

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST TRADE UNIONISTS

IN

LATIN AMERICA

March 1991

SUMMARY

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Despite important political changes in a number of countries during the 1980s, trade unionists in Latin America are still subject to illegal detention, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. Some Latin American countries have a long history of trade union activity, and basic human rights are protected by law. However, trade unionists still risk their lives or their freedom in carrying on legally recognized organizing, collective bargaining, strikes and negotiations in a context of economic crisis, weak civilian governments, powerful security forces, armed political opposition and, in some countries, organized violence by drug traffickers.

This document details human rights violations against trade unionists in six Latin American countries: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru. It also includes six appeal cases, one from each country, which contain suggestions for action.

This summarises a 26 page document, Human Rights Violations Against Trade Unionists in Latin America (AI Index: AMR 01/01/91), issued by Amnesty International in March 1991. Anyone wanting further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document.

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Despite important political changes in a number of countries during the 1980s, trade unionists in Latin America are still subject to illegal detention, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. Some Latin American countries have a long history of trade union activity, and basic human rights are protected by law. However, trade unionists still risk their lives or their freedom in carrying on legally recognized organizing, collective bargaining, strikes and negotiations in a context of economic crisis, weak civilian governments, powerful security forces, armed political opposition and, in some countries, organized violence by drug traffickers.

Each Latin American country has its own distinctive history, traditions and conditions. A few are relatively prosperous, with highly industrialized sectors in their economies; others are predominantly rural and impoverished, struggling to survive by exporting agricultural commodities. Some are torn apart by decades-long civil strife against a background of widespread poverty. In some countries trade unionists are regarded by the authorities as "subversives," and security forces frequently violate their human rights because of their union activities.

Amnesty International takes no sides in industrial disputes, nor favours any particular legal framework for industrial relations. Amnesty International is concerned that trade unionists are being imprisoned, tortured, extra-judicially executed or "disappeared" for their legitimate trade union activities.

In the six countries described below (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru), many workers do not benefit in practice from the existing labour legislation. In some countries, like Chile, labour legislation was shaped by a military regime as part of restrictions on the freedom of opinion and association imposed on the society. Trade unions represent only a small percentage of workers; most are in the "informal sector," unorganized and untouched by labour legislation. The authorities often use violence to control, limit or eliminate union activity on the grounds that trade unions are front organizations of the opposition.

In **Brazil**, independent trade unions emerged in the mid and late 1970s, after many years of government control and repression of trade unionists during the 1964-85 military government. Until the 1988 Constitution, most strikes were illegal, and trade unions rarely had the opportunity to conduct contract negotiations.

In 1980 rubber tapper leader and rural workers union president Wilson Pinheiro was killed, allegedly on the orders of a landowner in the frontier state of Acre. A civilian president took office in 1985, but rural trade unionists continued to risk their lives in carrying out their duties. In 1988 Wilson Pinheiro's successor as union president, Chico Mendes, was killed after several attempts on his life had failed. These two murders were among hundreds of killings of rural trade unionists, peasants, lawyers, clergy and others supporting land reform between 1980 and 1990. The vast majority were killed by hired gunmen, some of whom were off-duty or former police. A pattern of official acquiescence with those who order the killings (so-called mandantes) is strongly suggested by long delays in carrying out investigations and trials, disappearance of evidence and court records, failure to protect witnesses or those threatened with death, and police attacks on peasant settlers.

Among the hundreds of trade unionists killed in the 1980s were Elias Costa Lima, president of the Rural Workers Union (STR) of Santa Luzia, Maranhão (21 November 1982); Margarida Maria Alves, STR president of Alagoa Grande, Paraíba (12 December 1983); Nativo Natividade de Oliveira, STR president of Carmo do Rio Verde, Goiás (23 October 1985); and Francisco Domingos Ramos, STR president of Pancas, Espírito Santo (5 February 1988). All had been threatened with death. None of the mandantes has been brought to justice, and most of these cases are paralyzed, often because of the failure of local, state or federal authorities to cooperate in the investigations. According to Brazil's Pastoral Land Commission, a highly respected Catholic Church agency, only 17 accused killers of rural leaders and supporters have been tried since 1980.

In an unprecedented development, in December 1990 the mandante Darli Alves, and a gunman, his son Darcil Alves, were convicted of the murder of Chico Mendes. This was said to be the first time that a mandante was convicted of killing a rural leader. Nevertheless, rural union leader José Hélio da Silva was killed in Pernambuco while the Mendes trial was going on, and STR president Expedito Ribeiro de Souza was killed in Pará about six weeks later.

In the 1980s urban workers also experienced violent repression, especially during strikes. In 1987 and 1988, the federal government sent army troops to occupy ports, oil refineries and production sites, steel works and electricity generating plants during strikes. Soldiers killed three steel workers and injured dozens of others at the Volta Redonda steel works on 11 November 1988. Two of the three were shot and the third was apparently beaten to death with rifle butts.

Since President Fernando Collor de Mello came into office in March 1990, the army has not yet been sent to break up strikes, but civil and military police have allegedly shot at strikers and trade union demonstrators (including police themselves) in unclear

circumstances.

The return of civilian government to **Chile** in 1990 raised hopes that hundreds of "disappearances" and other human rights violations would be fully investigated and that those responsible would be brought to justice.

Many trade unionists were among more than 900 people who "disappeared," most of them between 1973 and 1977, under the military government. As recently as 1987 five people "disappeared" and are still missing.

In 1978 the government of General Pinochet passed Decree Law 2191, an amnesty law that prevents prosecution for certain crimes committed between 1973 and 1978, including those related to the "disappearance" of prisoners. Amnesty International has expressed concern on many occasions about the way the courts have used this law in recent years to block investigations into "disappearances" before the facts have been established. Failure to bring those responsible to justice for serious human rights violations, the organization believes, runs the risk of encouraging the recurrence of such practices.

