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HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST TRADE UNIONISTS
IN EL SALVADOR

I. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CONCERNS

Since President José Napoleón Duarte assumed office in June 1984, Amnesty International has continued to receive reports of human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, "disappearances", death squad killings and extrajudicial executions of non-combatant civilians. Such violations, however, appear to be now taking place on a more selective basis against people suspected of being in opposition to the present government or of being sympathetic to those that are. In response to expressions of international concern regarding human rights violations, a series of governments have blamed them on so-called death squads. Amnesty International has concluded that these death squads are made up of members of the Salvadorian security and military forces acting under direct orders of superior officers. In all but a very few known instances, the many thousands of human rights violations which have occurred in recent years in El Salvador have gone uninvestigated and their perpetrators unpunished.

During 1984-85, Amnesty International has noted with concern a renewed wave of human rights violations including harassment, arbitrary arrests, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial executions directed at Salvadorian trade unionists. These abuses appear to be taking place in the context of a recent upsurge in street demonstrations and strikes by both private and public sector workers, including the Salvadorian Institute of Social Security workers, the Telecommunications workers, Bank workers and the Salvadorian teachers' union.

These strikes and demonstrations have been held to protest against dismissals of striking trade union members and at what the unions consider to be the government's failure to improve basic living conditions. Protesting trade unionists have also demanded wage increases; the abolition of the State of Siege which has been re-imposed regularly in El Salvador since it was first declared in March 1980; the re-appearance of "disappeared" trade unionists; investigations into the killing of several of their members and the release of others, apparently arrested because of their trade union activities. A list of trade unionists who have been subjected to human rights violations of concern to Amnesty International since President José Napoleón Duarte assumed office in June 1984, appears as Appendix 2 to this circular.

Amnesty International has received a number of allegations that detained trade unionists were forced, under torture, to sign declarations in which they "confessed" to being members of the armed opposition forces. It has also frequently been claimed in allegations received by Amnesty International that prisoners are forced to sign blank pages, or that they are forced to sign such "confessions" while blindfolded. Mauricio Atilio Cea Martinez, for instance, member of the National Union of Workers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, claims that while being held by the National Guard, he was forced to sign a "confession" without knowing its contents. Cea Martinez was subsequently charged with belonging to an armed opposition group.

Such extrajudicial "confessions" may later, under the provision of Decree Law 50 of 24 February 1984, <1> be used in evidence against the prisoner.

Decree Law 50, Ley de Procedimientos Aplicables al Suspenderse las Garantías Constitucionales (Law of Proceedings Applicable upon the Suspension of Constitutional Guarantees) governs proceedings against persons over the age of 15 who are accused of offenses against the State. It allows law enforcement agencies to hold a suspect for a period of 15 days in incommunicado detention before bringing him/her before a Military Examining Magistrate. Amnesty International believes that this Decree, which regulates the treatment of political prisoners and which is applicable while the current state of siege remains in force, facilitates human rights violations, including torture, particularly during the initial 15 days of incommunicado detention.

Amnesty International has also noted that on some occasions trade unionists taken into custody, even those who have allegedly "confessed" to being members of "subversive" groups, are not then investigated, tried and charged in accordance with internationally recognized standards for a fair trial but are often held for long periods of time and then released without charges or trial, or are even released shortly after their alleged "confessions". For instance, José Facundo Mauricio Ramírez, Negotiations Secretary of the Bank Workers' Union, was detained on 20 July 1985. He is reported to have been presented on Salvadorian television as a "subversive" and having acknowledged being a member of the armed opposition forces. He was released to his family the next day. Amnesty International is not in a position to confirm or deny the veracity of the initial "confessions". It believes, however, that in the apparent absence of genuine investigations into the allegations against such detainees, such detentions suggest a campaign of intimidation of the trade union movement, and an effort to create the public impression that the trade union movement is linked to the armed opposition, rather than a genuine desire by the Salvadorian authorities to establish whether those trade unionists taken into detention have actually been involved in "subversive" activities.

<1> Art. 28 "Se reconoce como prueba además de lo establecido en el Código Procesal Penal la confesión extrajudicial que tuviera concordancia con los elementos del juicio que existan en el proceso." ("Other than what is established as admissible evidence by the Code of Penal Procedures, the extrajudicial confession shall be deemed admissible provided it is in conformity with the rules of justice that govern the trial.")

