

**URGENT  
ACTION**

**amnesty  
international**

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Further information on UA 196/82 (AMR 29/74/82 19 August, AMR 29/77/82 24 August) -  
"Disappearance"

EL SALVADOR: 26 teachers  
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On 14 August 1982 26 people were arrested at the *Escuela República Federal de Alemania* (German school) in San Salvador. The arrests were carried out by the *Policía de Hacienda* (Treasury Police).

On 27 August 1982 seven of those arrested were released for lack of evidence against them. On 30 August 1982 sixteen teachers were brought before a military judge by the Treasury Police and charged with participating in subversive activities. The women were sent to the women's prison in Ilopango, San Salvador, and the men to La Esperanza Prison in Mariona, Mejicanos, San Salvador. It is believed that since then several of them have been released. The release of the following has been confirmed:

Berta Concepción Ortiz Alfaro de Seravia  
Miguel Angel Ayala Umana  
Isaac David Villafuerte Cedillos  
Ana Cristina Contreras de Barrera

Ciro Antonio Guevara  
Felipe Reyes Dubon  
Carlos Hernán Quintanilla

Amnesty International has received reports that during the period that these people were held by the Treasury Police before being transferred to prison, they were subjected to various forms of torture, including punches to the head and stomach, electric shock and simulated execution. They are also reported to have been forced to sign so-called "confessions" while blindfolded and threatened with torture.

Three of those believed to be still in detention are:

- José Carmelo FABIAN MUNOZ, aged 38, teacher of languages at the *Escuela República Federal Alemania*. He is reported to have had all his teeth pulled out by his interrogators.
- Luis Alfredo MARROQUIN Y CAMPOS, teacher at Notre Dame School in San Salvador.
- Walter Roberto ZULETA. He is reported to have been repeatedly tortured.

These three men are being held in La Esperanza Prison, but have not yet been tried.

It is not clear whether the following are still in detention:

- Lidia María ESCALANTE DE SERRANO, headmistress of the *Escuela Republica Federal Alemania* and wife of the then Deputy Minister of Education, Roberto Serrano Alfaro.
- Sergio Augusto ZAMORA
- Prudencio MELENDEZ, teacher at the Antonia Mendoza School
- Rafaela Alicia ABREGO DE ASTORGA, works at the Bienestar Magisterial (teachers' welfare) office

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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.

- Elba del Refugio ESPERANZA RAMIREZ, teacher at the Antonia Mendoza School
- Berta Alicia GUTIERREZ DE RUGAYO, teacher at the Angela de Soler secondary school in San Martin
- Zoila Esperanza RAMOS DE FLORES, teacher at the Unified La Paz girls' school in Cuscatancingo
- Blanca América RECINOS DE BURGOS, works at the Unified School annex of the Emiliani Institute
- Ana María CASTRO GUZMAN, teacher at the Ciudad Delgado parish school
- Jesus DOMINGUEZ
- Francisco de Jesús MOLINA, teacher at the National Institute of the Zacamil neighbourhood
- Carlos Arturo SANCHEZ CARDONA, teacher at the Metropolitan School in the Zacamil neighbourhood

Further recommended action:

Urgent Action participants may write further letters to the Salvadorian authorities:

- requesting clarification of the charges against José Carmelo Fabian Munoz, Luis Alfredo Marroquin y Campos and Walter Roberto Zuleta. Urge that they be given a fair trial in accordance with internationally recognized legal standards and that they be humanely treated while in detention.
- requesting clarification of the whereabouts of all the others. Request, if they are still in detention, details of the charges against them and the current state of investigations into their cases. Urge that they be given a fair trial in accordance with internationally recognized legal standards and that they be humanely treated while in detention.

In the case of the male prisoners, you may write to La Esperanza prison asking whether they are being held there, and if so, request details of their legal situation. In the case of the female prisoners, write to the women's prison in Ilopango requesting the same information.

Letters may also express concern about reports that the 16 prisoners who appeared in court on 30 August 1982 were tortured while held by the Treasury Police.

Letters should be sent to:

S.E. don Alvaro Magaña  
 Presidente de la República de El Salvador  
 Casa Presidencial  
 San Salvador, El Salvador

Sr. Arturo Méndez Azahar  
 Ministro de Justicia  
 Ministerio de Justicia  
 San Salvador, El Salvador

.../...

- 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.

for male prisoners:

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

*(Director of La Esperanza prison)*

Copies of appeals may be sent to:

Sr. Roberto Viera  
Ministro de Educación  
Ministerio de Educación  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Minister of Education)*

for female prisoners:

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

*(Director of women's prison in Ilopango)*

Comision de Derechos Humanos  
de El Salvador

Av. las Américas y Calle San José  
Urb. Isidro Menendez, Edif. ACUS  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(El Salvador Human Rights Commission)*

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 31 March 1983.