

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England

EXTERNAL (for
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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))*

UA 15/82

"Disappearance"

15 January 1982

EL SALVADOR: Luis VILLALOBOS Flor de Maria VELASCO
Julio Cesar MONTERROSA Gilberto MONTERROSA
Sergio MEMBRENO BATOS Leonel Edmundo VIZCARRA RAUDA
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Amnesty International has received reports of several recent abductions by the security services in El Salvador. There are grave fears for the safety of all these people.

- Luis Villalobos, a printer aged 64, was arrested in his printing shop. His arrest was witnessed by members of his family and his employees. Although arrested on 11 January 1982 by members of the National Guard, the authorities have denied his detention. He is believed to be held in the National Guard Headquarters in San Salvador. It has been suggested that the motive for his arrest is that one of his sons reported to be actively opposed to the present government.
- Flor de Maria Velasco, a maid, is aged 18 and is five months pregnant.
- Julio Cesar Monterrosa is the husband of Flor de Maria Velasco. He is a music teacher, aged 27.
- Gilberto Monterrosa, a student, is the brother of Julio Cesar Monterrosa. He was arrested together with Julio Cesar and Flor de Maria Velasco at 11.00 pm on 5 January 1982 in Colonia America in San Salvador by members of the National Guard. It is believed that they have been taken to the National Guard Headquarters in San Salvador.
- Sergio Membreno Batos, a twenty-year-old driver from Usulután, was arrested on 5 January 1982 in San Salvador by men believed by eyewitnesses to be members of the security forces.
- Leonel Edmundo Vizcarra Rauda, an architectural draughtsman from Sonsonate, was arrested on 5 January 1982 by members of the National Police in the maintenance office of the Ministry of Education. He is reported to have been taken to the headquarters of the National Police.

Background information

Human rights violations on a massive scale in El Salvador continue to be brought to the attention of Amnesty International. Amnesty International is aware that these violations of human rights have occurred at a time of escalating civil conflict between guerrilla groups and the Salvadorian authorities and is also aware of reports of abuses having been committed by non-governmental forces. However, there is a systematic pattern of human rights violations, including torture, "disappearances" and cold-blooded murder, being carried

out by the Salvadorian security forces and directed against people not involved in guerrilla activities. Testimonies received by Amnesty International implicate all branches of the Salvadorian security forces in gross abuses of human rights.

Talks on the human rights situation in El Salvador were held between Amnesty International and officials of the United States Administration in Washington DC on 9 October 1981. The talks followed an exchange of correspondence earlier in the year between Amnesty International and the US Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, and the Deputy Secretary of State, William Clark Jr., about the effects of US military aid to El Salvador on human rights there.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters expressing concern about these arrests and urging that the physical safety of these six people be guaranteed. Request clarification of their whereabouts and legal situation.

APPEALS TO:

Coronel Jaime Abdul Gutierrez
Vice-president de la Junta de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial, San Salvador, El Salvador

for those cases where the National Guard is reported to have been involved:

Coronel Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova
Director de la Guardia Nacional
Colonia Atlactl
San Salvador, El Salvador

for Leonel Edmundo Vizcarra Rauda:

Coronel Carlos López Nuila
Director de la Policía Nacional
6 Calle Oriente
San Salvador, El Salvador

COPIES TO:

Orientación

Arzobispado de San Salvador
Seminario San José de la Montaña
San Salvador, El Salvador

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: Appeals may continue until 14 February 1982.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.<input type="checkbox"/> 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">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".<input type="checkbox"/> The name of Amnesty International can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> 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.<input type="checkbox"/> 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".<input type="checkbox"/> 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. |
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