

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 28/007/2006

30 June 2006

Further Information on UA 176/06 (AMR 28/006/2006, 23 June 2006) – Prisoner of Conscience/ Fear for safety

ECUADOR Wilman Adolfo Jiménez Salazar (m) – member of *Comité de Derechos humanos de Orellana*, Orellana Province Human Rights Committee

Human rights defender Wilman Adolfo Jiménez Salazar has been detained at military brigade barracks in Pastaza Province since 19 June, but is no longer being held incommunicado. Amnesty International believes that Wilman Jiménez Salazar has not used or advocated violence and that he is a prisoner of conscience, arbitrarily detained because of his legitimate activities as a human rights defender.

Although Wilman Jiménez Salazar has been visited by his lawyer, relatives and fellow human rights defenders, he reportedly is not receiving medical attention or medication for pain caused by injuries sustained during a demonstration, when he was reportedly shot six times by rubber bullets. According to reports, a District Attorney sent forensic doctors to visit Wilman Jiménez Salazar, but the military authorities did not allow the doctors to see him. Amnesty International is concerned for his welfare.

On 20 June, a military judge reportedly ordered the start of a military trial against Wilman Jiménez Salazar and ordered that he remain in pre-trial detention. Amnesty International believes that military courts do not comply with international standards for a fair trial and are not independent or impartial.

At the time of his arrest, Wilman Jiménez Salazar was taking photos of police and military actions as they broke up a demonstration by peasant communities protesting against the environmental impact of an oil company operating in the area. Police took the camera, and it was later given to fellow human rights defenders by the Judicial Police, although the photos had reportedly been deleted.

On 28 June, demonstrations took place in Orellana Province, calling for the immediate release of Wilman Jiménez Salazar and an end to the state of emergency declared in March 2006 that has suspended the right to freedom of expression, movement and association in the provinces of Orellana, Napo and Sucumbios. The demonstrators also expressed their concern about the environmental impact that oil extraction has on the region. According to reports, the military used excessive force to break the protests and at least two demonstrators were wounded.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing serious concern for the safety of human rights defender and prisoner of conscience, Wilman Jiménez Salazar who has been held in detention since 19 June 2006;
- informing them that human rights defender Wilman Jiménez Salazar has been adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience and calling for his immediate and unconditional release;
- urging the authorities to grant Wilman Jiménez Salazar immediate access to any medical attention he may require;
- urging the authorities to treat Wilman Jiménez Salazar humanely, whilst in custody, and to ensure he is not subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- expressing concern at reports that the military used excessive force to break up demonstrations in Orellana that were calling for the release of Wilman Jiménez Salazar;
- urging the authorities of Orellana province to send a clear message to the military that they must respect the right to life and the physical integrity of demonstrators at all times and that they must use the minimum force necessary to maintain law and order.

-calling for an investigation into allegations of excessive use of force by the military, for the findings to be made public and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

President

Dr. Alfredo Palacio González
Presidente Constitucional
de La República del Ecuador
Palacio de Carondelet
García Moreno 1043
Quito, Ecuador

Fax: + 593 2 2580 748 (If someone answers, please ask: "Tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Dear President/ Sr. Presidente

Minister of Defence

Gral. Oswaldo Jarrín Román
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
La Exposición 208, (La Recoleta).
Quito, Ecuador

Fax: + 593 2 2580 431 (If someone answers, please ask: "Tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Dear Minister/Señor Ministro

Commander of the 4º Amazon Regional Division

Gral. Gonzalo Meza
Comandante de la 4º División Regional Amazónica
Fuerte Militar Napo
Ciudad Francisco de Orellana
Provincia Francisco de Orellana
Ecuador

Fax: + 593 6 288 1291 / 288 0534 (If someone answers, please ask: "Tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Dear General/Señor General

Commander of the 17º Forest Brigade - Pastaza

Coronel Patricio Ochoa Ullauri
Coronel de Estado Mayor Conjunto
Comandante de la Brigada de Selva Nº 17 – Pastaza
Comandancia de la Brigada de Selva Nº 17
Av. Padre Luis Jacome s/n
Shell, Provincia Pastaza, Ecuador

Fax: + 593 3 279 5045 (If someone answers, please ask: "Tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Dear Colonel/Señor Coronel

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organizations

Comisión Ecuémica de Derechos Humanos (CEDHU)
Carlos Ibarra 176 y 10 de Agosto
Edif. Yuraj Pirca, 9no. piso
Quito, Ecuador

Fax: + 593 2 258 9272 (If someone answers say: 'tono de fax, por favor')

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 11 August.