

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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

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))

EXTERNAL (for
general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/05/81
Dist: UA

PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR SECTIONS TO TAKE ACTION

- UA 13/81

Disappearance/
Fear of Torture

22 January 1981

EL SALVADOR: Regina Elisa LARA Moran de Henriquez

Regina Elisa Lara Moran de Henriquez, a student aged about 20, was arrested on 30 December 1980 in San Salvador. On 5 January 1981 she was seen in the headquarters of the National Police in San Salvador. The authorities deny that she is being held in detention.

Some 8,000 Salvadorians are estimated to have died by violence during 1980; many of them are known to have been summarily executed by the security services. People have been killed because of their association, or presumed association, with peasant, labour or religious organizations, or with political parties or other organizations which do not actively support the present government. Although human rights abuses have taken place against a background of open conflict between government forces and several violent guerrilla organizations, victims of torture and death at the hands of the security services have not generally been shown to have had any direct involvement in armed guerrilla activities. Most of the deaths have occurred after defenceless people have been seized from their homes or places of work.

The government of El Salvador has claimed that "independent", "anti-communist" assassination squads beyond government control are responsible for these abductions and murders. However, evidence collated by AI from hundreds of individual cases proves the responsibility of the regular security services for serious violations of human rights. By continually attributing detentions, torture and killings to groups beyond government control, the government of El Salvador would seem to be seeking a means of evading accountability for the extra-legal measures carried out by its own security services.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: A limited number of appeals is requested; please organize only a few appeals per UA group.

Telegrams/express letters requesting the immediate release of Regina Elisa Lara Moran de Henriquez unless charged and brought before a court of law.

Appeals to:

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

FOR ACTION ONLY BY: USA, FRANCE,
FRG, NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND,
SWEDEN, UK, VENEZUELA

Ing. Napoleon Duarte (President)
Presidente
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

Appeals from students/student
organizations particularly urged.

Copies of appeals to the El Salvador diplomatic representative to your country.

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 22 February 1981

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

TO: [Name of the person being appealed]

FROM: [Name of the person making the appeal]

RE: [Subject of the appeal]

DATE: [Date of the appeal]

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to you in connection with the case of [Name of the person being appealed] who is currently being held in custody in your country. I am appealing your government's actions in this case and request that you take immediate action to secure the release of this individual.

The Government of the United States of America is deeply concerned about the human rights situation in your country and the actions of your government in this case. We believe that the actions of your government in this case are in violation of international law, specifically the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We request that you take immediate action to secure the release of this individual and to ensure that they are treated humanely and in accordance with international law. We also request that you provide information about the alleged connection of any person with an organization which is banned in their country as 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.

- 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.

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