

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture/"Disappearance"

14 April 1993

COLOMBIA:

Leandro SALAZAR MOLINA aged 21

Calixto RAMOS CHAVARRO aged 31

Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of the above named farm workers who "disappeared" after detention by the Colombian police on 13 March 1993 in the department of Huila.

According to reports, Leandro Salazar Molina and Calixto Ramos Chavarro were travelling by motorcycle from the municipality of Oporapa to the municipality of La Argentina when they were intercepted by members of the Colombian police.

The two men, both farm workers, were last seen being driven away towards the police station in La Argentina by agents reportedly known to be from that police station (*estación de policía*). When family and friends went to enquire after the farm workers, agents from La Argentina police station denied the detention of Leandro Salazar and Calixto Ramos. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years widespread and systematic human rights violations have occurred in Colombia, including torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution.

Colombian human rights groups estimate that over 2,000 people have "disappeared" and remain unaccounted for since 1980. Principal targets have been farm workers, peasant and community leaders, trade unionists, and members of legal left-wing parties.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish, English or your own language:

- expressing concern at the "disappearance" of Leandro Salazar Molina and Calixto Ramos Chavarro following detention by the Colombian police and urging that their detention be acknowledged, their whereabouts disclosed and that they be treated humanely and allowed full access to family and lawyers;

- requesting an independent inquiry into their "disappearance" in order to bring all those responsible to justice, the results of which should be made public;

APPEALS TO

1) Procurator General:

Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta,
Bogotá, Colombia**

**Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or
41213 PGNDP CO**

Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472

Salutation: Estimado Dr. Arrieta/Dear Dr. Arrieta

2) Director of Police Operations:

General Nacim Yanine Díaz
Director Operativa de la Policía Nacional
Tr. 45, N° 40-11
Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: General Yanine Díaz, Director Policía,
Bogotá, Colombia**

Salutation: Sr. General/Dear General Yanine

3) President of Colombia:

Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá,
Colombia**

Telexes: 44281 PALP CO

Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324

287 7937

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/ Dear President
Gaviria**

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Intercongregational Commission of Justice and Peace

Comisión Intercongregacional de Justicia y Paz

AA 31.861

Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

Advocate for the People

Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
Defensor del Pueblo
Defensoría del Pueblo
Calle 34, Carrera 5
Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 May 1993.