

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/20/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 105/93 Fear of "disappearance"

7 April 1993

COLOMBIA: Luis Mauricio AGUDELO RINCON, aged 28, estate administrator

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Luis Mauricio Agudelo Rincón, who was last seen on 4 March 1993 in the community of Los Alpes, Cumural municipality, Meta department.

Luis Mauricio Agudelo is the administrator of an estate in Los Alpes belonging to a local priest. According to eye-witnesses, he was at work on the estate on 4 March when, at approximately 9 am, a vehicle arrived carrying seven heavily armed men. He was reportedly forced into the vehicle and taken to an unknown destination. His whereabouts remain unknown.

Local inhabitants state that both the military and paramilitary groups are present in the area and that for several days prior to the "disappearance" of Luis Mauricio Agudelo, army personnel had the local population under surveillance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over recent months the department of Meta has been the scene of an escalating offensive by the Colombian armed forces against the armed opposition group Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. In areas where guerrilla forces are active, the local population is often perceived by the armed forces as potential collaborators and has, as a result, been subjected to human rights violations including arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution by army personnel and paramilitary forces working with them.

Although in 1989 the Colombian government suspended the legal base for the formation of paramilitary organizations and issued directives to the Colombian armed forces to combat and disband such groups, paramilitary forces have continued to kill and "disappear" perceived opponents with impunity in many areas of the country and continue to operate with the support of the Colombian armed forces.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Luis Mauricio Agudelo Rincón, who has not been seen since he was taken from the estate on which he worked in the community of los Alpes, Cumural municipality, Meta department on 4 March 1993;

- urging that there be an immediate inquiry to establish his whereabouts, the results of which should be made public;

- urging that if he is detention, he be humanely treated, allowed access to lawyers and to his family;

- urging that if he is in detention, that he be released unless charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought before a competent court.

Page 2 of UA 105/93

APPEALS TO

1) Attorney General:

Dr. Gustavo de Greiff
Fiscal General
Fiscalia General
Apartado Aéreo 29855
Santafé de Bogotá
Colombia

Telegrams:Fiscal General, Fiscalia General, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 287 0939

Salutation: Estimado Dr. de Greiff / Dear Dr. de Greiff

2) Commander of the Army:

Mayor General Hernán José Guzmán Rodríguez
Comandante del Ejército
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52
Santa Fe de Bogotá
Colombia

Telegrams: Comandante del Ejercito Bogota, Colombia

Telexes:43401 COEJC

Salutation:Sr. Comandante / Dear Commander

3) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
Defensor del Pueblo
Defensoría del Pueblo
Calle 34, Carrera 5
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo, Bogota, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472

Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño / Dear Dr. Triviño

4) President of Colombia:

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

Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

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

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President Gaviria

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) <u>Intercongregational Commission for</u> <u>Justice and Peace:</u> Comisión Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz AA 52332 Santa Fe de Bogotá Colombia	2) <u>Procurator General:</u> 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
--	---

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 May 1993.