In some instances, human rights abuses, including short-term detention and alleged torture, appeared directly related to the victim's trade union activities. For example, the arrest on 2 June 1985 of Jorge Alberto Lara Albeño and Guillermo Rojas, Negotiations Secretary and Secretary General of the Salvadorian Institute of Social Security Workers Union came as they were involved in a four-week health workers strike. They were released 3 days later.

On other occasions, arrests, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions would appear to be related to the government's more general moves to weaken renewed trade union activism by detaining trade union leaders on the grounds that they had links with the armed opposition or that they were trying to destabilize the government. President Duarte, for instance, is reported to have declared in a 1 June 1985 speech that "..... strikes, with the pretext of labour demands, have a background of indisputable political inclination..... What cannot be accepted is that these [trade union] channels be used and the needs of the people manipulated", while the president of the state-run water service company ANDA (Asociación Nacional de Acueductos y Alcantarillados) told reporters that "The armed groups are attempting to expand their war inside of state institutions, through infiltration and management of union leadership and some members." (El Mundo, 14 May 1985).

Serious concern at these accusations have been expressed both in the international press and by national trade union leaders, including Héctor Bernabé Recinos, Secretary General of the Federación Nacional Sindical de Trabajadores de El Salvador (FENASTRAS), National Federation of Salvadorian Workers, who had returned to El Salvador from exile in order to attend the Federation's Annual Congress on 7-8 November 1985. He stated to the foreign press that "The union movement is being linked to these [insurgent movements] by the press and the authorities. It's the same story I used to hear before being imprisoned. <1>

Amnesty International is asking for full and independent investigations into the killing of eight trade unionists <2> and into the "disappearance" of three others, <3> and also into the numerous allegations of torture of detained trade unionists.

The organization is also asking that those trade unionists presently detained be given prompt trials according to internationally recognized standards or that they be released, and that no statements obtained under torture be used as evidence against the prisoners.

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- <1> Details regarding Recinos' imprisonment during 1980-1984 can be found on p. 4, below.
 - <2> For details of each case, see Appendix 2.
 - <3> For details of each case, see Appendix 2.

II. PAST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DIRECTED AT SALVADORIAN TRADE UNIONISTS

El Salvador's labour movement has continuously been a target of repression for many years. Large-scale killings and "disappearances" of its leaders and members between 1979-1983 resulted in its virtual dismemberment, with many of its survivors being forced to leave the country, or having to continue their activities in clandestinity or cease operating altogether. According to FENASTRAS, between 1979-1981 alone, 539 workers were detained, 1,875 "disappeared" and 5,123 were killed.

Among the most noted cases of human rights violations directed at trade unionists in recent years have been:

- the detention on 22 August 1980 of 10 members of the Sindicato de Trabajadores de Empresa Comisión Ejecutiva Hidroeléctrica del Río Lempa (STECCEL), the union of electricity workers at the Río Lempa power station. Among them was Héctor Bernabé Recinos, who was also Secretary General of FENASTRAS. Amnesty International took up their cases for investigation because the time limits, established under Salvadorian law (even those stipulated in special state of emergency measures) for hearing cases involving crimes against the state had been greatly exceeded. They were finally released on 15 October 1984, without ever having been tried or informed of the charges against them, and were forced to go into exile abroad. Amnesty International also called for an investigation of the prisoners' assertions that they had been tortured into making statements and signing confessions used as the basis for their detention.

- the kidnapping in November 1980 of six Frente Democrático Revolucionario (FDR), Democratic Revolutionary Front (the coalition of opposition parties) leaders, including Secretary General and former Minister of Agriculture under the first post-Romero government, <1> Enrique Alvarez and Juan Chacón, Secretary General of the Bloque Popular Revolucionario (BPR), Popular Revolutionary Block (which united unions of peasants, teachers, students and shanty town dwellers), as they were about to hold a news conference. An estimated 200 men in army and National Police uniform surrounded the area while men in plain clothes arrested the six along with approximately 25 others. The bullet-riddled bodies of the six were later found at a lake near the international airport, showing signs of torture and strangulation. Some had been partially dismembered. In December 1980 Amnesty International sent messages to the UN Secretary General and the President of the UN General Assembly, pointing to the overwhelming evidence that Salvadorian troops had been responsible for the killings, and urging member states to condemn these actions which "outraged the minimum standards of government conduct."

