

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Feared "Disappearance"

31 July 1992

COLOMBIA:

William Villalba

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Amnesty International is concerned for the physical integrity of William Villalba who was last seen in Granada, department of Meta.

According to eye witnesses, William Villalba was siezed from an ice-cream parlour in the centre of Granada, department of Meta on 26 July 1992 by a group of armed men. He was pushed into a Toyota car and taken to an unidentified destination. Local military and police authorities have reportedly denied holding him and his whereabouts remain unknown.

William Willalba is a member of the legal left-wing coalition party Unión Patriótica, (UP), Patriotic Union.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Coinciding with an escalating offensive by the Colombian armed forces against the armed opposition group Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, (FARC), Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, in the department of Meta, Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports of human rights violations against non-combatant civilians by army personnel in areas undergoing counter-insurgency operations. Victims have frequently been leaders and members of the UP, who claim that over 1,500 of its members have been victims of politically motivated killings since its creation in 1985. The majority of these killings have been attributed by Colombian authorities to paramilitary groups which it claims it is unable to control. However, independent investigations, including judicial inquiries have concluded that many such groups operate under the command or with the support of the Colombian security forces.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the possible "disappearance" of William Villalba;
- urging that his legal situation be clarified and that he be treated humanely and allowed full access to family and lawyers;

#### APPEALS TO:

1) President of Colombia:  
Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño

Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: President Gaviria, Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telex: 44281 PALP CO**  
**Fax: + 57 1 286 3066**  
286 7324  
287 7937

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

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2) Procurator General:  
Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Procuraduría General  
Edificio Banco Ganadero  
Carrera 5, No. 15-80  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Procurador General Arrieta,**  
**Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 41224 PRGEN CO or**  
**41213 PGNDP CO**  
**Faxes: + 57 1 284 0472**

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la Nación/ Dear Procurator General**

3) Commander of the VII Brigade:  
Comandante de la VII Brigada  
Via a Puerto López  
Villavicencio  
Meta, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Comandante VII Brigada**  
**Villavicencio, Meta**

**Salutation: Dear Comandante/Dear Commander**

4) Minister of Defence  
Dr. Rafael Pardo Rueda  
Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional  
Avenida Eldorado - Carrera 52  
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa Pardo Rueda**  
**Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia**  
**Telexes: 42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO**  
**Fax: + 57 1 222 1874**

**Salutation: Sr Ministro/Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Señores  
ANDAS

AA 3511  
Santa Fe 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 11 September 1992.