The new civilian President, Patricio Aylwin, set up the Comisión Nacional Verdad y Reconciliación (National Commission of Truth and Reconciliation) in April 1990 to examine serious human rights violations and to clarify the fate of the "disappeared." In March 1991 President Aylwin announced the commission's findings to the nation. Although the families now have a better chance of learning what happened to their loved ones, there is little prospect at the moment that those responsible for the "disappearances" will be brought to justice, because of the prevailing amnesty law.

Violent repression of trade unionists in **Colombia** has escalated since 1985. The country's largest trade union confederation reports that 500 trade union leaders have been killed since its creation five years ago. By 1989 there were 1,500 reported "disappearances," the majority grassroots activists, peasant and trade union leaders, leftwing politicians and human rights workers. Responsibility for the majority of killings has been attributed to paramilitary death squads.

Death squad activities have taken place against a background of a guerrilla insurgency and increasing drug trafficking violence. Amnesty International holds that it is the responsibility of governments under national and international law to prevent and punish crimes of violence, whether of a political or other nature. All such government actions must conform to international standards for the protection of human rights. Human rights violations such as extrajudicial executions, torture and "disappearances," committed by government forces or at their instigation, cannot be justified under any circumstances.

Available information concerning the organization and functioning of death squads gives compelling evidence that paramilitary forces form an integral part of the Colombian armed forces' counter-insurgency program. This program is designed to eliminate real or perceived supporters or sympathizers of leftwing insurgents and all those associated with a broad spectrum of political views and non-violent activities

considered to represent a threat to national security.

The violence directed at trade unionists has inhibited union development, along with economic conditions that gave rise to an informal sector composed of workers in small factories or shops, on temporary contracts, without contracts and in seasonal jobs. According to some estimates only about 10 percent of all workers are unionized, but in some areas, such as banana and palm oil production, the civil service, education and oil production, trade unions are strong. They have joined together with civic movements in organizing national strikes to protest increasing violence and deteriorating economic conditions. In 1988 and 1989, teachers were especially targeted for repression: 99 teachers union members were killed, and hundreds were threatened. Many reportedly quit their jobs and went into hiding.

The government responded to the October 1988 "National Civic Work Stoppage", organized by two trade union confederations and peasant associations, by issuing decree laws under the state of siege declaring the stoppage illegal. Some 1,000 people were arrested. Nine unions' legal recognition was revoked for one year.

Human rights violations against trade unionists extend to rural areas. In March 1988, 25 unionized rural workers were killed by a paramilitary death squad in Urabá, an area where 6,000 police and military were posted to preserve public order. A judge who tried to investigate the massacre fled the country after receiving death threats; her father was later killed.

The Urabá region, where 90 percent of banana plantation workers are unionized, was placed under military control after a series of massacres in 1988. Paramilitary forces continued to operate unhindered in the region, and the killing of rural workers and their leaders continued throughout 1989 and 1990. In 1990 direct military control of the area was suspended.

Independent investigations, including judicial inquiries, have concluded that many paramilitary death squads operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian armed forces. On repeated occasions, senior military officers have announced that the trade union movement has been infiltrated by "leftwing subversives" and they have linked union leaders and activists to guerrilla movements. In several cases known to Amnesty International, the killings of these unionists -- generally by paramilitary forces -- followed such accusations. In some cases a drug traffickers' death squad collaborating with security forces is alleged to have killed trade unionists. One death squad active during the 1980s was called "Muerte a Sindicalistas" -- death to trade unionists.

A 1988 International Labour Organization (ILO) mission to Colombia concluded, "The authorities have repeatedly stated in public their commitment to peace and their desire to enforce the law. But this does not seem to lead to action with any convincing results." That year the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) charged that Colombian trade unionists were "the target of a systematic and selective campaign of extermination."

In 1989 the ILO included in its report on Convention 87 a special paragraph requesting the Colombian government "to take all necessary measures to bring the law and practice fully in line with the requirements of the Convention" and to guarantee the physical safety of unionists. But in 1990 Amnesty International continued to receive reports of extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" of Colombian unionists and their leaders.

Trade unionists have been prominent among the tens of thousands of victims of human rights abuses in **El Salvador**. Death squads linked to the military allegedly have carried out hundreds of killings of trade unionists over the past decade. Although numbers of victims have decreased since the early 1980s, trade unionists are still subject to torture, arbitrary arrest, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution.

The military often breaks up strikes by force and arrests organizers. Even workers who have the right to strike face retaliation. Certain trade unions and employee associations, including peasant, teachers' and building workers' organizations, telecommunications workers and university workers, have been targeted for repression in recent years. El Salvador's largest trade union confederation, FENASTRAS (Federación Nacional Sindical de Trabajadores Salvadoreños), reported to the ILO in November 1989 that "agents of the Salvadoran government have committed assassinations, disappearances, arrests, tortures, threats and harassment of members of the Salvadoran labour movement." FENASTRAS headquarters in San Salvador had been bombed on 31 October 1989, killing 11 trade unionists and wounding dozens more -- some had already received threats from the armed forces. Before the bombing, newspaper and television advertisements threatened the confederation.

The bombing was part of a wave of repression apparently directed against trade unions which intensified following the imposition of a state of siege in November 1989. Hundreds of trade unionists were detained between June and December 1989, and union buildings were raided and attacked by the security forces; several unionists "disappeared" in an apparent attempt to intimidate those engaged in legitimate trade union and political opposition activity. Many of those arrested during a September 1989 demonstration to protest against repression of trade unionists alleged that they were subjected to beatings, hooding or other forms of torture while held by police.

