

**URGENT  
ACTION**

**amnesty  
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AI Index: AMR 29/03/83  
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Further information on -UA 248/82 (AMR 29/87/82 21 October, AMR 29/90/82 28 October)

EL SALVADOR: Mauricio DOMENECH

-UA 250/82 (AMR 29/88/82 22 October, AMR 29/91/82 28 October)

EL SALVADOR: Professor Carlos MOLINA

-UA 252/82 (AMR 29/89/82 26 October)

EL SALVADOR: Luis Antonio MENJIVAR                      Jorge HERRERA  
David Elias GUADRON VALENCIA                      Carlos MENJIVAR  
Pedro RAMIREZ ESQUIVEL                              Hector FERNANDEZ  
Pablo RAMIREZ CORNEJO                              Daniel AVALOS  
Berta Alcia CASTRO                                      Vicente ORTIZ  
Raúl Antonio CASTRO PALOMARES

Between 8 and 21 October 1982 several leaders of trade unions and the *Frente Democrático Revolucionario* (FDR - Democratic Revolutionary Front) were abducted by groups of armed men in civilian clothes. On 25 October 1982 the Salvadorian army confirmed that eight were being held in military jails for "conspiracy against state security and destroying the national economy". Those acknowledged to be in prison are:

Mauricio Domenech	Jorge Herrera
Luis Antonio Menjivar Rivera	Professor Carlos Molina
David Elias Guadron Valencia	Berta Alicia Cosme Escoto ( <i>note correct name</i> )
Victor Jovel	Julio Cesar Saravia Martinez

(Victor Jovel and Julio Cesar Saravia Martinez were not included in the original Urgent Actions.)

All eight were charged with conspiracy and sabotage against the State under the State of Siege Decree 507. They are at present believed to be held in La Esperanza prison, Mariona.

Five others later re-appeared in La Esperanza prison, Mariona, also charged under Decree 507:

Pedro Ramirez Esquivel	David Elias Guadron Valencia
Pedro Ramirez Cornejo	Daniel Avalos
Raúl Antonio Castro Palomares	

Amnesty International is unable to confirm whether Hector Fernández and Victor Ortiz (possibly Silvestre Ortiz Hernandez)

are still in detention. Their arrests have never been acknowledged by the Salvadorian security forces and there is considerable concern for their safety.

A representative of the Americas Watch Committee, a US body set up to monitor human rights particularly with regard to US foreign policy, was able to interview two of the prisoners, Mauricio Domenech and Carlos Alberto Molina, in Mariona prison. During the interview, the two men are reported to have made the following statements:

.../...

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.

- "- that their abductors were armed men in civilian dress
- that they were forced into waiting vehicles, blindfolded, and tied with their thumbs behind their backs
- that they were interrogated constantly without sleeping, and later forced to sign confessions they had not read
- that the focus of the questions was to establish that they were members of the FDR-FMLN and responsible for everything that was happening in El Salvador
- that they had not been informed of the charges against them, knew only what had been printed in local newspapers, and had no access to counsel."

According to the Second Supplement to the Report on Human Rights in El Salvador published by the Americas Watch Committee and the American Civil Liberties Union, a US Embassy official in El Salvador stated in an interview on 10 January 1983 that the abductions of the FDR leaders were carried out by the *Policia de Hacienda* (Treasury Police).

Further recommended action:

For those held in La Esperanza prison, Mariona, please send letters requesting details of the charges against them and urging that they be given a fair trial in accordance with internationally recognized legal standards and that they be given access to lawyers of their choice. Request that their physical safety be guaranteed while in detention.

For Hector Fernandez and Victor Ortiz, send letters expressing concern about their reported detention and urging that they be humanely treated while in detention. Request clarification of their whereabouts and legal situation, including details of charges, if any, and urge that they be immediately released unless charged and brought before a court of law.

Letters should be sent to:

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

Sr. Manuel Sermeno  
 Ministro del Interior  
 Ministerio del Interior  
 San Salvador, El Salvador

Sr. Director  
 Centro Penitenciario La Esperanza  
 Calle A, Canton Mariona  
 Mejicanos, San Salvador, El Salvador  
 (Director of La Esperanza prison)

Copies may be sent to:

Oficina de Tutela Legal del Arzobispado  
 Comisión Arquidiocesano de Justicia y Paz  
 Apdo. 2253  
 San Salvador, El Salvador

(a new group working with the archbishopric of San Salvador on human rights-related questions) and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives.

~~Please check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 29 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.