

**URGENT
ACTION**

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Further information on UA 190/82 (AMR 29/71/82 16 August, AMR 29/93/82 9 November) - Torture/"Disappearance"/ Legal Concern

EL SALVADOR: Maximiliano CASTRO NAVAS
Héctor LOPEZ RIVAS
Gabriel ARGUETA
Jorge Benjamín RODRIGUEZ DUENAS
Marta Imelda DIMAS
Alejandro MARTINEZ

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As a result of an enquiry from a member of the American Federation of Government Employees, a letter dated 20 December 1982 was received by Senator Carl Levin of the US Senate from the US Department of State stating that the following four trade unionists arrested on 11 August 1982 were later released: Maximiliano Castro Navas, Héctor López Rivas, Gabriel Argueta and Jorge Rodríguez Duenas. (This report has not yet been confirmed.)

As of 20 October 1982, Alejandro Martínez was reported to be held in La Esperanza prison, Mariona, San Salvador, and Marta Imelda Dimas was being held in the women's prison in Ilopango. Neither of them has been brought to trial. The letter adds that the US Embassy in San Salvador was going to initiate written enquiries to the Salvadorian Minister of Defence on both cases.

The six trade unionists were arrested on 11 August 1982 by members of the Treasury Police. They are accused of storing and printing communist propaganda in the offices of the *Sindicato Nacional de la Industria del Transporte*, National Union of Transport Workers, to which they belonged.

Further recommended action:

No further action is requested for the time being on behalf of the four trade unionists reported to have been released.

Please continue to send appeals on behalf of Alejandro Martínez and Marta Imelda Dimas requesting clarification of the charges against them and what stage the investigation of their cases has reached. Urge that they be given a fair trial in accordance with internationally recognized legal norms, and that they be humanely treated while in detention.

Appeals to:

General José Guillermo García (Minister of Defence and Public Security)
Ministro de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

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Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation.

Appeals from TRADE UNIONISTS are especially urged.

Copies to:

Dr Arturo Zeledón Castrillo
Presidente de la Corte Suprema
Palacio Nacional
San Salvador, El Salvador

for Alejandro Martínez:

Sr. Director
Centro Penitenciario La Esperanza
Calle A
Cantón Mariona
Mejicanos
San Salvador, El Salvador

for Marta Imelda Dimas:

Sr. Director
Centro de Readaptación para Mujeres
Ilopango
San Salvador, El Salvador

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 25 March 1983.

– Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

– Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to 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 may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity are often more effective.

– Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

– In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new information.

– Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your national section Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.