After an international outcry over the clampdown on popular organizations, in early 1990 El Salvador's president, Alfredo Cristiani, instructed the Defense Minister not to take action against trade unions and other legally constituted organizations. Reports of human rights violations against these groups decreased markedly but death threats, arrests, detentions, torture, "disappearances" and killings of trade unionists have continued up to the present.

For example, Jorge Alberto López Galán, president of the General Association of Employees of the Ministry of Finance (Asociación General de Empleados del Ministerio de Hacienda, AGEMHA), reported that in July 1990,

"I was detained by uniformed and armed members of the Salvadoran Air Force. . . . I identified myself as president of the association. This made them laugh, but one of them

recognized me. They began the interrogations accusing me of being an urban guerrilla. . . . This continued the entire night, during which I remained blindfolded, handcuffed, and with my thumbs tied together. Afterwards I was transferred to the installations of the Treasury Police. . . . Then they began to accuse me of belonging to the organizations of the Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation. . . . They wanted me to tell them where [other trade union and other leaders] lived, what places they frequented, what future activities they had planned, threatening that if I did not collaborate I would never leave there."

[Fuí capturado por elementos uniformados y armados de la Fuerza Armada Salvadoreña. . . . Yo me identifiqué como Presidente de la Asociación, esto les causó risa, pero uno de ellos me reconoció, comenzaron las interrogaciones acusándome de ser guerrillero urbano. . . . Esto fue durante toda la noche, donde permanecí vendado, esposado y amarrado de los dedos pulgares, posteriormente fui trasladado a las instalaciones de la Policía de Hacienda. . . . Luego comienzan a acusarme de pertenecer a las organizaciones del Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional. . . querían que les dijera donde vivían . . . [incluye nombres de algunos dirigentes políticos, sindicales y un trabajador de derechos humanos], qué lugares frecuentaban, qué actividades futuras tenían programadas, amenazándome que si no colaboraba con ello no iba a salir de allí. . . .]

Some trade unionists who have been detained and reportedly tortured say that they were released on the condition that they would return weekly to the police or army headquarters to provide information on the activities of their union and fellow activists.

The government has consistently tried to link trade unions to guerrilla movements. According to a newspaper article of 14 February 1991 that cites "an official source" [una fuente oficial], the Archbishop's Legal Aid Office, the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS, a labour confederation), FENASTRAS, the teachers union ANDES, the Lutheran Church and the Federation of Mothers of Political Prisoners all "form part of the organic structure of subversion commanded by the FMLN-FDR" [forman parte de la estructura orgánica de la subversión].

Also in February a communiqué, allegedly from the commander of "the glorious death squads" [los gloriosos Escuadrones de la Muerte], was addressed to political parties, professional associations, trade unions, peasants, intellectuals, Christian churches and all communications media and was broadcast on radio. It declared their intention to exterminate elements of "an inferior class . . . composed essentially of workers' and peasants' leaders, students and small merchants" [una clase inferior . . . compuesta esencialmente por capas obreras, campesinas, estudiantes y pequeños comerciantes]. The first targets of the extermination campaign were to be trade unionists.

An Amnesty International delegation that visited Guatemala in 1979 reported, "To be a trade unionist in Guatemala is to risk one's life." Eight years later, a British Parliamentary delegation visiting Guatemala said, "Rank and file and potential activists simply do not believe it is safe to engage in trade union activity." Although numbers of deaths in Guatemala's ongoing civil war have decreased from their peak between 1980 and 1983, the country is still a very dangerous place for trade unionists.

Guatemala's history has been marked by human rights violations against workers, be they indigenous people working on plantations or industrial workers. They were abducted, tortured, "disappeared" and killed in the 1980s by security forces acting both in uniform and in plain clothes in the guise of the so-called death squads. In the late 1980s, unionists from unions considered to be combative were also threatened, harassed or disappeared by local "civil defense patrols" acting under orders of military commanders.

Except for a 10-year period (1944-54) when reformist governments allowed the labour movement to develop, restrictive laws and official government violence have made trade union activities extremely dangerous and difficult. In the mid-1980s, only some five percent of workers were organized in trade unions. The Labor Code is often ignored. Of 730 unions registered with the Labor Ministry, only 256 were still active in the late 1980s.

The situation of STECSA unionists at a Coca Cola bottling plant since the mid-1970s exemplifies the problems of trade unions in Guatemala. In response to increased union activity, STECSA unionists were threatened with death in 1978 and an alleged death squad member was hired as plant security director. Between 1979 and 1988, 15 STECSA unionists "disappeared" or were killed, allegedly with the complicity or the connivance of the security forces. Amnesty International frequently appealed to the authorities on behalf of STECSA workers whose lives and physical integrity were in danger. With the support of the International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF), other international non-governmental organizations and an international boycott, workers repeatedly occupied the plant in response to increased threats and intimidation.

A 1984 occupation of the plant lasted almost a year, but during that time, international scrutiny and pressure helped the workers largely escape the human rights violations that workers in other industries were suffering at the time. Despite the accession of a civilian president in 1986, human rights violations continued. In 1989 a bottling plant worker was reportedly shot and wounded outside the plant, ill-treated by police and later kept under surveillance. That year other bottling plant workers received written threats and were physically attacked. In June 1990 strikers at a bottle-making plant were forcibly removed and beaten by police.

A new civilian president, Jorge Serrano, came into office in January 1991. Within a month, Amnesty International reported the possible extrajudicial execution of 2 members of an indigenous peasant association.

