



City of Cambridge

14

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 3 1993

COUNCILLOR WOLF
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

WHEREAS: Amnesty International has sent out an **urgent action appeal** citing concerns about the safety of Delio Vargas, president of a human rights group and a political activist in Colombia; and

WHEREAS: Delio Vargas was seen to be forcibly detained and has disappeared leaving to concern that he will be another victim of a politically motivated killing; and

WHEREAS: It is the hope of the Cambridge City Council that Delio Vargas, along with all other trying to protect the human rights of citizens of their country, will have safety in their important and humane work; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council implores officials in Colombia to assure the safety of Delio Vargas; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Governor Omar Armando Baquero of Meta Department, Columbia, other officials in Colombia and to the local Amnesty International office.

In City Council May 3, 1993.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



URGENT ACTION APPEAL

URGENT ACTION PROGRAM OFFICE • P.O. Box 1270 • Nederland CD 80466-1270 • 303-440-0913 • FAX: 303-258-7881

UA 124/93 Fear of "disappearance" 22 April 1993
COLOMBIA: Delio VARGAS, aged 28, president of human rights group

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Delio Vargas, who has not been seen since he was taken forcefully from a street in Villavicencio, capital of Meta department, on 19 April 1993.

According to the information received, Delio Vargas and his wife arrived at their home in the Villavicencio suburb "Barrio 20 de Julio" at approximately 6 pm on 19 April and were ambushed by five heavily-armed men in civilian dress, who forced Delio Vargas into a vehicle. According to eye-witnesses, Delio Vargas attempted to escape from his captors, but fell as he ran and was forced back into the vehicle and driven to an unknown destination. His abduction has been denounced to the Procurator General's office, Procuraduría General.

Delio Vargas is president of the regional office of ASCODAS, Asociación Colombiana de Asistencia Social, Colombian Association for Social Assistance, an organization working with people from the department of Meta who have been displaced from their homes and land by political violence. Delio Vargas has been involved in the organization of a forum entitled "Peaceful Alternatives in Meta department", due to take place in Villavicencio on 23 April 1993, with the aim of bringing together all sectors of the community, including local and national authorities to discuss peaceful solutions to the violence of the region. Delio Vargas is also a member of the legal opposition party Unión Patriótica, (UP), Patriotic Union. The UP claims that since its creation in 1985 more than 1,500 of its members have been the victims of politically motivated killings.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Villavicencio is the capital of Meta department. Amnesty International has received an increasing number of reports in recent months of human rights violations against members of the civilian population of Meta by Colombian armed forces and paramilitary groups working under their control or with their acquiescence, violations including arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. This coincides 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 region. In areas where guerrilla forces are active, the local population is often perceived by the armed forces as potential guerrilla collaborators and has, as a result, been subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. Particular victims have been community leaders, human rights workers and members of opposition parties.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Delio Vargas, who has not been seen since 19 April 1993 when he was abducted by heavily armed men in Villavicencio;
- urging an immediate and thorough inquiry into his whereabouts;
- urging that if he is in detention, that he be humanely treated and allowed access to lawyers and relatives;
- urging that if in detention, that he be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or released immediately.

APPEALS TO

[Salutation]

1) Governor of Meta department: [Sr. Gobernador / Dear Señor Baquero]
Señor Omar Armando Baquero
Gobernador del Departamento del Meta
Gobernación del Meta
Carrera 33 No. 38-45
Villavicencio
Meta, Colombia
(Telegrams: Gobernador Baquero, Villavicencio, Meta, Colombia)

2) Procurator General: [Sr. Procurador de la Nación / Dear Sr. Arrieta]
Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Fadilla
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)
(Faxes: 011 57 1 284 0472)

3) Advocate for the People: [Estimado Dr. Triviño / Dear Dr. Triviño]
Dr. Jaime Córdoba Triviño
Defensor del Pueblo
Defensoría del Pueblo
Calle 34, Carrera 5
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
(Telegrams: Defensor del Pueblo Triviño, Defensoría del Pueblo, Bogotá, Colombia)
(Faxes: 011 57 1 284 0472)

4) Attorney General: [Estimado Dr. de Greiff / Dear Dr. de Greiff]
Dr. Gustavo de Greiff
Fiscal General
Fiscalía General
Apartado Aéreo 29855
Santafé de Bogotá
Colombia
(Telegrams: Fiscal General, Fiscalía General, Bogotá, Colombia)
(Faxes: 011 57 1 287 0939)

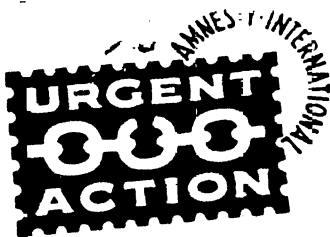
COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) President of Colombia:
Señor Presidente César Gaviria Trujillo
Presidente de la República
Palacio de Nariño
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia
(Faxes: 011 57 1 286 7324, 011 57 1 287 7937)

2) Human Rights and Educational Organization:
Señores
CINEP
AA 25916
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

Ambassador Jaime Garcia-Parra
Embassy of Colombia
2113 Leroy Pl. NW
Washington DC 20003

Please send appeals immediately. Check with the Colorado office between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm, Mountain Time, weekdays only, if sending appeals after June 3, 1993.



URGENT ACTION APPEAL

URGENT ACTION PROGRAM OFFICE • P.O. Box 1270 • Nederland, CO 80456-1270 • 303-440-0913 • FAX: 303-258-7881

UA 124/93

Fear of "disappearance"

22 April 1993

COLOMBIA: Delio VARGAS, aged 28, president of human rights group

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May 3, 1993

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WHEREAS: Delio Vargas was seen to be forcibly detained and has disappeared leading to concern that he will be another victim of a politically motivated killing; and

WHEREAS: It is the hope of the Cambridge City Council that Delio Vargas, along with all other trying to protect the human rights of citizens of their country will have safety in their important and humane work; now therefore be it

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RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Governor Omar Armando Baquero of Meta Department, Columbia, other officials in Colombia and to the local Amnesty International office.

Amber
CONSENT ORDER #14 *R-208*

Councillor Wolf re: Assurance of the safety
of Delio Vargas.

In City Council,

May 3, 1993

Order Adopted