

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 53/14/96

6 November 1996

Further information on EXTRA 170/96 (AMR 53/13/96, 1 November 1996) - Prisoners of conscience / Fear of torture

VENEZUELA Juan Bautista Moreno

Carlos Julio Alvarez

Marin de Jesús Madrid Restrepo

Jose Moreno Flores

José Adolfo Peluco Prado - all human rights activists

new names:

Galdis Bustamante (f)

Mariseta Bustamante (f)

Isabelino Bustamante

Baudelaire Bustamante

Hobel Useche

Ramiro Vera

José R. Mafilito

José A. Crillo Flores

Juan Bautista Moreno, Carlos Julio Alvarez, Marin de Jesús Madrid Restrepo, Jose Moreno Flores and José Adolfo Peluco Prado were released without charge on 4 November 1996. Action on their behalf may cease. Local human rights defenders have expressed their thanks.

However, also on 4 November, eight more people (named above) were arrested by members of the anti-terrorist squad of the *Dirección de Inteligencia y Prevención, DISIP*, Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services in Guasdalito, Apure State, and accused, without foundation, of being subversives.

Amnesty International's fear that the detainees may be tortured while in detention are heightened by the fact that one of them, Isabelino Bustamante, was previously subjected to torture after being arbitrarily arrested on 14 July 1995 and held incommunicado. He was then forced to sign statements that he had not been tortured and he was denied medical care, see UA 176/95, AMR 53/09/95, 19 July 1995 and follow-up, AMR 53/10/96, 15 September. To date no one has been brought to justice for these human rights violations. Such impunity encourages the continuation of widespread and systematic human rights violations.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or in your own language:

- while welcoming the five releases, expressing concern about the arbitrary detention of the eight people (name some or all of them), and calling for their immediate and unconditional release;

- seeking assurances that they are being protected from any form of torture or ill-treatment, and calling for them to have access to lawyers, relatives and independent doctors;

if possible, also:

- urge the authorities to comply with their obligations under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Interamerican Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, to which Venezuela is a state party.

APPEALS TO

1) President of the Republic

President of the Republic
Dr. Rafael Caldera
Presidente de la República
Palacio Miraflores
Caracas, Venezuela

Telegrams: Presidente Caldera, Venezuela

Telexes: 21161 MIRAF VC

Fax: 582 8610793

Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear President

2) Director General of Technical & Judicial Police

Comisario José Ramón Lazo Ricardi
Parque Carabobo,
Caracas, Venezuela

Telegrams: Director General de DISIP, Caracas, Venezuela

Fax: + 582 574 0972

Salutation: Sr Director General/Dear General Director

3) Attorney General

Dr Iván Dario Badell González
Fiscal General de la República
Esquinas de Manduca a Ferrenquin,
Caracas, Venezuela

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Caracas, Venezuela

Fax: + 58 2 564 7461

Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General/ Dear Attorney Genral

COPIES TO:

1) Human rights ngo

Red de Apoyo
Edif. Caroata, Nivel Oficina 2, Of. 220
Parque Central, Caracas, Venezuela
Tel/fax: (582) 5741949 and 5748005

2) Governor of Apure state

José Gregorio Montilla
Gobernador del Estado Apure
Calle Bolívar
Cruce con Comercio y Piar
San Fernando de Apure
Estado Apure, Venezuela

and to diplomatic representatives of Venezuela accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your Section office, if sending appeals after 6 December 1996.