

**URGENT
ACTION**

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*Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition and infliction of death penalties and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons whether or not they have used or advocated violence.
(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))*

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- Further information on:- UA 235/81 (AMR 34/45/81 25 September) - "Disappearance"
GUATEMALA: Mario Roberto BENDFELDT SACHRISSON
- UA 238/81 (AMR 34/47/81 29 September, AMR 34/50/81 21 October, AMR 34/12/82 18 February) - "Disappearance"
GUATEMALA: Dr Juan José Amilcar HIDALGO SALGUERO
- UA 27/81 (AMR 29/06/82 22 January, AMR 29/09/82 4 February) - "Disappearance"
EL SALVADOR: Douglas Mauricio RAMIREZ
Melida Villatoro de RAMIREZ
- UA 47/82 (AMR 34/11/82 18 February) - "Disappearance"
GUATEMALA: Dr Emil BUSTAMENTE
- UA 51/82 (AMR 34/14/82 23 February, AMR 34/15/82 25 February, AMR 34/19/82 16 March) - "Disappearance"
GUATEMALA: Dr Alfonso VELASQUEZ Pérez
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Many Urgent Action participants have received a reply from the *Confederación Universitaria Centroamericana* (Confederation of Central American Universities) in Costa Rica, to whom copies of appeals were sent. The replies refer to individuals who have been the subjects of Urgent Action appeals by Amnesty International.

- Mario Roberto Bendfeldt Sachrisson

"Mario Roberto Bendfeldt, aged 40, professor of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of San Carlos, Guatemala. He was detained on 1 September 1981 by members of the Guatemalan security forces as he was leaving his office."

Amnesty International has since received no further information about Sr. Bendfeldt and he remains "disappeared".

- Dr Juan José Amilcar Hidalgo Salguero

"Dr Amilcar Hidalgo, a Salvadorian resident in Guatemala, aged 27, professor of Anatomy in the Faculty of Medical Sciences in the University of San Carlos, Guatemala. He was abducted as he was leaving a friend's house on 24 September 1981 by members of the Guatemalan security forces."

Amnesty International subsequently learned that Dr Hidalgo Salguero was found dead in the El Quiché region of Guatemala.

- Douglas Mauricio Ramirez, Melida Villatoro de Ramirez

"Douglas Mauricio Ramirez, aged 35, Director of the Department of University Extension Courses at the National University of El Salvador. He was abducted from his house on 19 January 1982 by agents of the Salvadorian armed forces, together with his wife, Professor Rosa Melida Villatoro de Ramirez."

.../...

Amnesty International subsequently learned that the National Guard had acknowledged the arrest of Douglas Mauricio Ramirez and his wife. They were presented to the press by the National Guard and have been accused of being involved in guerrilla activities. They have not, however, been formally charged or brought before a court and, as far as Amnesty International knows, they remain in the custody of the National Guard.

- Dr Emil Bustamente

"Emil Bustamente, aged 32, Director of Regional Centres of the University of San Carlos. He was detained on 15 February 1982 by members of the Guatemalan security forces."

Amnesty International has since received no further information about Sr. Bustamente and he remains "disappeared".

- Dr Alfonso Velasquez Pérez

"Dr Alfonso Velasquez, a Guatemalan, aged 50, Dean of the Faculty of Economics of the University of San Carlos was abducted on 18 February 1982 by members of the Guatemalan security forces."

Dr Velasquez remains "disappeared".

Some of the replies received from the *Confederación Universitaria Centroamericana* also refer to the case of Elsa Marina Valencia de Beltran.

- Elsa Marina Valencia de Beltran

"Elsa Marina Valencia de Beltran, aged 27, Professor of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences and Humanities of the National University of El Salvador, was abducted on 1 February 1981. The authorities have not acknowledged her arrest, despite the fact that it occurred before witnesses in the village of Nejapa near the city of San Salvador. At the time of her arrest, Elsa Marina Valencia de Beltran was two months pregnant. (It was only four days ago that we learned of her arrest. We do not know why we were not informed until now."

Amnesty International had not received reports of the abduction of Elsa Marina Valencia de Beltran.

The replies from the *Confederación Universitaria Centroamericana* end with the following paragraph:

"The *Confederación Universitaria Centroamericana*, through the Program of Defence of the Autonomy and Solidarity with Central American Universities, invites you to write to General José Guillermo García, (former) Minister of Defence of El Salvador, and General Romeo Lucas García, (former) President of Guatemala. We consider that international solidarity is vital in order to save the lives of many professional people and academics who are victims of the institutionalized repression of these dictatorial regimes in Central America."

- Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.
- Letters and telegrams should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to the relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
 - Article 3, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person";
 - Article 5, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";
 - Article 9, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile".
- The name of Amnesty International can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective.

- .../...
- Information about the alleged connection of any person with an organization which is banned in their country is provided as background only and should not be included in appeals.
 - In Urgent Action cases, where Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the possible ill-treatment of prisoners, appeals are issued when the circumstances of a person's arrest or disappearance make such treatment likely. Do not make direct accusations and, unless otherwise instructed, do not use the word "torture".
 - Send at least one telegram or express letter immediately. Other letters can be sent afterwards to the addresses listed. Copies of letters should be sent to the relevant diplomatic representatives in your country. Copies of any replies received should be sent immediately to the International Secretariat, or to your national section or Urgent Action coordinator. Thank the official who has replied, requesting that you be kept informed about the case.

Further recommended action:

- Mario Roberto Bendfeldt Sachrisson

Appeals may continue to be sent on his behalf to the Guatemalan authorities. Request that his whereabouts be made known immediately and that his physical safety be guaranteed. Urge that he be immediately released unless charged and brought before a court of law.

- Dr Juan José Amilcar Hidalgo Salguero

No further action is requested.

- Douglas Mauricio Ramirez, Melida Villatoro de Ramirez

Appeals may continue to the Salvadorian authorities urging that their physical safety be guaranteed while in the custody of the National Guard and requesting clarification of their legal situation.

- Dr Emil Bustamente

Appeals may continue to the Guatemalan authorities requesting that his whereabouts be made known immediately and urging that his physical safety be guaranteed. Please urge his immediate release unless charged and brought before a court of law.

- Dr Alfonso Velasquez Pérez

Appeals may continue to the Guatemalan authorities urging that his whereabouts be made known immediately and that he be humanely treated while in detention. Urge his immediate release unless charged and brought before a court of law.

- Elsa Marina Valencia de Beltran

The International Secretariat will investigate the case of Elsa Marina Valencia de Beltran and take necessary action. No action by Urgent Action participants is requested.

Appeals should be sent to:

- GUATEMALA:

There is still uncertainty about the composition of the new governing junta in Guatemala which came to power after the military coup of 23 March 1982 which overthrew the government of General Romeo Lucas Garcia.

Urgent Action participants are asked to direct their appeals to the Guatemalan diplomatic representatives in their own country, asking them to pass on the concerns expressed and requests for information to the appropriate authorities in Guatemala.

- EL SALVADOR:

There is uncertainty as to which ruling coalition will eventually emerge from the elections in El Salvador of 28 March 1982.

Urgent Action participants are asked to direct their appeals to the Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in their own country, asking them to pass on the concerns expressed and requests for information to the appropriate authorities in El Salvador.

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The Campaign and Membership Department at the International Secretariat wishes to thank the many Urgent Action participants who took part in these Urgent Actions and who sent in the reply from the Confederación Universitaria Centroamericana. We are sorry that it has been impossible to reply to you all individually.