

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Colombia: ELN must release journalists

The National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrilla group must immediately and unconditionally release two journalists and a cameraman that are believed to be hostages and must ensure that the three are treated humanely at all times, Amnesty International said today.

Colombian-Spanish journalist Salud Hernández-Mora was last seen in the northern region of Catatumbo on 21 May, while Colombian journalist Diego D'Pablos and cameraman Carlos Melo disappeared two days later in the same region.

This is a clear violation of international humanitarian law and risks undermining recent efforts to start peace talks with the ELN, the country's second largest guerrilla group.

The Colombian authorities must take all necessary measures to locate their whereabouts and to secure their release without jeopardizing their safety.

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