

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 23/046/2002

29 April 2002

Further information on UA 62/02 (AMR 23/082/02, 27 February 2002) and follow-ups (AMR 23/032/2002, 27 March 2002 and AMR 23/092/02, 6 March 2002) - Fear for safety/ Possible "disappearance"

COLOMBIA José Antonio Pérez (m)] Ecopetrol employees
Hernando Silva Cely (m)]

Other members of the Oil Workers' Union (USO) and Ecopetrol workers, Department of Casanare

Released: Gilberto Torres Martínez (m) - trade union leader

Trade union leader Gilberto Torres Martínez, was released on 7 April in the region of the Llanos Orientales of Colombia, near Monterrey, Casanare department. He was met by a humanitarian delegation which reportedly included members of the International Red Cross as well as members of other international and church non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Gilberto Torres Martínez had been abducted on 25 February by members of the army-backed paramilitary group *Autodefensas Campesinas del Casanare* (ACC), Peasant Self-Defence Forces of Casanare.

During his captivity, members of the Oil Workers' Union (USO) and Ecopetrol workers, had asked national and international human rights organizations, to press the Colombian government to name a humanitarian delegation to mediate with the ACC for his release.

There is no further information on the whereabouts of oil workers José Antonio Pérez and Hernando Silva Cely, who were abducted by unidentified gunmen on 25 March.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- urging the authorities to order an independent, impartial and conclusive investigation into the abduction of Gilberto Torres Martínez who was released on 7 April;
- urging them to take immediate action to ensure that José Antonio Pérez and Hernando Siva Cely are released unharmed,
- expressing concern for the safety of USO trade union activists and Ecopetrol employees in Casanare and throughout the country;
- asking the authorities what measures, deemed appropriate by those under threat themselves, they are going to take to guarantee the safety of those at risk.

APPEALS TO:

President of Colombia

Señor Presidente Andrés Pastrana, Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No. 7-26, Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegram: President Pastrana, Bogotá, Colombia

Telex: 44281 PALP CO

Fax: + 57 1 566 2071

Salutation: Dear President Pastrana / Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente Pastrana

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Armando Estrada Villa,
Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior,
Palacio Echeverry, Carrera 8a, No.8-09, piso 2o.,
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegram: Ministro Interior, Bogota, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 562 5298 (if someone answers say "me da tono de fax por favor")

Salutation: Dear Sir / Sr. Ministro

Governor of the Department of Casanare

Sr. William Hernín Pérez Espinel
Gobernador del Departamento de Casanare
Gobernación de Casanare
Yopal, Casanare, COLOMBIA

Telegrams: Gobernador del Departamento de Casanare, Casanare, Colombia

Fax: + 57 8 755 8662

Salutation: Dear Governor Pérez Espinel / Estimado Sr. Gobernador Pérez Espinel

National Advocate for the people

Sr. Eduardo Cifuentes Muñoz,
Defensor del Pueblo, Defensoría del Pueblo,
Calle 55, No. 10-32/46 office 301,
Santafé de Bogotá, COLOMBIA

Telegram: National Advocate, Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: + 57 1 640 0491

Salutation: Dear Mr. Cifuentes Muñoz / Estimado Sr. Cifuentes Muñoz

COPIES TO:

CUT, Nacional, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Colombia
Trade Union Confederation
Calle 35 N° 7-25, Piso 9, 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 10 June 2002.