

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 53/01/98

10 February 1998

Further information on EXTRA 141/97 (AMR 53/17/97, 21 October 1997) and follow-up (AMR 53/18/97, 22 October 1997) - Fear of Torture

VENEZUELA Yuraima Lara (f), aged 22, student, member of left-wing organization, *Bandera Roja (Red Flag)*

---

A full investigation has been opened by the judicial authorities in Caracas into the arbitrary detention of Yuraima Lara on 16 October 1997.

Yuraima Lara was detained by Policia del Municipio Sucre, Sucre Municipal Police, while distributing leaflets calling for students to protest against the political and economic situation. The police officers allegedly accused her of disturbing the peace, though witnesses to her detention denied that she had caused any disturbance. She was released on 21 October but required hospitalization for treatment for serious injuries incurred to her head, stomach and other parts of her body at the hands of the Municipal Police and the security police, the Dirección de Servicios de Inteligencia y Prevención (DISIP), Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services. She is reported to be recovering well from the brutal treatment she suffered during her detention.

No further action is required from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals on her behalf