Peru has a long history of conflict between workers and government, especially related to mass protests and strikes. During military governments, police were often sent to break up strikes and routinely arrested hundreds of workers. For example, in 1979 the teachers union (SUTEP) carried on a strike for 108 days, said to be the longest in Peruvian history. During that period 30 people died and some 50 were injured in confrontations with the riot police. Some 800 teachers were arrested and 3,000 were

sacked. Charged with offending the armed forces, 28 of those arrested were adopted by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience.

At the beginning of the 1980s, the Partido Comunista del Perú "Sendero Luminoso" opposition group began armed action against government forces and civilians in the department of Ayacucho. The government reacted by declaring a state of emergency in that department. Sendero Luminoso's activities later spread to other departments, and by 1989 approximately two-thirds of Peru, including over half the population, was under state of emergency. Another violent opposition group, Movimiento Revolucionario "Tupac Amaru" (MRTA), appeared in the mid-1980s but operated on a much smaller scale.

In response to the activities of armed opposition groups, the Peruvian security forces have carried out large-scale "disappearances" and killings of suspected political opponents, including trade unionists. Between 1983 and 1990, at least 3,000 people disappeared after being detained by security forces. Thousands of people appear to have been extrajudicially executed, sometimes after being detained and tortured, sometimes in massacres. Sendero Luminoso has also carried out massacres, and both Sendero Luminoso and MRTA have carried out selective assassinations. Amnesty International condemns the killing and torture of prisoners in all circumstances.

Most of the victims have been peasants, but trade unionists in the industrial sector have also been targets of repression, especially since 1988. Increasingly, trade unionists have been subject to disappearance and death squad-style murders, and security forces have fired into crowds of demonstrating trade unionists. Sendero Luminoso has also killed trade unionists who refused to support the group.

Although most killings have taken place in the emergency zones administered by the military, since 1988 trade unionists have also been extrajudicially executed outside those zones. Various commissions have investigated some deaths but no military personnel have been indicted for mass killings, despite compelling evidence of their participation in these human rights violations. Some of the commission members have received threats.

Some trade unionists have been arrested and detained under the anti-terrorist law (Law 24,150 of June 1985) and prosecuted on the basis of statements they reportedly made under duress or while held incommunicado. Others have "disappeared." Among those who have "disappeared" since 1988 are Oscar Delgado Vera, secretary general of the Customs Service Employees Union (9 December 1988) and nine members of the ENDEP-ALMA (palm oil factory) union, whom police detained on 22 April 1989 and accused of being "narcoterrorists" in front of witnesses before taking them away.

On 12 February 1989, Saúl Cantoral, general secretary of the National Miners and Metalworkers Federation, and his colleague Consuelo García were abducted; their bodies were found outside Lima the next day. A placard on the bodies said Sendero Luminoso was responsible, but their colleagues believe that security forces may have carried out the murders. Saúl Cantoral had reportedly received threats from the Comando Rodrigo Franco, a death squad believed to be associated with the military. He was the predecessor of Víctor Tappé Zúñiga, who was detained and tortured six months later.

A new civilian president, Alberto Fujimori, took office in July 1990 and promised to set up a national commission to guarantee respect for human rights. However, the human rights situation in Peru has continued to deteriorate, and trade unionists are still subject to human rights violations by authorities.

On 7 November 1990 police shot dead a district councillor and wounded three workers who were peacefully protesting at the food factory where they worked. A judge had ordered police to evict the predominantly female work force from the area around the factory, where they had gathered to prevent management from removing goods and machinery until they received social and other benefits they believe they were entitled to.

Local residents joined the workers, and police and private security forces used their firearms to disperse the crowd. Amnesty International is not aware of any judicial investigation into the circumstances surrounding the killing of the district councillor and the wounding of the workers.

<p>The following cases illustrate Amnesty International concerns. At the end of each one there are recommended actions on how to help them and other trade unionists.</p>

Expedito Ribeiro de Souza, José Hélio da Silva and others

BRAZIL

On 2 February 1991 Expedito Ribeiro de Souza, president of the Rural Workers Union of Rio Maria, Pará state, was shot dead at about 9pm by an unknown assailant 200 metres from his home. He had been receiving death threats for more than a year. In April 1990, four other rural workers (Ronan Rafael Ventura, Brás Antonio de Oliveira, Paulo Canuto de Oliveira and José Canuto de Oliveira) had been abducted and killed and a fifth (Orlando Canuto Pereira) wounded in Rio Maria. The Canuto brothers' father, João Canuto de Oliveira, had been killed in 1985. Like Expedito Ribeiro de Souza, they were associated with the Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B), a legal political organization, and were active in defending rural workers of the region.

Expedito Ribeiro de Souza

On 13 December 1990 José Hélio da Silva was killed by unknown gunmen while travelling between Palmares and Joaquim Nabuco in Pernambuco state. He was adviser to the Rural Workers Union of Palmares, a rural township in a cane-growing region. The union's treasurer, José Cícero da Silva (no relation), was wounded in the same incident. The union, which is a member of the Federation of Agricultural Workers of Pernambuco, Federação dos Trabalhadores na Agricultura em Pernambuco (FETAPC), reported receiving an anonymous letter on 9 May 1990 threatening that José Hélio da Silva would be killed if he did not cease campaigning on behalf of the union.

In both Rio Maria and Palmares, harassment, threats, abductions and killings are often aimed at union advisers, union representatives and campaigners for workers' rights. In late April 1990 a delegation of federal deputies and Fr. Ricardo Rezende Figuera, of the Pastoral Land Commission, had asked Brazil's then-Justice Minister,

Bernardo Cabral, for federal protection for Expedito Ribeiro de Souza and Carlos Cabral Pereira, son-in-law of João Canuto de Oliveira; both had been reportedly targeted by the alleged killers of the Canuto brothers. The protection reportedly promised by the Justice Minister was not given. At the time of his killing, Expedito Ribeiro de Souza was reportedly not receiving any protection from the authorities. On 4 March 1991, Carlos Cabral Pereira was reportedly wounded by an unknown gunman in Rio Maria.

