

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AMR 28/06/93**

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**UA 272/93 Ill-treatment/Fear for safety**

**13 August 1993**

**ECUADOR: Eleven prisoners including:**

**Ademir Amur**

**Saúl Vega (Colombian)**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of a group of prisoners who are being held in incommunicado detention in the García Moreno prison in Quito, the capital.

According to information received by Amnesty International, on 1 August 1993, a group of some eleven prisoners were caught trying to escape from García Moreno prison. They were reportedly seriously beaten by the prison guards and the police and have since been held in incommunicado detention. Witnesses have stated that following the beating they saw some of these prisoners, Saúl Vega among them, being dragged to the jail's medical clinic.

According to reports, relatives, human rights workers and a member of Parliament have tried to see the prisoners on several occasions but have been denied access to them by the prison authorities. The prisoners have not been seen since their reported beating.

Ecuadorean law does not allow for more than 48 hours of incommunicado detention (as stated in the Penal Code) and there is serious concern for the physical safety of these prisoners.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Information received by Amnesty International over the years suggest that torture and ill-treatment of criminal suspects is common practice during police interrogation and has been reported from some of Ecuador's prisons. Ecuadorean legislation forbids the use of torture and the government has ratified international treaties that oppose its use, including the United Nations Convention Against Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. States parties to this Convention are bound to prevent torture and make it a punishable offence.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish, English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern for the physical safety of a group of prisoners, including Ademir Amur and Saúl Vega, who were caught trying to escape from García Moreno prison on 1 August 1993 and were reportedly beaten by the prison guards and the police;

- asking for information on their well-being;
- urging that they be allowed access to relatives, lawyers and a medical doctor of their choice;
- seeking guarantees for their physical safety;
- urging that a full investigation be carried out into the reported ill-treatment of the prisoners and that if these reports are substantiated that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President of Ecuador:

Sr. Sixto Durán Ballén  
Presidente de la República  
del Ecuador  
Palacio de Gobierno  
García Moreno 1043  
Quito  
ECUADOR

**Telegrams: Presidente Ballen, Quito, Ecuador**

**Telexes: 22375/22201 prerep ed**

**Salutation: Sr Presidente / Dear President**

2) Minister of the Government and Police:

Sr. Ministro Marcelo Santos  
Ministro de Gobierno y Policía  
Ministerio de Gobierno y Policía  
Espejo y Benalcázar  
Quito  
ECUADOR

**Telegrams: Ministro Gobierno Barreiro, Quito, Ecuador**

**Telexes: 22354 mingob ed**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro Marcelo Santos / Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Human Rights Organization:

Comisión Ecuménica de Derechos Humanos  
Apartado 720 A  
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 24 September 1993.