

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 28/02/00

21 January 2000

Further information on UA 10/00 (AMR 28/01/00, 18 January 2000) - Fear for safety/possible prisoners of conscience

ECUADORCiro Guzmán Aldas
Luis Villacís Maldonado
José Chávez

Further arbitrary detentions

Amnesty International has learnt that the three men named above have been released in the past few days. No further appeals on their behalf are needed. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

However, the organization remains concerned at reports that hundreds of people have been arbitrarily detained under the current state of emergency. Relatives of those detained have expressed concern for the safety of their loved ones. They are also concerned that because it is difficult to find out where they are held, detainees are not receiving prompt legal assistance.

Protests against the government's policy of "dollarisation" are continuing. Thousands of indigenous people have marched into the capital, Quito, and have congregated near the presidential palace. Together with grassroots leaders and trade union organizations they are calling for the resignation of President Mahuad Witt and the dissolution of Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice.

Amnesty International recognizes that the Ecuadorean authorities are entitled to maintain law and order. However, international and domestic human rights standards must be respected and the authorities should make it clear that abuses of fundamental human rights by the security forces will not be tolerated.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send faxes/express/ airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:

-urging the authorities to ensure that international and domestic human rights standards, in particular the right to life and the right not to be tortured and ill-treated, are fully respected during the present state of emergency;
-urging the authorities to ensure that detainees' relatives and lawyers are promptly told where they are held.

APPEALS TO:

President

Dr. Jamil Mahuad Witt
Presidente Constitucional de la República del Ecuador
Palacio de Carondelet
García Moreno 1043
Quito
ECUADOR

Fax:+ 5932 580735/580142/580750/580716

Salutation:Dear President

COPIES TO:

Human rights organization

Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos
"Segundo Montes Mozo S.J."
Av. 10 de Agosto N26-57 y Gral Vicente Aguirre
Edif. Tauro, Of. 802,

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Quito
ECUADOR

and to diplomatic representatives of Ecuador accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 March 2000.