

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/32/95
Distr: UA/SC

UA 158/95

"Disappearance"

4 July 1995

COLOMBIA

Nalfi LÓPEZ NARVAEZ, aged 19, street vendor

Nalfi López Narvaez has not been seen since 14 May 1995 when he was arrested by a police patrol. There is serious concern for his safety.

Information just received by Amnesty International indicates that Nalfi López Narvaez was arrested as he was travelling by bus between the municipality of San Pelayo and municipality of San Luis in Córdoba department.

In a declaration before the *Defensor del Pueblo*, People's Defender, the sergeant in command of the police patrol said that Nalfi López Narvaez was arrested because he looked exactly like someone wanted in connection with criminal activities. The sergeant said that he was later released.

However, Nalfi López's whereabouts remain unknown despite enquiries made by his relatives to the police and military authorities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearance", torture and arbitrary arrest. President Ernesto Samper Pizano, who assumed office on 7 August 1994, has publicly stated that tackling the human rights situation will be a priority for his government. His promises include a commitment to dismantle paramilitary forces. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces, together with their paramilitary allies, continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity. Only exceptionally are perpetrators brought to justice; the vast majority of members of the armed and security forces responsible for gross human rights violations remain in active service.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Nalfi López Narvaez, who has not been seen since he was arrested by a police patrol on 14 May 1995;
- calling for an immediate and thorough investigation into his whereabouts, the results of which should be made public and those found responsible for any abuses against him be brought to justice;
- urging that, if he is in detention, that he be humanely treated, allowed access to lawyers and to his family and that he be released unless charged with a recognized criminal offence.

APPEALS TO

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente Ernesto Samper Pizano
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Samper Pizano, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 7434

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Samper

2) Minister of Defence

Dr. Fernando Botero Zea
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Avenida Eldorado CAN - Carrera 52
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa Botero, Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO
Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874/288 4906
Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

3) Minister of the Interior

Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe
Ministro de Gobierno
Ministerio de Gobierno
Carrera 8a, No. 8-09, Piso 7
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA
Faxes: + 57 1 286 8025 / 286 0053 / 286 0485
Telegrams: Ministro de Gobierno Serpa, Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 45406 MINGO CO
Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

4) Procurator General:

Dr. Orlando Vásquez Velásquez
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Procurador General Velásquez, Bogotá, Colombia
Faxes: + 57 1 342 9723 (may be taped office sounds, then engaged signal, then fax tone) / 284 0472 / 281 7531
Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la Nación/Dear Dr. Velásquez

COPIES TO:

Human Rights and Educational Organization
Señores
CINEP
AA 25916
Santafé 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 August 1995.