The situation in Palmares and neighbouring areas remains very tense. Union leaders and workers' rights campaigners there have reported receiving threats and harassment since the killing of José Hélio da Silva. His widow, Maria Aparceida Pedrosa, also a legal adviser to the Palmares Rural Workers Union, was granted police protection and temporarily left the township. Cícero da Silva, José Hélio da Silva's brother and a driver for the union, and the union's president, João Lucas da Silva (no relation), reported that they had also received death threats.

Effective measures do not appear to have been taken to prevent killings such as those of Expedito Ribeiro de Souza, José Hélio da Silva and the Canuto brothers and to bring to justice those responsible for past crimes.

Please send courteously worded letters:

To authorities in Pará

- expressing concern that the killing of Expedito Ribeiro de Souza in Rio Maria on 2 February 1991 is one more in a pattern of killings against trade unionists in a context of apparently ineffective preventive actions by the authorities;
- urging that the inquiry into his killing be effectively carried out and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- requesting that special police protection be provided immediately for threatened trade unionists and PC do B members, including Carlos Cabral Pereira, Roberto Silva, and Valdério Pereira Santos;
- urging that investigations into the earlier killings of João Canuto de Oliveira, José Canuto de Oliveira, Paulo Canuto de Oliveira, Ronan Rafael Ventura and Brás Antonio de Oliveira be completed and those responsible be brought to justice.

To authorities in Pernambuco

- requesting information about the progress of the investigation of the killing of José Hélio da Silva near Joaquim Nabuco on 13 December 1990;
- expressing concern at the reported death threats to João Lucas da Silva, Cícero da Silva, José Cícero da Silva and Maria Aparceida Pedrosa;

- welcoming the protection granted to Maria Aparecida Pedrosa and urging that the threatened union leaders receive special protection to prevent their being killed.

APPEALS TO:

Sr. Ministro da Justiça do Brasil (Minister of Justice)
Sr. Jarbas Passarinho
Ministério da Justiça
Esplanada dos Ministérios
Bloco 23
70.064 Brasília DF, Brasil

Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, Brasilia, Brazil
Telegrams: 611003 MNJU BR, 611088 MNJU BR or 612313 MNJU BR
Faxes: +55 61 224 4357

Pará State:

Sr. Governador de Estado do Pará (State Governor of Pará)
Sr. Hélio Mota Guziros
Palácio Lauro Sodré
Praça D. Pedro II
66.000 Belém, PA, Brasil

Telegrams: Governador Para, Belém, Brazil
Telegrams: 911012 GOPA BR or 916978 GOPA BR

Sr. Secretário de Segurança Pública (Public Security Chief, Pará)
Estado do Pará
Sr. Mario Monteiro Malato
Rua 28 de Setembro 339
66.020 Belém, PA, Brasil

Telegrams: Secretário Segurança Pública, Belém, Brazil
Telegrams: 911100 SSPB BR

Elzevaldo de Jesus Miranda (Civil Police Chief)
Delegado de Polícia Civil
68553 Rio Maria, PA, Brazil

Telegrams: Policia Civil, Rio Maria, Para, Brazil

COPIES TO:

Comissão Pastoral da Terra (Pastoral Land Commission)
Rua 14 de Abril No. 1400
Centro Social Sagrado Coração de Jesus
Caixa Postal 21

Conezição do Araguaia
CEP 68.540 Pará, Brasil

Pernambuco State:

Sr. Governador do Estado de Pernambuco (State Governor of Pernambuco)
Sr. Carlos Wilson Rocha de Quziroz Campos
Palácio Campo das Princesas
Praça de República
50.000 Recife
Pernambuco, PE, Brasil

Telegrams: Governador Estado Pernambuco, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

Sr. Secretário de Segurança Pública (Public Security Chief)
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Bernardo Araya Zuleta, María Flores Barraza, Víctor Díaz López and others

CHILE

On 2 April 1976 trade union leader Bernardo Araya Zuleta, 67, and his 61-year-old wife María Flores Barraza were taken away by members of the intelligence agency, Dirrección de Inteligencia Nacional (DINA, Directorate of National Intelligence). During the raid on their home several other members of the family were taken, including the brother of María Flores and three of their grandchildren, then aged 9 to 15. They were taken to an unidentified place in Santiago. It is believed that the relatives of Bernardo Araya were taken in order to put pressure on him during interrogation. The children heard the screams of their grandparents, who were being tortured. The children and their uncle were released after being threatened and warned not to say anything about what had happened. The older couple "disappeared" and the family are still looking for them.

Bernardo Araya was one-time secretary general of Chile's largest trade union confederation, the Central Única de Trabajadores (CUT), which was proscribed after the military came to power in 1973. He was also a retired federal deputy.

A few years ago, the wife of another missing leader of the CUT, Víctor Díaz López, said, "*You have to have lived through the past ten years of searching for the "disappeared" to understand what it means... never being able to sit down to a family meal in peace.*" On 12 May 1976 Víctor Díaz López was arrested by members of DINA and subsequently "disappeared."

The former military government repeatedly denied before the courts, foreign governments and organizations, and the United Nations, that the men had ever been detained. In the case of Bernardo Araya and María Flores, the authorities produced documents, believed to be false, indicating that the couple had crossed the border with Argentina on 7 April 1976.

In 1986, a civilian judge investigating other "disappearances" came across evidence that could have helped to clarify the fate of Víctor Díaz. However, the higher courts refused to assign the dossier to him. In August 1990, the Supreme Court upheld the decision of lower military tribunals to close investigations into 35 "disappearance" cases on the basis of the 1978 amnesty law. One of the cases was that of Víctor Díaz. There is continuing concern in the trade union movement at the failure of the authorities to clarify the case of Bernardo Araya and other trade unionists who disappeared in Chile during the previous regime.

