 1 October 1997) - Arbitrary detention/Prisoner of conscience/Fear of arbitrary arrest

ECUADORDiego ORDOÑEZ ORTIZ)
Rubén Eduardo ANDRADE VELOZ)
Juana PICO DUQUE [f]) trade unionists
José GARCIA BURGOS)

Diego Ordoñez Ortiz was released on 22 October 1997, on the basis of a successful petition filed by his lawyers before a High Court in Quito, the capital. According to reports, the charges against him have not been dropped and Diego Ordoñez still faces criminal proceedings.

The warrants for the arrest of Rubén Eduardo Andrade Veloz, Juana Pico Duque and José García Burgos have reportedly been lifted.

The National Workers Union of the Ecuadorean Institute of Social Security (*Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores del Instituto Ecuatoriano de Seguridad Social*), IESS, reported that some 2,000 appeals for the immediate and unconditional release of Diego Ordoñez have been sent by Amnesty International members throughout the world.

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

-reiterating that Amnesty International believes that the criminal charges laid against Diego Ordoñez and the other three trade unionists are motivated by political considerations designed to weaken the legitimate activities of the IESS trade union members;
-calling on the authorities to drop the charges laid against him.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Government and Police
Econ. César Verduga Velez
Ministro de Gobierno y Policía
Ministerio de Gobierno y Policía
Espejo y Benalcázar
Quito, Ecuador

Telegrams: Min Gob, Quito, Ecuador

Telexes: 22354 mingob ed

Fax: + 593 2 580 067

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Fourteenth Criminal Law Judge of Pichincha
Dr. Marco Freire Lopez
Juez Décimo Cuarto Penal de Pichincha
Palacio de Justicia, Av. 6 de Diciembre y Piedrahita
Quito, Ecuador.

IESS National Workers Union
Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores del IESS
Buenos Aires 405 y Salinas

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Quito, Ecuador

and to diplomatic representatives of ECUADOR accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 December 1997.