

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 23/36/94
Distr: UA/SC

27 April 1994

Further information on UA 40/94 (AMR 23/14/94, 7 February 1994) -
"Disappearance"

COLOMBIA: Julio César PAYAN DE LA ROCHE, doctor and community leader, aged 52

Amnesty International has learned that Dr. Julio César Payán de la Roche was released unharmed in April, although the exact date of his release is not yet known.

Sources now report that Dr. Payán was kidnapped and not "disappeared" as was widely believed. On 20 January 1994, Dr. Payán de la Roche was reported missing from his home near Popayán, Cauca department and there was serious concern for his safety. In addition to his medical work, he is a well-known community leader and member of the left-wing opposition party M-19 Democratic Alliance, *Alianza Democrática M-19*. Since the party's formation in 1990, several M-19 Democratic Alliance members have been victims of "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. In 1992 an attempt was reportedly made on Dr. Payán de la Roche's life and although it was uncertain who was responsible for his abduction on 20 January, it was feared that he too may have been the victim of a "disappearance".

No further action is required on this case. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals on Dr. Payán's behalf.