

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 53/03/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 43/93

Death threats

19 February 1993

VENEZUELA: Ivo Rodríguez Escudero, student, 36

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Ivo Rodríguez Escudero who has reportedly received death threats from members of the security police.

According to reports, on 2 February 1993, three armed men threatened to kill Ivo Rodríguez Escudero if he continued to denounce the torture he had suffered at the hands of the police following the attempted coup in November 1992. The men identified themselves as members of the security police, the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services, DISIP, Dirección de los Servicios de Inteligencia y Prevención. His house was raided by the DISIP three days later in a procedure that was reportedly marked by irregularities.

Ivo Rodríguez Escudero, a student at the University of Carabobo in the town of Valencia, was one of a number of people arrested and tortured by the security forces in connection with the coup attempt on 27 November 1992. He was arrested by the Carabobo state police on 26 November with two other men and accused of participating in a student demonstration. When news about the coup attempt became known, the three were transferred to the DISIP. During the three days the men remained in the DISIP, they were brutally beaten and kicked, sometimes with sticks, hung by their wrists from the ceiling and beaten all over, beaten around the ears in a torture known as the "telephone" (*teléfono*), threatened with electric shocks and death.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

An Amnesty International delegation visited Venezuela in January 1993 to investigate the serious human rights violations reported during the coup attempt. They interviewed a number of people, including Ivo Rodríguez Escudero, who were tortured and ill-treated during their period of detention.

One of the delegates, a forensic doctor, found injuries consistent with Ivo Rodríguez Escudero's allegations. Although complaints in this case, and in many others, have been presented to the courts, those responsible have not been brought to justice.

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

- expressing serious concern at the reports of the death threat made against Ivo Rodríguez Escudero by members of the DISIP;
- urging that all necessary steps are urgently taken to guarantee his safety;

- expressing serious concern at the torture he and others suffered at the hands of the DISIP in November 1992;

- urging that full and independent investigations be carried out immediately both into the torture and the death threat and that those officers found responsible be brought to justice.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:

Sr. Carlos Andrés Pérez  
Presidente de la República de Venezuela  
Palacio de Miraflores  
Caracas, VENEZUELA  
**Telegrams: President Pérez, Caracas, Venezuela**  
**Telexes: 26429 EXTER VC**

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Mr. President**

2) Attorney General of the Republic:

Dr. Ramón Escovar Salom  
Fiscal General de la República  
Fiscalía General de la República  
Manduca a Ferrenquín  
La Candelaria  
Caracas 1010-A, VENEZUELA  
**Telegrams: Fiscal General, Caracas, Venezuela**  
**Faxes: + 58 2 66 28 829**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. Escovar Salom / Dear Dr. Escovar Salom**

3) Director of the DISIP:

General Heinz Aspúria  
Dirección de los Servicios de Inteligencia  
y Prevención (DISIP)  
Avenida Las Colinas  
Ed. Las Brisas  
Los Chaguaramos  
Caracas, VENEZUELA  
**Telegrams: General Heinz Aspúria, Caracas, Venezuela**

**Salutation: Sr. Director de la DISIP, General Aspúria / General Aspúria**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Human rights organization:

Sres.  
Provea  
Apartado 5156  
Caracas, 1010-A  
VENEZUELA

Daily newspaper:

El Nacional

Edificio El Nacional

Puente Nueve a Puerto Escondido

Caracas, VENEZUELA

Daily newspaper in Valencia:

El Carabobeño

Ed. Ambos Mundos, piso 1, no. 103

Principal a Conde

Valencia

Estado Carabobo, VENEZUELA

and to diplomatic representatives of Venezuela accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Please check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 April 1993.