

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

6 February 2015

COLOMBIA : Julio César OROZCO

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Amnesty International has learned about the detention of Julio César Orozco on 31 August 1990 in Medellín, department of Antioquia, and is concerned for his physical safety as he is reportedly being held in incommunicado detention.

According to reports, 32-year-old community worker Julio César Orozco was detained at his home in central Medellín, department of Antioquia, during the evening of 31 August 1990 by members of the army's IV Brigade. Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of Julio César Orozco as under decree laws of August 1989 (issued under state of siege legislation), the armed forces may arrest and hold suspects in incommunicado detention for up to seven working days.

Julio César Orozco works at a cultural centre called "Convivir", which is linked to the Social Action Network in Medellín (Plan de Acción Social del Municipio de Medellín). Relatives and colleagues of Julio César Orozco have denounced his incommunicado detention to the local human rights ombudsman (Personero Municipal) and the Presidential Adviser for Human Rights (Consejero Presidencial para los Derechos Humanos).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Human rights in Colombia are occurring on a dramatically increasing scale, against a background of considerable non-political violence. The local civilian population is often perceived by the armed forces as potential guerrilla collaborators, and has, as a result, been subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution by armed forces person and civilians working with them.

Following state of siege legislation in August 1989 thousands of people have been arrested ostensibly as part of the government's attempts to combat drugs trafficking, but in practice often affecting political suspects. Amnesty International recognizes the rights of governments to combat criminal activity, but is concerned at the serious risk to physical integrity that such detention entails.

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

- expressing concern at the incommunicado detention Julio César Orozco;
- urging that his legal situation be clarified, that he be allowed full access to lawyers and relatives, and that he be humanely treated while in detention;
- urging that he be released unless charged with a criminal offence and brought before a competent court.

APPEALS TO:

Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Bogotá
COLOMBIA

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

Comandante
Brig-Gen Harold Bedoya
IV Brigada
Medellín
Antioquia
COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Comandante IV Brigada, Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia

COPIES TO:

Dr. Jorge Orlando Melo
Consejería Presidencial para la Defensa,
Protección y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
Calle 7, No. 6-54
Bogotá
COLOMBIA

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Méndez
Procurador General de la Nación
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Bogotá
COLOMBIA

Señores
CINEP
AA 25916
Bogota, 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 18 October 1990.