PUBLIC AI Index: AMR 28/011/2005

21 April 2005

Further Information on UA 89/05 (AMR 28/007/2005, 18 April 2005) Fear for safety/legal concern

ECUADOR

Demonstrators against President Lucio Gutiérrez

Ecuador's political crisis deepened on 20 April, when 60 out of 62 lawmakers of the Congress voted to dismiss President Lucio Gutierrez. Vice-President Alfredo Palacio has been appointed President by Congress, as required by the Constitution.

At present there are no demonstrations in progress. No decision has been taken on when elections will be held, or on how long Vice-President Palacio will remain in power, but discussions are underway.

Many thanks to all who took action on this case. If possible, please send a final round appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- urging the authorities to take urgent measures to ensure that the rule of law is upheld, and to maintain the independence and impartiality of the judicial system;
- calling on the authorities to investigate all allegations of human rights abuses committed by security forces in the course of the demonstrations held during the past week.

APPEALS TO: (please bear in mind that with the present situation in the country, fax numbers may not be reliable. Please keep trying)

President of the Republic

Dr. Alfredo Palacio Sr. Presidente de la República del Ecuador Palacio de Carondelet García Moreno 1043 Quito, ECUADOR

Fax: + 593 2 258 0761

Salutation: Dear President Palacio/Sr. Presidente

COPIES TO:

President of the National Congress

Dra. Cynthia Viteri

Presidente del H. Congreso

Del Ecuador

Av. 10 de agosto y Briceño Edificio Centenario 6º piso

Quito Ecuador

Fax: + 593 2 295 3877

Salutation: Sr. President of the National Congress/Sr. President del Congreso

Human Rights Organization

Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos

"Segundo Montes Mozo SJ@ CSMM

Nicolás Jiménez, E 4, 223, piso 5 y Av. 12 de Octubre, dep. E-3

Quito, ECUADOR

Fax: + 593 2 254 3845 (If someone answers say: 'tono de fax, por favor)

Human Rights Organization

Comisión Ecuménica 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 2 June 2005.