

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible Extrajudicial Execution

21 May 1993

ECUADOR: Orestes CAÑOLA
Enrique CAÑOLA
Fredy CAÑOLA

Amnesty International is concerned about reports of people who have died in the custody of the Ecuadorean security forces. Many of the reported victims are said to have been suspected of committing petty crimes or of having engaged in personal fights with members of the police. There are only a few known cases in which those responsible were brought to justice.

Most recently Amnesty International has learned of the reported death of Orestes Cañola, Enrique Cañola and Fredy Cañola in circumstances suggesting their extrajudicial execution.

According to reports, on the night of 12 April 1993, a fight broke out in Viche, Esmeraldas province, as a result of which a policeman, Orestes Cañola and his nephew Fredy were wounded. The policeman was taken away to receive medical attention and the Cañolas went home. A few hours later the policeman died. Shortly afterwards, Orestes, his brother Enrique and Fredy were reportedly detained at their homes by members of the police who drove them to the police station of Viche. According to reports, the detainees were later put on a vehicle to be transferred to the city of Esmeraldas. However they never arrived at the police station in Esmeraldas and their bodies, reportedly with signs of bullet wounds and bruising, were found at the morgue in Esmeraldas.

Amnesty International urges the authorities to conduct full and independent inquiries into the circumstances, manner and cause of death of the three victims, to make public their findings and that those found responsible be brought to justice.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

International standards approved by United Nations bodies, address the issue of law enforcement and the use of force and firearms. These standards are contained in the Code for Law Enforcement Officials, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) in 1979 and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, adopted by consensus at the Eighth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1990. The UN has urged all members states to incorporate these standards in their national legislation and rules of procedures.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters either

in Spanish, English or your own language:

- expressing concern at the possible extrajudicial execution by members of the police of Orestes, Enrique and Fredy Cañola from Esmeraldas;
- urging that there be an immediate and independent investigation into the causes of their deaths;
- urging that the results be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice;

Page 2 of UA 167/93

- urging the authorities to establish strict guidelines for the use of lethal force in accordance with international standards and to issue public instructions to all members of the security forces that human rights violations, including the killing of unarmed civilians, are criminal offences and that those responsible should be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of Ecuador:

Sr. Sixto Durán Ballén
Presidente de la República del Ecuador
Palacio de Gobierno
García Moreno 1043
Quito
ECUADOR

Telegrams: Presidente Ballen, Quito, Ecuador

Telexes: 22375/22201 prerep ed

Salutation: Sr Presidente / Dear President

2) Minister of the Government and Police:

Sr. Ministro Roberto Dunn Barreiro
Ministro de Gobierno y Policía
Ministerio de Gobierno y Policía
Espejo y Benalcázar
Quito
ECUADOR

Telegrams: Ministro Gobierno Barreiro, Quito, Ecuador

Telexes: 22354 mingob ed

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights Organization:

Comisión Ecuménica de Derechos Humanos
Apartado 720 A
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 2 July 1993.