

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 31/92 Fear of Extrajudicial Execution/
"Disappearance"

27 January 1992

COLOMBIA: Fabio VELASQUEZ, aged 57

 and his sons:
 Luis Fernando VELASQUEZ, aged 17 and
 Oliverio VELASQUEZ, aged 24

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the killing of Fabio Velasquez and his son Luis Fernando Velasquez in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution and is concerned for the safety of Oliverio Velasquez, who has not been seen since his reported detention with Fabio and Luis Fernando Velasquez on 15 January 1992.

According to the testimony of eye-witnesses, the three men were seized by a group of armed men in the Puente Iglesia area of the town of Tarso, Antioquia department, on the road leading to Peñalisa and taken away in a grey "Nissan" car, which had reportedly been seen on many occasions parked outside the local police headquarters. Shortly before these detentions were made, the same group of armed men had reportedly made enquiries from a list they carried as to the whereabouts of a number of local community and peasant leaders. Several days later, the bodies of Fabio and Luis Fernando Velasquez were found. The whereabouts of Oliverio Velasquez remain unknown.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In September 1991 the Procurator General's office produced an official report which stated that more than 3,000 complaints had been lodged against the army and police in the last two years for human rights violations. President César Gaviria Trujillo, on presenting the report, stated:

"No puede el Gobierno desconocer la gravedad de las acusaciones que se hacen en forma reiterada y masiva contra sus agentes, ni ignorar hasta que punto reina la impunidad por violación de derechos humanos."

"The government cannot fail to recognise the seriousness of the accusations made constantly and on a massive scale against its agents, nor ignore the extent of impunity in cases of human rights violations".

However, despite the government's commitment to uphold respect for human rights, members of the Colombian armed and security forces and paramilitary groups associated with them have continued to commit serious abuses, including torture, extrajudicial execution and "disappearance", with virtual impunity.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the killing of Fabio Velasquez and his son Luís Fernando Velasquez in circumstances suggesting they may have been victims of extrajudicial execution;
- urging that there be an immediate inquiry into their deaths, the results of which should be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of Oliverio Velasquez, who has not been seen since his detention with his father and brother;

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- urging that there should be an immediate and thorough inquiry to establish his whereabouts;
- urging that if he is in detention, his legal situation be clarified and he be immediately released unless charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- urging that if he is in detention, he be humanely treated and that he be provided with full access to a lawyer and relatives.

APPEALS TO

1) President of the Republic:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /
Dear President Gaviria**

**Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogota
Colombia**

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 283 3066, + 57 1 286 7324, + 57 1 287 7937

2) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Sr. Procurador General de la Nación /
Dear Dr. Arrieta**

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogota, Colombia

Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

3) Director General of the Police:

Mayor General Miguel Antonio Gómez Padilla
Director General de la Policía Nacional
Tr. 45, No. 40-11
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**Sr Director General /
Dear Sir**

Telegrams: Dir.-Gen. Policía Nacional, Bogota, Colombia

4) Regional Procurator General for the Department of Antioquia:

Procuraduría Regional de Antioquia
Cra. 56 # 49-30, Edificio Cosmos
Medellín

**Sr. Procurador General de Antioquia /
Dear Sir**

Antioquia

Colombia

Telegrams: Procuraduría Regional de Antioquia, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia

COPIES TO:

Association for relatives of the disappeared:

Señores

ASFADDES

AA 011446

Santa Fe de Bogotá

COLOMBIA

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 March 1992.