

AI INDEX: EUR 41/02/97  
11 JULY 1997

## **Spain: Amnesty International appeals on behalf of Blanco Garrido**

ETA would be breaching basic principles of international humanitarian law if it murdered Miguel Ángel Blanco Garrido, Amnesty International said today. The organization is calling on all those in a position to influence events to do everything possible to save the life of the ETA hostage.

Amnesty International has issued an appeal on behalf of the Popular Party councillor, Miguel Ángel Blanco Garrido, who was kidnapped yesterday in the Basque Country and who risks being the victim of a deliberate and arbitrary killing in the next few hours, according to an ultimatum given to a newspaper by a suspected ETA member.

"Our message, as an international human rights organization, to those who will decide whether Miguel Ángel Blanco Garrido lives or dies, is that his murder would constitute an attack on the basic principles of international humanitarian law," a spokesperson for the organization said.

"The prohibition of torture and of deliberate and arbitrary killings is based on an international consensus that these acts should never be committed. When an armed group tortures its captives or commits deliberate and arbitrary killings, it is flouting humanitarian principles and the dictates of public conscience, in the same way as governments do when they carry out torture, 'disappearances' or extrajudicial executions," Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International appealed for all members of society to mobilize to save the life of Miguel Ángel Blanco Garrido and called in particular on those with power to influence events to make clear their position that his life should be saved.

Amnesty International has repeatedly condemned hostage-taking by ETA in the past.  
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