

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Please organize up to ten appeals per section

UA 369/91

Fear of Torture

1 November 1991

COLOMBIA

Estanislao ANAYA

Nelson JAIMES QUINTERO, aged 22

Amnesty International has learned with concern of the possible torture or otherwise ill-treatment of Estanislao Anaya and Nelson Jaimes Quintero following their detention by the police on 30 October 1991 in Barrancabermeja, Santander department.

According to reports, the two men were detained by agents of Colombia's judicial police, the Sección de Policía Judicial e Investigación (SIJIN), at approximately 8.30 am in the poor northeastern district of Barrancabermeja, and taken to the SIJIN's headquarters on suspicion of involvement in the killing earlier that day of a lawyer. Inhabitants of the same district state that later in the same day agents of the SIJIN brought Estanislao Anaya and Nelson Jaimes Quintero back to the northeastern district, apparently to make some identification. They report that signs of injuries on the arms and heads of the two men led them to believe that they had been ill-treated.

Despite efforts by their families to visit the two men in detention, all requests have apparently been refused and they have not yet been brought before a judge.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In September 1991 the Procurator General's office produced an official report stating that more than 3,000 complaints had been lodged against the army and police in the last two years for human rights violations, including extrajudicial execution, "disappearance" and torture. President César Gaviria Trujillo, on presenting the report, stated:

"No puede el Gobierno desconocer la gravedad de las acusaciones que se hacen en forma reiterada y masiva contra sus agentes, ni ignorar hasta que punto reina la impunidad por violación de derechos humanos."

"The government cannot fail to recognise the seriousness of the accusations made constantly and on a massive scale against its agents, nor ignore the extent of impunity in cases of human rights violations".

Despite the Colombian government's commitment to uphold respect for human rights, the Colombian security forces have continued to carry out extrajudicial executions, "disappearances" and torture with virtual impunity.

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

- expressing concern at the allegations that Estanislao Anaya and Nelson Jaimes Quintero may have been tortured or otherwise ill-treated whilst in the detention of the Colombian judicial police SIJIN;

- urging that the allegations be investigated and those responsible brought to justice;

- urging that their legal situation be clarified, that they be allowed full access to lawyers and relatives and that they be given adequate medical attention.

APPEALS TO

President of the Republic:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo **Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente**
Presidente de la República **Dear President Gaviria**
Palacio de Nariño
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria, Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 44281 PALP CO
Faxes: + 57 1 283 3066
 + 57 1 286 7324
 + 57 1 287 7937

Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla **Sr. Procurador General de la Nación**
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General **Dear Dr Padilla**
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogota, Colombia
Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or 41213 PGNDP CO
Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

Defensor del Pueblo

Dr Jaime Córdoba Triviño **Sr Defensor del Pueblo**
Defensor del Pueblo
Procuraduría General **Dear Dr Triviño**
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
Telegrams: Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, c/o Procuraduria General, Santa Fe
 de Bogota, Colombia
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Coronel Luis Montenegro

Sr Coronel

Comandante

Dear Colonel Montenegro

Dirección de Policía Judicial e Investigación

Carrera 15 No 10-41

Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Comandante DIJIN, Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia

COPIES TO:

Comité Regional Para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CREDDHOS)
AA 505
Barrancabermeja
Santander, Colombia

(Human Rights Organization)

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section officie, if sending appeals after 13 December 1991.