The families of Víctor Díaz, Bernardo Araya and María Flores continue to campaign for the full truth and for those responsible to be brought to justice. In 1986, 10 years after their father went missing, Viviana and Victoria Díaz said:

"We shall continue our struggle until they tell us what happened to him and until justice is done. His life and that of all the "disappeared" cannot be forgotten. We are fighting to ensure that what happened to them will never happen in our country again."

Please write courteously worded letters, preferably in Spanish:

- Expressing serious concern at the "disappearance" of more than 900 people, including many trade unionists, under the former military government;
- Welcoming the important work undertaken by the Comisión Nacional Verdad y Reconciliación (National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation) to examine the fate of the disappeared;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that full judicial investigations are carried out and that those responsible for the "disappearances" of Bernardo Araya Zuleta, María Flores Barraza, Víctor Díaz López and others be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Labour and Social Security
Señor René Cortázar Sanz
Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión Social
Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social
Huérfanos 1273, piso 6
Santiago, Chile

Minister of the Interior
Señor Enrique Krauss Rusque
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Palacio de La Moneda
Santiago, Chile

COPIES TO:

National Confederation of Workers
Sres.
Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT)
Santa Mónica 2015
Santiago, Chile

Association of Relatives of the
Disappeared
Sres.
Agrupación de Familiares de Detenidos
Desaparecidos
Plaza de Armas 444
Santiago, Chile

Germán Antonio Redondo, Gloria Amparo Viveros Lucumy, Edilma Moreno and Esteban Palmet Domínguez

COLOMBIA

Germán Antonio Redondo was Secretary General of the SINTRACANASUCOL trade union at the San Carlos Sugar Refinery where he worked. The union is affiliated to the Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT) trade union confederation. Germán Antonio Redondo was reportedly killed at 6:30 am on 15 November 1990 as he was travelling by bus to work in Tuluá. Two armed men boarded the bus and shot him, killing him instantly and injuring two other passengers.

Gloria Amparo Viveros Lucumy was the girlfriend of Germán Antonio Redondo and worked at the COCICOINP Cooperative in Tuluá, as well as being a student of administration at the Central University of Tuluá. She had reportedly played an active part in denouncing the killing of Germán Antonio Redondo, especially at his funeral. At 12:30 pm on 19 November 1990, near her home in Tuluá, men travelling on a motorbike shot at her. Her assailants were then said to have stopped, grabbed her by the hair and shot her eight times, killing her. José Alberto Henao Redondo, the nephew of Germán Antonio Redondo, was reportedly with Gloria Amparo Viveros Lucumy when she was killed and was injured during the incident.

At least two previous attempts had been made on the life of Germán Antonio Redondo, both in July 1990. Since his death at least five other union leaders at the refinery have received death threats, including anonymous telephone calls and sufragios, invitations to their own funerals.

The region of Urabá has in recent years been one of the most severely affected by an apparently systematic campaign of intimidation, including "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions.

On 26 October 1990 Esteban Palmes Domínguez was killed by armed men who shot him dead as he was on his way home. He was 42 years old and was the Director of the Secondary Education Institute in Apartadó, and a member of the Antioquia Teachers' Union, Asociación de Educadores de Antioquia (ADEA), which is affiliated to Colombia's trade union confederation, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT).

A week earlier, on 19 October 1990, local politician Edilma Moreno was intercepted by two armed men on motorcycles at about 8 pm as she was travelling by motorcycle. She was shot dead and the two assailants escaped. Her daughter, with whom she was travelling home, was unhurt in the attack.

Edilma Moreno was in her twenties and had been a councillor in Apartadó for the legal left-wing coalition Patriotic Union, Unión Patriótica, (UP) for five years. She had formerly worked on the banana plantations in Urabá and became an executive board member for the plantation workers' union SINTRAINAGRO, affiliated to the CUT.

Amnesty International is concerned at the killings of Germán Antonio Redondo and Gloria Amparo Viveros Lucumy in Tuluá, Valle del Cauca department, and of Edilma Moreno and Esteban Palmes Domínguez in Apartadó, Antioquia department, in

circumstances suggesting they were the victims of extrajudicial executions.

Please send appeals:

-expressing concern at the killings of Germán Antonio Redondo, Gloria Amparo Viveros Lucumy, Edilma Moreno and Esteban Palmét Domínguez in circumstances suggesting they may have been the victims of extrajudicial executions;

-urging that there be an immediate inquiry into their deaths, the results of which should be made public;

-expressing concern at reports that threats have been made against the lives of five other leaders of the SINTRAFICIANASUCOL trade union, of which Germán Antonio Redondo was Secretary General, and urging the authorities to take measures to ensure that trade unionists are able to conduct their legitimate activities without fear of reprisal.

APPEALS TO:

Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo Dr Alfonso Gómez Méndez
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Bogotá, Colombia

Procurador General de la Nación
 Edificio Banco Ganadero
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80
 Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria,
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Telexes: 44281 PALP CO
 Faxes: +57 1 286 7324

Telegrams: Procurador General
 Gómez, Bogotá, Colombia
 Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or
 PGNOP CO

General Oscar Botero Restrepo
 Ministro de Defensa Nacional
 Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
 Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
 Bogotá
 COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogotá,
 Colombia
 Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO
 or 44561 CFAC CO
 Faxes: +57 1 222 1874

COPIES TO:

Señores CUT
 Calle 35, No. 7-25, Piso 9
 Bogotá, Colombia

María Cristina Gómez and others

EL SALVADOR

On 5 April 1989, María Cristina Gómez was abducted as she left the school in San Salvador where she worked as a teacher. Two men in civilian clothes forced her into a car as students, other teachers and street vendors looked on helplessly.

