

EXTERNAL

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UA 204/96

Fear for safety

15 August 1996

VENEZUELA

Alexander José Pimentel

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Alexander José Pimentel, who was briefly detained, ill-treated and threatened with death by two members of the *Policía Municipal de Sucre*, Sucre Municipal Police, in the state of Miranda. On 12 August 1996, at around 4pm, Alexander José Pimentel was stopped in the street by two policemen, who forced him to kneel and handcuffed his hands behind his back, before hitting him in the head and back; they then pointed their handguns at his head at close range, faking an execution. The policemen were riding motorbikes with plate numbers 4383 and 4378, which were clearly identified by the victim and several members of the public. The incident was witnessed by several people, including Alida Freitas, a neighbour known to Alexander José Pimentel, who intervened on his behalf, as a result of which the police stopped ill-treating the victim and released him shortly afterwards. The policemen reportedly threatened him with death before they let him go.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Alexander José Pimentel's brother, José Luis Pimentel, was the victim of an alleged extrajudicial execution by members of the Sucre Municipal Police on 9 June 1995. Those responsible have not been brought to justice, despite repeated calls for justice by relatives of the victim and human rights organizations. It is feared that the latest threats against Alexander José Pimentel may be in retaliation for the family's demands for justice.

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

- expressing concern at the attack and threats against Alexander José Pimentel, and asking that steps be taken to avoid any recurrence of such incidents;
- urging that the officers of the Sucre Municipal Police responsible for the incident be suspended pending an investigation and that they be brought to justice;
- requesting to be kept informed about the results of the investigation.

APPEALS TO:

Miranda State Governor

Doctor Arnaldo Arocha Vargas
Gobernador del Estado de Miranda
Gobernación del Estado de Miranda

Tel/fax: +5832 318382

Salutation: Estimado Señor Gobernador/Dear Governor

Padre Luis María Olaso

Director de Derechos Humanos
Fiscalía General de la República

Tel./fax: +582 5647461

Salutation: Estimado Padre Olaso/Dear Father Olaso

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Non Governmental Organization

Red de Apoyo
Edif. Caroata Nivel Oficinas 2
Parque Central, Caracas 1015-A, Venezuela
Tel/fax: +582 5748005 & 5741949

and to diplomatic representatives of Venezuela accredited
to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please contact the
International Secretariat, of your section office, if sending
appeals after 19 September 1996.