- the arrest in February 1981 of teachers trade union leader Rafael Antonio Carias Flores. He was held without trial until his release in April 1983. An Amnesty International doctor and a forensic pathologist examined Carias Flores in October 1983 and concluded that clinical evidence

<1> A civilian-military junta which came to power following the overthrow of President General Oscar Humberto Romero in October 1979. All the civilian members of the junta withdrew in the ensuing months in protest as an announced agrarian reform stalled and the repression continued.

indicated that liquid or gel had caused a "distribution of injuries not consistent with accidental or self-mutilation". Carias Flores had stated that he had been tortured with sulphuric acid and in a number of other ways while being interrogated at an army barracks at the Centro de Instrucción de Telecomunicaciones de la Fuerza Armada (CITFA), Armed Forces Telecommunications Centre, and later at National Guard Headquarters, before his arrest was acknowledged.

- the abduction on 25 September 1983 of Santiago Hernández Jiménez, Secretary General of the Federación Unitaria Sindical de El Salvador (FUSS), United Trade Union Federation of El Salvador, while on his way to the FUSS Congress in San Salvador. His body was found on 7 October 1983, together with a communiqué from the Brigada Anticomunista Maximiliano Hernández Martínez (Maximiliano Hernández Martínez Anti-Communist Brigade), one of El Salvador's so-called "death squads", which Amnesty International has concluded after study of thousands of individual cases are made up of members of the Salvadorian military and security forces acting under direct orders of superior officers. The communiqué stated that Hernández Jiménez had been executed for having been found guilty of "high treason" ("alta traición a la patria").

- the detention on 19 January 1984 of 14 trade unionists and a Mexican student, who were attending the FSR Annual Congress in San Salvador. All were subsequently released. The US Department of State reported in April 1984 that then National Police Director Col. Carlos Reynaldo López Nuila had stated that "the National Police has thus far carefully observed all proper respect for the physical integrity of the detainees and for their human rights". The Department of State further reported that the US Embassy in San Salvador had "independently confirmed this" and that "procedures in the arrest were correctly followed".

However, according to subsequent testimonies made available to Amnesty International by some of the released, they had been arrested without warrant. Other denunciations by the released regarding their treatment while held at the National Police headquarters included: having been kept blindfolded, not being allowed to lie down, being continuously interrogated, particularly at night, being forced to sign a declaration while blindfolded, being forced to sign blank pages, receiving death threats, and being threatened with reprisals against family members.

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Appendix 1

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ALPHABETICAL LIST OF RELEVANT TRADE UNION ACRONYMS

ANC	: Asociación Nacional de Campesinos (National Union of Peasants)
ANDES	: Asociación Nacional de Educadores de El Salvador (National Union of Salvadorian Teachers)
ANTMAG	: Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (National Union of Workers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock)
ASTTEL	: Asociación Salvadoreña de Trabajadores de Telecomunicaciones (Salvadorian Union of Telecommunications Workers)
ATRAMSA	: Asociación de Trabajadores Municipales de Santa Ana (Union of Municipal Workers of Santa Ana)
CUSO	: Comité Unitario de Sindicatos del Occidente (United Committee of Western Unions)
FECORAO	: Federación de Cooperativas de la Reforma Agraria de la Región Oriental (Federation of Agrarian Reform Cooperatives of the Eastern Region)
FENASTRAS	: Federación Nacional Sindical de Trabajadores de El Salvador (National Federation of Salvadorian Workers)
FESTIAVTSCS	: Federación Sindical de Trabajadores de la Industria del Alimento, Vestido, Textil, Similares y Conexos de El Salvador (Trade Union Federation of Salvadorian Food, Clothes, Textile and Related Industries Workers)
FSR	: Federación Sindical Revolucionaria (Revolutionary Trade Union Federation)
FUSS	: Federación Unitaria Sindical de El Salvador (United Trade Union Federation of El Salvador)
SETA	: Sindicato de Empresa Trabajadores de la Administración Nacional de Acueductos y Alcantarillados (Union of the State-run water service company)
SETRAS	: Sindicato de Empresa Trabajadores de Refinería de Azúcar Salvadoreña (Salvadorian Sugar Refinery Workers Union)
SIGEBAN	: Sindicato Gremial de Empleados Bancarios (Bank Workers Union)

SIP : Sindicato de la Industria Pesquera (Fishing Industry Workers Union)

STIAHCSES : Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Industria Avícola, Huevos, Conexos y Similares de El Salvador (Union of Poultry, Egg and Related Industries Workers of El Salvador)

STINTS : Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Industria Nacional de Transporte, Similares y Conexos (Transport and Related Industries Workers Union)