María Cristina Gómez was a member of the school teachers' union, ANDES 21 de Junio. She also worked actively with the Coordinadora Nacional de la Mujer Salvadoreña (CONAMUS), National Coordination of Salvadorian Women, and was in charge of their recently implemented weekly radio program for women. She was 41 years old, the divorced mother of four children.

Her body was discovered two hours later with four bullet wounds, and a witness reported that she had several marks on her skin which looked as if they had been caused by acid. These marks were not mentioned in the report by the Justice of Peace who examined the body.

Shortly after the killing, the school teachers' union ANDES 21 de Junio requested that the judge immediately proceed to "conduct a rigorous judicial investigation to determine responsibilities and apply the law to the material and intellectual authors of this ominous crime." Their plea was not heeded.

On April 15 1989, the Fiscal General (attorney general) named two prosecuting attorneys to work on the case. They immediately recommended that the victim's body be exhumed and an autopsy be performed by a professional forensic doctor. This has still not been done. More than a year later the Justice of the Peace admitted he had not investigated the case. Of the numerous witnesses to María Cristina Gómez' abduction, none was ever summoned by the court.

Leaders of ANDES 21 de Junio blamed the Air Force, which controls the area around the school, for the abduction and killing of María Cristina Gómez. They stated that it would be impossible for a person to be abducted from a public school in an area as tightly controlled by the Air Force as is Colonia Santa Lucía. On April 13, 1989, Air Force Commander General Rafael Bustillo stated that he was in no way responsible for the assassination of María Cristina Gómez and that he was not going to allow activities of "front groups of the FMLN" in the area under his jurisdiction and control.

The killing of María Cristina Gómez was the second killing of a member of ANDES 21 de Junio within a two-month period. School teacher Miguel Ángel Iazo Quintanilla was captured, reportedly by armed, uniformed soldiers, on February 22, 1989. His tortured body appeared the following day in the Matazano section of Soyapango. ANDES 21 de Junio also held the Air Force responsible for his death, because it patrols and controls that area of Soyapango.

In another case, on 16 January 1990, three men dressed in civilian clothing entered the home in Santa Ana of Humberto Reyes, 43-year-old bread workers' union leader. The men took him away, handcuffed, in a vehicle with dark windows and he has remained "disappeared" since then. A leader of the coffee workers' trade union, SICAFE, Porfirio Vigil Segovia, "disappeared" in Santa Ana two days later, after abduction by armed men in plain clothes.

On 19 July 1991 Camilo Alberto Velásquez Mejía, member of the Sugar Workers' Union (SETRAS) was visiting two of his brothers at Mariona Prison (Centro Penal de Mariona) outside San Salvador, when he was detained by prison wardens, who accused him of carrying "subversive propaganda" and handed him over to army soldiers who were guarding the prison. He was released by the soldiers after two hours, but his identity documents were not returned to him. In the evening of 23 July, neighbours saw him near his home in Cuscatancingo, department of San Salvador, accompanied by two men in civilian clothing. The identity of the two men and the place to which Camilo Velásquez was subsequently taken are unknown. His body was found early the next morning, dumped outside a church in Cuscatancingo. Since no identity documents were found on the corpse, it was not identified until 31 July, when it was exhumed in the presence of relatives. The body presented multiple stab wounds. The face also showed signs of bruising and inflammation, possibly caused by beatings.

Recommended Actions:

- Express deep concern that trade unionists in El Salvador, including María Cristina Gómez, Miguel Ángel Lazo Quintanilla, Humberto Reyes, Porfirio Vigil Segovia and Camilo Alberto Velásquez Mejía, have been the targets of killings, torture and "disappearances" in El Salvador;
- Express concern that investigations into these cases have not led to the identification of those responsible and that no one has been brought to justice. Ask to be sent information concerning the state of judicial proceedings into the cases and ask what measures the government is implementing to ensure that those responsible for these and other human rights violations are brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

S.E. Alfredo Cristiani
 Presidente de la República de El Salvador
 Casa Presidencial
 San Salvador, El Salvador

Dr. Manuel Duarte Rodríguez
 Fiscal Adjunto para Derechos Humanos
 Fiscalía General de la República
 13a Calle Poniente
 Centro de Gobierno
 San Salvador, El Salvador

Newspaper advertisement in El Salvador, encouraging death squads to attack the union federation UNTS, which it accuses of being a terrorist organization

José León Segura de la Cruz (STINDE), Carlos Enrique Sagastumz (STECSA) and others

GUATEMALA

Many members and leaders of the Sindicato de Trabajadores del Instituto Nacional de Electrificación (STINDE), Electrical Workers Union, were harassed, threatened, abducted or extrajudicially killed during President Cerezo's government (January 1986-January 1991).

On 27 September 1989 José León Segura de la Cruz, a STINDE regional leader in Pasabien, Zacapa Department, was killed following repeated death threats related to his union activities.

In January 1990, Juan Luis Coy Monzín, Secretary of Organization and Media of STINDE, received threats from unknown men, warning him to "leave the country or suffer the consequences." In 1989 the same men had reportedly attempted to kidnap his 12-year-old daughter but she managed to evade capture.

In February 1990 Guisela Reyes de Coy, the wife of Juan Luis Coy Monzín, was abducted by three armed men in Guatemala City. She was interrogated about her husband's union activities and released several hours later.

José Rolando Pantaleón

On 14 March 1990 Nestor René Osorio Sandoval, a member of STINDE in Chiquimula department, was killed in circumstances suggesting he may have been extrajudicially executed. He was killed when three armed men, believed to be security force agents, entered the plant and shot him. He had been a member of STINDE since it was formed in March 1986.

