PUBLIC AI Index: AMR 23/001/2001

8 January 2001

Further information on UA 325/00 (AMR 23/84/00, 25 October 2000) - Fear for Safety/Possible "Disappearance"

Ramón AGUILÚ GAITÁN Nelson AGUILÚ GAITÁN Pedro PABLO Ramón ENCINOSA DÍAZ, aged 17 Yineth ALVARADO (f) Ferney N. RÍOS, aged 15

At least 14 other young people aged 13-25 from the municipality of Puerto Gaitán, Meta department

Forcibly displaced people in Villavicencio, Meta department, and members of the church-run organisation Pastoral Social that is helping them.

Army-backed paramilitaries have released a number of people, including several of those named above, who were abducted in October. The church-run organization *Pastoral Social* has sent Amnesty International this message of thanks:

"Gracias a las oportunas y efectivas acciones urgentes realizadas ... se logró que los paramilitares con sede en Puerto Gaitán (Meta) regresaran a sus hogares a NELSON YAGUILU, ERMINIA ENCINOSA y sus dos hijos RAMON Y PEDRO ENCINOSA al iqual que a RAMON AGUILA, MARIA ELENA, MARIA CECILIA GAITAN entre otros".

"Thanks to your timely and effective Urgent Actions ... the paramilitaries based in Puerto Gaitán (Meta) allowed NELSON YAGUILU, ERMINIA ENCINOSA and her two sons RAMON and PEDRO ENCINOSA, as well as RAMON AGUILA, MARIA ELENA and MARIA CECILIA GAITAN among others to return home".

Amnesty International will seek to find out whether all those abducted in October have been released. No more action is required on this case at present. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.