

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"DISAPPEARANCES"

14 September 1990

COLOMBIA Rodrigo LOPEZ, aged 30 (all related)
 Ramona CORREA, aged 20
 Robinson LOPEZ
 Yourleidy LOPEZ

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Amnesty International is concerned at the reported "disappearance" of the above-named peasants after detention by the army in Yondó, department of Antioquia.

According to reports Rodrigo López, his wife, Ramona Correa, their one-year-old daughter, Yourleidy, and Robinson López (Rodrigo López' brother) were all seized by members of the army on 3 September 1990 when troops carried out house searches in the community (vereda) La Concepción, municipality of Yondó, department of Antioquia.

Delegates from the regional procurator's office, (Procuraduría Regional), together with the Regional Human Rights Committee (Comité Regional de Derechos Humanos), travelled to La Concepción and found evidence that the house of the Lopez family had been violently raided. However, military spokesmen reportedly denied they had found anyone in La Concepción when their troops had gone to the area, within which there is strict military control of all movement.

Despite these efforts to locate them, the whereabouts of Rodrigo López, Ramona Correa, Yourleidy López, and Robinson López remain unknown and Amnesty International is seriously concerned for their safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the beginning of 1990, Amnesty International has become seriously concerned at the increasing number of reports of killings of non-combatant civilians in Colombia. The majority of attacks on non-combatant civilians occur in rural areas placed under tight military control as a result of guerrilla activity. Some appear to be largely indiscriminate attacks against whole communities, targetted for their perceived (left-wing) political allegiances.

In several other cases, however, torture, "disappearances" and killings of non-combatant civilians appear to be carried out in direct reprisal for guerrilla attacks against army personnel with the apparent intention of intimidating the civilian population.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported "disappearance" of Rodrigo López, Ramona Correa, Yourleidy López, and Robinson López;

- urging that they be immediately released unless brought before a competent court and charged with a criminal offence (except in the case of Yourleidy López);

- urging that if in detention they be humanely treated, and granted full access to lawyers and relatives;

- requesting a independent inquiry into their "disappearance" in order to find those responsible and bring them to justice.

APPEALS TO

President César Gaviria Trujillo Presidente de la República Palacio de Nariño Bogotá, Colombia	Telegrams: Presidente Gaviria Bogotá, Colombia Telexes: 44281 PALP CO Faxes: + 57 1 286 7324
General Oscar Botero Ministro de Defensa Nacional Ministerio de Defensa Nacional Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52 Bogotá, Colombia	Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Bogota, Colombia Telexes: 42411 INPRE Vo 44561 CFAC CP Faxes: + 57 1 222 1874
Dr. Orlando Melo Consejero Presidencial para la Defensa, Protección y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos Calle 7, No. 6-58 Bogotá, Colombia	Telegrams: Consejero Presidencial Defensa Derechos Humanos Melo, Bogota, Colombia
Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda Consejero Presidencial para la Defensa y Seguridad Secretaría General de la Presidencia 7, No. 6-58 Bogotá, Colombia	Telegrams: Consejero Presidencial Defensa y Seguridad Pardo. Bogota Calle Colombia Telexes: 442818 PALP CO

COPIES TO:

Procurador Regional de Barrancabermeja
Procuraduría Regional de Barrancabermeja
Carrera 3, No. 7-46, Of. 302
Barrancabermeja
Santander, Colombia

Dr. Alfonso Gómez Mendez
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General
Edificio Banco Ganadero
Carrera 5, No. 15-80
Bogotá, Colombia

Comité Regional de Derechos Humanos
Apartado Aéreo 505
Barrancabermeja
Santander, Colombia

and to diplomatic representatives of Colombia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 October 1990.