Members of STECSA, Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Embotelladora Central, Sociedad Anónima, Trade Union of Workers at the Central Bottling Plant, Ltd, the trade union of the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Guatemala City, have been long-term and recent targets of human rights violations.

Carlos Enrique Sagastumz, aged 26, and his brother Tyron Francisco Sagastumz, aged 20, were last seen on the evening of 12 February 1990 by a colleague who gave them

a lift home from work in his car. Their bodies, with apparent marks of torture, were found the next morning with a third, unidentified body.

Members of the union's theatre and musical group were the target of a wave of abuses in 1989 which began after they had presented a skit lampooning the Guatemalan army.

José Rolando Pantalzón, a theatre and musical group member, was abducted and murdered on 2 July 1989. Before his death, he and other members of the group had received a series of threats, and in February 1989 his brother, Flavio Pantalzón, had been wounded by gunmen in plain clothes while the police stood by.

Amnesty International is concerned that all of these incidents be investigated, and that those responsible be brought to justice.

Please make appeals:

- expressing concern at the apparent extrajudicial executions of STINDE and STECSA members;
- urging that the government ensure an impartial and thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths, and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that the government take measures to guarantee the physical safety of the STINDE leadership and members;
- requesting that the government take steps to clarify past abuses and to prevent harassment, threats and killings of STECSA and STINDE members and leaders in the future.

APPEALS TO:

S.E Jorge Serrano Elías
Director General de la
Policía Nacional
6 Avenida 13 - 71 Zona 1
Guatemala GUATEMALA

(Director General of the National Police)

Presidente de la República
de Guatemala
Palacio Nacional
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

(The President of the Republic of Guatemala)

Cnel. Ricardo Méndez Ruiz
 Ministro de Gobernación
 Ministerio de Gobernación
 Despacho Ministerial, Of. N.º 8
 Palacio Nacional
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA

(Minister of the Interior)

Gral. Luis Enrique Mendoza García
 Ministro de Defensa
 Ministerio de Defensa
 Palacio Nacional
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA

(Minister of Defence)

Sr Mario Solórzano Martínez
 Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión
 Social
 Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión
 Social
 Palacio Nacional
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA

(Minister of Labour)

Señor Procurador General de la Nación
 Procuraduría General de la Nación
 18 C 10-36, Zona 1
 Guatemala GUATEMALA

(Attorney General)

COPIES TO:

Unión Sindical de Trabajadores
 de Guatemala (UNSTRAGUA)
 11 Calle 8-14, 3er Nivel
 Edificio Tecún, Of. 34 Zona 1,
 Guatemala GUATEMALA

Víctor Taype Zúñiga

PERU

Víctor Taype Zúñiga was held in detention for three months at the beginning of 1990 and subjected to severe torture. Víctor Taype is the president of the National Federation of Miners (Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Mineros, Metalúrgicos y Siderúrgicos).

He was originally detained on 20 November 1989 in Huancavelica by members of the police, and was held incommunicado by the investigative police (Policía Técnica) for two weeks before being transferred to the prison in Huancavelica, charged with "apología al terrorismo" ("defence of terrorism"). At the Policía Técnica, he claimed, he was severely beaten and had electric currents applied to his head and body, which affected his sight and hearing. He said he was then forced to sign a self-incriminating statement and made to pose for a photographer with two leaflets supporting the armed struggle.

On 15 March 1990 the Inspecting Judge of Huancavelica ordered the release of Víctor Taype and dropping of the charges. However, the chief prosecutor of Huancavelica asked for the case to be reopened, and so a new detention order was issued. Amnesty International is concerned that if re-arrested, Víctor Taype may be tortured again.

According to reports, after his release an attempt was made to kidnap Víctor Taype, but relatives and miners who were waiting to greet him prevented this from happening. Because his life was in severe danger, he was flown to his family in Lima, where he received treatment from a neurologist for a condition consistent with having been tortured.

Víctor Taype was elected president of the Miners' Federation, an organization of 105 unions composed of 70,000 mine workers, after its previous president, Saúl Cantoral, had been murdered by a paramilitary group believed to have been acting with the cooperation or acquiescence of the security forces.

Human rights organizations and political opposition parties have complained that the anti-terrorist legislation was being used by the government to stop legitimate industrial action. Amnesty International is concerned that the detention of Víctor Taype, for alleged violation of anti-terrorist legislation, may have been the result of his lawful trade union activities.

Please send courteously worded letters:

- expressing concern that Víctor Taype could be re-arrested on account of his legal trade union activities;
- urging that if re-arrested, the physical safety of Víctor Taype be ensured and that he be humanely treated in prison, drawing attention to the fact that he was tortured in November of 1989 while in detention at the Policía Técnica;

-urging that a thorough, impartial and independent investigation is conducted into allegations that Víctor Tagpe was tortured while in police custody, that the findings of this investigation be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

-asking that if re-arrested, he may have access to lawyers and relatives while in detention.

APPEALS TO:

Presidente Alberto Fujimori
 Presidente de la Republica
 Palacio de Gobierno
 Plaza de Armas
 Lima 1, Peru
 Telegrams: President Fujimori, Lima, Peru
 Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO; 20331 PE SEC PRE
 Faxes: 51 14 33 1945

Dr Manuel Catacora
 Fiscal General de la Nacion
 Fiscalía General de la Nacion
 Edificio Torre de Lima, 7 piso
 Centro Civico
 Lima, Peru
 Telegrams: Fiscal General Catacora, Lima, Peru
 Telexes: 20055 PE MINPUB

COPIES TO:

Señores
 Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Mineros y Metalurgicos del Peru
 Plaza 2 de mayo, 44
 Lima 1, Peru

