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Further information on UA 431/90 (AMR 53/07/90, 23 October 1990)
- Legal Concern

VENEZUELA: El Amparo Killings

Amnesty International has learned that the judicial investigations into the killing of 14 peasants by a combined unit of military personnel and members of the security forces in 1988 are to continue.

On 15 November, it was announced that President Carlos Andrés Pérez had ordered the Permanent War Council of San Cristóbal (Consejo de Guerra Permanente) to continue with the trial. The president, as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, can decide whether investigations in the military courts should be closed or allowed to continue. There had been grave and well-founded fears that the investigations, which have been marked by irregularities and long delays, might be closed bringing to an end one of the most significant cases in Venezuela in recent years.

No further action is requested. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.