EXTERNAL AI Index: AMR 53/04/97

8 May 1997

Further information on EXTRA 60/97 (AMR 53/03/97, 28 April 1997) - Fear of torture / Fear of further arbitrary arrests

VENEZUELAWilma Rauseo (f), trade unionist

new names: Graciela Aguirre García (f)

Marisela Baoda Medina (f), teacher

Two more members of the Movimiento Bolivariano Revolucionario 200 (MBR-200), Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement 200, have been arrested and are being held by the Direction de Inteligencia Militar, (DIM), Military Intelligence Directorate, in Boleíta Norte, Caracas. Graciela Aguirre García and Marisela Baoda Medina, arrested on 25 April 1997, have been visited by relatives, but are being denied access to lawyers. Wilma Rauseo, a trade unionist and member of MBR-200 arrested on 23 April, remains in military detention. All three women are being held under military jurisdiction and are being interrogated by DIM. There are fears that they may be facing torture or ill-treatment.

Over the last two years Amnesty International has expressed its concern at reports of the detention and alleged ill-treatment and torture of other members of MBR-200.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the three women if they are not to be charged with recognisable criminal offences; if they are charged they should be transferred to the jurisdiction of the civilian courts; seeking assurances they are being treated humanely and in accordance with international standards;
- urging that they be given immediate access to lawyers of their choice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of the Presidency Doctor Asdrúbal Aguiar

Secretaría de la Presidencia

Palacio de Miraflores Caracas, Venezuela

Faxes: +58 2 861 0793

Telegrams: Secretaría de la Presidencia, Caracas, Venezuela

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

2) Minister of Justice Dr. Hilarion Cardozo Ministro de Justicia Ministerio de Justicia Torre Norte, piso 25 Centro Simón Bolívar

Caracas, Venezuela
Telexes: 21935 MINJU VC
Faxes: +58 2 484 9522

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia, Caracas, Venezuela

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

3) Attorney General

Dr Iván Darío Badell González Fiscal General de la República Esquina de Manduca a Ferrenquín, Caracas, Venezuela

Faxes: +58 2 564 74 61

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Caracas, Venezuela

Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

1) Human Rights Organization

Sres., Red de Apoyo por la Justicia y la Paz Apartado Postal No.17.476. Parque Central Caracas 1015-A Venezuela

2) <u>Daily newspaper</u>

Sres. El Nacional Puente Nuevo a Puerto Esondido, Caracas, Venezuela

and to diplomatic representatives of Venezuela accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 June 1997.