



News Service 95/95

AI INDEX: EUR 41/03/95
26 MAY 1995

SPAIN: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ASKS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALDAYA EXTEBURUA

José Maria Aldaya Exteburua, a 53-year-old businessman, was kidnapped on the night of 8 May 1995. He owns a small trucking company.

ETA, the armed Basque group, accepted responsibility for the kidnapping in a statement to newspapers on 25 May. It claimed that the reason for its action was his "...refusal to pay the economic assistance requested to carry forward their fight for the liberty of the Basque people (Euskal Herria)...we wish to send a new warning as well to those businessmen who are in this position."

In a statement issued today, Amnesty International urges Aldaya Exteburua's immediate and unconditional release.

"We unreservedly condemn abuses by armed political groups such as kidnapping, deliberate and arbitrary killings and hostage-taking which contravene international humanitarian standards," Amnesty International said.

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