

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Torture

4 April 1991

ECUADOR

Isaac Rómulo BUSTOS BERMUDEZ, 33

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported torture of Isaac Rómulo Bustos Bermúdez by members of the Servicio de Investigaciones Criminales, (SIC), the Criminal Investigation Service, in the province of Los Ríos.

According to reports, Isaac Bustos was detained by the police on 28 February 1991 and accused of a common crime. He was held in incommunicado detention at the Babahoyo police headquarters, province of Los Ríos, until 4 March 1991. On 3 March he was apparently subjected to severe torture by SIC agents - while hung by the wrists, he was kicked and beaten with clubs. According to two independent forensic certificates, Isaac Bustos had to be hospitalised for 10 days due to a dislocated arm and other injuries consistent with the treatment he allegedly received.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Information received by Amnesty International over the years suggests that torture and ill-treatment of criminal suspects is common practice during police interrogation. Lack of action to prevent it happening or to bring those responsible to justice seems to indicate tolerance or acquiescence by the authorities.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported torture of Isaac Rómulo Bustos Bermúdez by members of the SIC;
- asking for a full and independent inquiry into the allegations of torture, that the nature of the findings be made public and, should the allegations be sustained, that those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Dr. Rodrigo Borja Cevallos
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Gobierno
García Moreno 1043
Quito, ECUADOR

Telegrams: Presidente Borja, Quito, Ecuador

Telexes: 22375 prrep ed

22201 prrep ed

Sr. César Verduga Vélez
Ministro de Gobierno y Policía
Ministerio de Gobierno y Policía
Espejo y Benalcázar
Quito, ECUADOR

Telegrams: Ministro Gobierno Vélez, Quito, Ecuador

Telexes: 22354 mingob ed

COPIES TO:

Señores
CEDHU
Apartado 720 A
Quito, ECUADOR

and to diplomatic representatives of Ecuador in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 May 1991.