

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 190/90 (AMR 53/03/90, 14 May and follow-up AMR 53/04/90, 30 May) - Ill-treatment/Prison Conditions

VENEZUELA: Amílcar RODRIGUEZ MACIAS  
and other prisoners

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned about reports of the torture of political prisoner Amílcar Rodríguez and other prisoners at the remote jungle work camp of El Dorado.

According to reports, on 13 August Amílcar Rodríguez was taken from his cell to a disciplinary room where he was reportedly tortured in the presence of two medical doctors. The torture included electric shocks, blows with a base ball bat, and kicks. Other prisoners were allegedly forced to witness the torture session. Amílcar Rodríguez is said to be in poor condition.

Other prisoners at El Dorado are reportedly showing signs of beatings from peinillas (similar to metal rulers) which are covered with excrement so that the resulting wounds become infected. In at least one case electric shocks were applied. On 26 August, a prisoner allegedly lost his left eye as a result of buckshot fired at him by the guard in charge.

A number of Amnesty International members who sent appeals in response to earlier urgent actions, received replies from the head of the Human Rights Directorate in the State Attorney General's Office (Fiscalía General de la República) stating that a delegation had been to El Dorado to look into the situation of prisoners transferred to El Dorado in March following a national hunger-strike. The delegation, which included a forensic doctor, visited the prison on 30 May.

According to reports, some of the prisoners told the delegation that whilst being transferred to El Dorado, they had received electric shocks at the Palo Negro Air base in Maracay, Aragua State.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters in SPANISH if possible:**

- expressing serious concern at recent reports of torture against Amílcar Rodríguez and other prisoners at El Dorado, and urging they receive any immediate medical attention they may require.

- urging that the allegations of ill-treatment be immediately and independently investigated, including allegations of involvement of medical personnel, and that criminal proceedings are brought against those whom there is found to be evidence of involvement in torture.

**APPEALS TO:**

Sr. Carlos Andrés Pérez  
Presidente de la República de Venezuela  
Palacio de Miraflores  
Caracas, Venezuela (President of the Republic)

Telegrams: Presidente Pérez, Caracas, Venezuela

Sr. Jesús Moreno Guacarán  
Ministro de Justicia  
Ministerio de Justicia  
Torre Norte, piso 25  
Centro Simón Bolívar  
Caracas, Venezuela (Minister of Justice)

Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Caracas, Venezuela

Dr. Ramón Escovar Salom  
Fiscal General de la República  
Fiscalia General de la República  
Manduca a Ferrenquín  
La Candelaria  
Caracas 1011, Venezuela (Attorney General)

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Caracas, Venezuela

**COPIES TO:**

Coronel José Enriquez Avilés  
Dirección de Seguridad y Traslados  
Ministerio de Justicia  
Torre Norte, piso 22  
Centro Simón Bolívar (Director of Security and Caracas, Venezuela  
Transfers)

Luí Tomás Izaguirre  
Presidente de la Subcomisión Permanente de Asuntos Penitenciarios  
Comisión Permanente de Política Interior  
Cámara de Diputados (Commission set up in Chamber of  
El Capitolio Deputies to look into prison  
Caracas, Venezuela conditions)

Sres.  
PROVEA  
Apartado 5156  
Caracas 1010-A, Venezuela (Human rights organization)

and to diplomatic representatives of Venezuela in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 October 1990.