

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 419/93 "Disappearance"

29 November 1993

COLOMBIA: Gelver CASTRILLÓN SIERRA, salesman

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Gelver Castrillón Sierra who has been missing since 16 November 1993 when he was reportedly arrested by men who identified themselves as members of the F-2 police intelligence unit.

Reports indicate that the arrest took place in the vicinity of Parque Santander, in the municipality of Barrancabermeja, department of Santander. The arrest was witnessed by Gelver Castrillón Sierra's sister. On 23 November a writ of Habeas Corpus was presented to the local judge, but as yet there has been no response and Gelver Castrillón Sierra's whereabouts remain unknown. His family have looked for him at the F-2, national police, army and municipal authorities, without any success.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, arbitrary arrest, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. President César Gaviria Trujillo has repeatedly pledged his government's commitment to protect human rights. However, members of the Colombian armed and security forces continue to commit serious abuses with virtual impunity. Civic leaders, trade unionists, human rights activists and those considered "social undesirables" are amongst the groups frequently targeted by the security forces for arbitrary arrest and other forms of human rights abuse.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Gelver Castrillón Sierra who has not been seen since 16 November 1993, when he was reportedly arrested near Parque Santander, Barrancabermeja, department of Santander by men who identified themselves as members of the F-2 police intelligence unit;
- urging that there be an immediate and thorough inquiry into his whereabouts;
- urging that if he is in detention, that he be humanely treated and allowed access to lawyers and relatives;
- urging that if he is in detention, that he be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or released immediately.

APPEALS TO

1) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324/7434; 287 7937

Salutation:Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President Gaviria

2) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla
 Procurador General de la Nación
 Procuraduría General
 Edificio Banco Ganadero
 Carrera 5, No. 15-80
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta, Bogotá, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 284 0472

Salutation:Sr. Procurador de la Nación / Dear Dr. Arrieta

3) Director General of the Police:

Mayor Miguel Antonio Gómez Padilla
 Director General de la Policía Nacional
 Tr. 45, No. 40-11
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams: Dir.-Gen. Policia Nacional, Bogota, Colombia

Salutation:Sr. Director General/Dear sir

4) Advocate for the People:

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
 Defensor del Pueblo
 Defensoría del Pueblo
 Avenida 39, No. 16-42
 Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

Telegrams:Defensor del Pueblo Trivino, Defensoria del Pueblo, Bogota, Colombia

Faxes:+ 57 1 232 4640

Salutation: Estimado Dr Triviño/Dear Dr. Triviño

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:1) Andean Commission of Jurists:

Comisión Andina de Juristas
 AA 58533
 Santa Fé 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 January 1993.