STISSS : Sindicato de Trabajadores del Instituto Salvadoreño del Seguro Social (Union of Salvadorian Institute of Social Security Workers)

SUCEPES : Sociedad Unión de Carteros y Empleados Postales de El Salvador (Salvadorian Postmen and Postal Workers Union)

SUTC : Sindicato Unión de Trabajadores de la Construcción (Construction Workers Union)

UCS : Unión Comunal Salvadoreña (Salvadorian Peasants Union)

Appendix 2

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HARASSMENT, ARBITRARY ARRESTS, "DISAPPEARANCES" AND EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS OF TRADE UNION LEADERS AND MEMBERS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON DUARTE

Héctor Antonio ACEVEDO (36)

Construction worker and organizer for FESTIAVTSCES. Reportedly detained on 16 August 1985 by four members of the National Police, kept blindfolded and subjected to torture, including beatings and use of the capucha (hood impregnated with lime). Acevedo believes he may have been drugged, because he had hallucinations after drinking coffee and was made to sign a declaration in that condition. He was transferred to La Esperanza men's prison, outside San Salvador, on 1 September 1985 and was released on 24 October 1985 when a number of prisoners were exchanged in return for the release of President José Napoleón Duarte's daughter, who had been kidnapped by armed opposition forces.

Vilma Angélica BARTON MENDEZ (40)

Rank and file member and former Secretary General of SIGEBAN. Reportedly detained by armed men in plain clothes on 17 July 1985 in San Salvador and taken to the headquarters of the Treasury Police where she was kept naked for four days, threatened with death and frequently beaten. She was transferred to Ilopango women's prison on 29 July. Barton Méndez is reportedly accused of belonging to the Salvadorian Communist Party. <1>

Antonio CAMPOS MENDOZA (52)

Bus driver, and 3rd Negotiations Secretary (Secretario de Conflictos) of STINTS. Reportedly detained just outside the capital San Salvador on 26 August 1985 by armed men in plain clothes who forced him off the bus he was driving, bound him and took him to the Treasury Police for investigation. He was released on 9 September 1985.

Mariano de Jesús CARRANZA MENENDEZ (56)

Construction worker, General Secretary of CUSO and member of the SUTC. Reportedly captured on 28 August 1985 by the Comité Antiterrorista (Anti-Terrorist Committee), one of El Salvador's so-called death squads, and subjected to torture, including use of the capucha and beatings. Reports further indicate that he was subsequently handed over to the Treasury Police and on/about 9 September 1985 transferred to La Esperanza men's prison without having been formally charged.

<1> A member of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN), Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, the coalition of the Salvadorian armed opposition.

Mauricio Ernesto CASTRO (28)

Accountant and rank and file member of STINTS. Reportedly detained on 26 August 1985 by men in plain clothes when leaving the offices of bus route No. 5 in Colonia Monserrat, San Salvador, and taken to the Treasury Police for investigation. Released on 29 August and reportedly warned that he would continue to be watched.

Raúl Antonio CASTRO PALOMARES (28)

SETRAS member and Secretary of Union Education and Public Relations of the FESTIAVTSCEs. Reportedly detained on 23 June 1985 by members of the Treasury Police and taken to their headquarters where he is said to have been subjected to torture, including electric shocks and beatings, and was forced to sign a "confession" without knowing its contents. Castro Palomares was transferred to La Esperanza men's prison on 5 July 1985 and was released on 24 October 1985 in an exchange of prisoners for the daughter of President José Napoleón Duarte who had been kidnapped by armed opposition forces.

Castro Palomares had previously been detained on 15 October 1982 and was held for eight months in La Esperanza prison without trial until his release under an Amnesty decreed in May 1983 (AI action: UA 252/82 AMR 29/89/82 and 29/03/83).

Mauricio Atilio CEA MARTINEZ (36)

Biologist at the Centro de Desarrollo Pesquero (Centre for Development of the Fishing Industry), and member of ANTMAG. Reportedly detained at home, together with his wife, Berta Soledad Martínez Pineda, and three children, all minors, by uniformed members of the National Guard on 12 April 1985, subjected to torture, including made to listen to a tape-recording which he was told contained the groans of his wife and children, and forced to sign a "confession" without knowing its contents.

