

14 April 2000

Further information on Extra 34/00 (AMR 18/01/00, 11 April 2000) - Fear of ill-treatment / legal concern and new concerns: illegal detention / death threats

BOLIVIA Released: Gabriel Herbas, Walter Antezana, Emilio Sejas, Ascencio Picha, Sacarias Pereira, Victor Cossio, Santiago Garcia (corrected from Gareca), Victor Nina, Enriqueta Imaca, Osvaldo Toco, Pedro Soto.

Still in detention: Felipe Quispe Huanca, Fred Nuñez, Angel Claure, Francisco Partis, Emilio Rodriguez, Filomeno Rivera, Felipe Flores, Juan Yapura

new names: David Goitia Benito, aged 16]
 Franz Guzmán, aged 14] Minors illegally detained
 Noel Guzmán, aged 12]
 Wilfredo Apaza, aged 14]

Edwin Huanca, aged 18
 Bartolomé Flores, aged 32

Threatened: Members of TV Network Periodistas Asociados Television (PAT)

Amnesty International now fears for the safety of the four minors and two adults named above after they were detained (the minors illegally) by security forces and reportedly tortured to coerce them into incriminating community leaders, union leaders or themselves. Although all have now been released the safety of all is still of concern.

The organization is also concerned by death threats issued to members of the television network *Periodistas Asociados Televisión* (PAT), Associated Journalists Television, after they filmed and transmitted the shooting of Hugo Daza (aged 17) who was shot in the face at the time that an army officer fired into the crowd in Cochabamba on 8 April.

On 8 April 2000, police detained David Goitia Benito in Cochabamba and took him to the offices of the *Grupo Especial de Seguridad* (GES), Security Special Group where he was badly beaten by a group of men using a chain and a hose. He managed to escape a few hours later but is badly bruised all over his torso and has a broken nose.

Franz and Noel Guzmán were taken by the army on 9 April to the army barracks in Achacachi (La Paz Department) and not released until the next day. According to their mother they were submerged in water and beaten and suffered shock as a consequence.

On 10 April, Wilfredo Apaza was taken by the army in Ajllata Grande (La Paz Department) but later returned to his family. According to press reports Gerardo Rosado, President of the Human Rights Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, has said he is aware of security forces in Achacachi illegally arresting minors and that the Commission will thoroughly investigate.

On 9 April Bartolomé Flores and Edwin Huanca were arrested and taken to army barracks in Viacha (La Paz Department) and tortured. They were reportedly doused with water and given electric shocks, had hoods placed over their heads and were badly beaten.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Reports indicate that at least 17 people were injured in a demonstration on 14 April in La Paz after violence broke out with police. Peasant unions have

reportedly said they will not take part in talks with the government until their leaders have been released. An undisclosed number of people are still in detention.

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

- asking for immediate, independent and thorough investigations into reports that four minors: David Goitia Benito, Franz Guzmán, Noel Guzmán and Wilfredo Apaza and Edwin Huanca and Bartolomé Flores were detained (the minors illegally) and tortured between 8 and 9 April 2000 in order to coerce them into incriminating community and union leaders and themselves;
- expressing concern and asking for immediate, thorough and independent investigations into reports that they were tortured.
- expressing concern at reports of death threats issued to members of the television network *Periodistas Asociados Television* (PAT)
- asking for an independent investigation into these reported threats and guarantees for their safety

APPEALS TO (fax numbers might be difficult to get through to. If voice answers say: «me puede dar tono de fax por favor»):

Excmo. Sr. Presidente, Gral. Hugo Banzer
Palacio de Gobierno, La Paz, Bolivia

Telegrams: Presidente, La Paz, Bolivia

Faxes: + 5912 332055 / 391216

Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

Sr. Ministro de Gobierno, Sr. Walter Guiteras Dennis
Ministerio de Gobierno, Av. Arce esq. Belisario Salinas
La Paz, Bolivia

Telegrams: Ministro Gobierno, La Paz, Bolivia

Faxes: + 5912 371352 / 371334

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

Sr. Ministro de Justicia, Sr. Juan Chahin
Ministerio de Justicia, Palacio de Comunicaciones, Piso 6
Avenida Mariscal Santa Cruz, La Paz, Bolivia

Telegrams: Ministro Justicia, La Paz, Bolivia

Faxes: + 5912 356530

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Sr. Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

Dr. Javier Murillo de la Rocha

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, La Paz, Bolivia

Faxes: + 59 12 371155

Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos, Cajón Postal 9282, La Paz, Bolivia

Faxes: + 5912 335715

CEDIB, Centro de Documentación e Información Bolivia, Casilla 3302
Cochabamba, Bolivia, **Faxes: + 5914 252401**

and to diplomatic representatives of BOLIVIA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 May 2000.