



CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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CASA 11/85 FILOMENA CLAROS DE MAJANO

(Follow-up to UA 07/84 AMR 29/04/84 of 12 January 1984)

Filomena Claros de Majano (34), married, with a one-year-old son, secretary at the Ministry of Education, third year law student at the University of El Salvador and member of the executive of the Asociación de Estudiantes de Derecho (Law Students' Association), was reportedly abducted at 7:20 pm on 3 January 1984 in front of the San Nicolás pharmacy in Hula-Hula park in San Salvador. She usually finished work at 4 pm, and then attended classes until about 7 pm, after which she took a bus home from Hula-Hula park.

According to a witness, Ms Claros was abducted by armed men in plain clothes who pushed her into a land-rover with smoked glass windows, license plate # P-17-157, and drove off, pointing their gun at the witness and telling him to leave. She had reportedly received an anonymous letter on 16 December 1983, advising her to stop her "subversive studies". Eighteen days later she was abducted and there has been no further news of her whereabouts. Amnesty International is seriously concerned about her safety.

Background

The National University of El Salvador (UES), based in San Salvador, has been singled out as a target of repression since 1980. On 26 June 1980, army troops supported by tanks and helicopters occupied the university campus. At least 22 people were reported killed during the takeover and many students, teachers, administrators and other staff, as well as members of leftwing organisations and 15 foreign journalists, were taken into custody. The campus remained closed under military guard until the university was officially returned to the university authorities on 22 May 1984. During the time of its closure, the university continued to operate without government support from various sites in the capital.

(For further details regarding human rights violations directed at the academic sector, see CASA 25/83 AMR 29/39/83 and AMR 29/49/83 "Recent Human Rights Violations affecting Students, Teachers, Academics and University Staff")

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