

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 335/91 (AMR 23/57/91, 10 October 1991) - and follow-up:
AMR 23/04/92, 4 February 1992 - Prisoner of Conscience - Death Threats

COLOMBIA:Edwar ALVAREZ VACCA, human rights activist, aged 20

Amnesty International has learned of the release of Edwar Alvarez Vacca and that the charges against him have been dropped.

Edwar Alvarez Vacca is a member of the Equipo Coordinadora para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Coordinating Team for the Defense of Human Rights in Ocaña, Norte de Santander Department. He has been actively involved in community and human rights work for a number of years and the victim of threats and intimidation as a result. He was detained with two others on 1 February 1992. They were informed that they would be charged with membership of the armed opposition group Ejército Nacional de Liberación, National Liberation Army.

Amnesty International believes that Edwar Alvarez was a prisoner of conscience, detained solely on account of his peaceful human rights activities.

As a demonstration of the effectiveness of the appeals, a letter was received from an associate of Edwar Alvarez concerning his detention stating:-

"... la solidaridad de la gente y en especial la presión efectiva de las decenas de cartas, fax, comunicados que llegaron de allí, los compañeros ahora están libres. Esto realmente fortaleció el proceso..."

" ... (as a result of) people's solidarity and especially the effective pressure from the dozens of letters, faxes and other communications which arrived, our friends are now free."

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.