Reports further indicate that a video recording was made of Cea Martínez in which he admitted having links with the opposition forces and in which he asked union members to stop the strike they had initiated in demand for his release or trial. Cea Martínez was charged with belonging to the Fuerzas Populares de Liberación (FPL), Popular Liberation Forces, and was transferred to La Esperanza men's prison at the end of April 1985; his children and wife were released in April and August respectively.

José Humberto CENTENO NAJARRO (father) José Vladimir CENTENO LOPEZ (21)
Jaime Ernesto CENTENO LOPEZ (18)

José Humberto Centeno Najarro, radio journalist and ASTTEL union leader, was detained together with his two sons José Vladimir and Jaime Ernesto on 8 November 1985 by men in plain clothes. All three were reportedly thrown face down on the floor of their captors' vehicle, a Toyota pick-up with smoked windows, and stood on. They were taken to the headquarters of the Treasury Police and José Humberto Centeno Najarro was released the following day.

José Vladimir Centeno López, anatomy and microbiology teacher and also a student at the National University of El Salvador, and Jaime Ernesto Centeno López, final year student at a San Salvador technical college, were transferred to La Esperanza men's prison on 20 November 1985. Both were also members of the Scouts association in Cojutepeque and of the Comité pro-Refugiados (Committee for Refugees) in Cojutepeque.

The Centeno brothers have been accused of participation in the 26 October 1985 kidnapping of Civil Aviation Chief, Col. Omar Napoleón Avalos.

In a sworn testimony dated 1 December 1985 and published by the Information Service of the Central American University's Pastoral Centre, the Centeno brothers claim that during the first day of their detention at the Treasury Police headquarters, they were beaten in the stomach, on the ears, testicles, shins and the soles of their feet with a thick stick, and that the capucha was kept on their heads until they were almost asphyxiated. They further claim having been given 120 volt electric shock treatment and having been forced to stand up all night, blindfolded, with their thumbs tied. According to their statement, the torture continued on the second day, and on the third day they were told to admit their participation in the kidnapping of Col. Avalos. They denied all knowledge of the kidnapping. They were then repeatedly submerged in contaminated water, which appeared to contain urine, until they lost consciousness. That night, they said, they were again kept standing, naked, blindfolded and tied by the thumbs.

They also state that they were threatened with reprisals against their family, that they were forced to witness the other's torture and that they were given drugs in the form of a foul-tasting watery liquid. Afterwards, according to the same testimony, they were dressed, combed and had make-up applied, and were driven to a room where photographs were taken of them. On another occasion, they continue, they were forced to memorize answers regarding their alleged participation in the kidnapping of Col. Avalos, and were later asked these same questions while being filmed. They state:

"La grabación y la filmación se repitió varias veces durante muchísimas horas seguidas..... todo esto bajo los efectos de las drogas. Bajo ese efecto se nos mantuvo los días siguientes en los cuales efectuamos al parecer otras entrevistas repitiendo las mismas preguntas."

("The recording and filming was repeated several times for many hours..... all this under the effects of the drugs. Under that effect we were kept the following days during which we apparently had other interviews, repeating the same questions.")

ASTTEL, which had initiated a strike the day following the detentions, stated in response to the "confession" the Centeno brothers signed while in police custody, that "anybody signs or confesses anything under torture" and declared the confessions invalid. Cor. Golcher, commander of the Treasury Police, subsequently claimed that the allegations of torture were untrue and that they would be submitted to a medical examination under the supervision of a humanitarian organization in order to prove that both prisoners had not been drugged.

The parents of the Centeno brothers, who were allowed to visit their sons shortly after their detention, also stated that their children had showed signs of having been tortured, and Mrs de Centeno, who works at a juvenile rehabilitation centre (centro de orientación de menores) and who is familiar with the problems of drug addiction, claimed that her sons showed "all the symptoms of a drugged person" ("todos los síntomas del drogado").

Both prisoners remain, at the time of writing, in La Esperanza men's prison. (AI action: UA 326/85 AMR 29/50/85 - Legal Concern)

Purificación CHICAS VILLALTA

Member of SUCEPES. Reportedly detained by the Treasury Police on 31 October 1985 after leaving a trade union meeting in San Salvador and released several days later.

Mauricio CRUZ ALVAREZ

Leader of ASTTEL union. Reportedly detained by the National Police on 23 November 1985 together with Juan de Dios Montes and Sergio Alfonso Rodríguez. All three were accused of "subversion". They were reportedly released on 25 November following the intervention of Auxiliary Archbishop Greogrio Rosa Chávez. After their release the prisoners are said to have stated that they had not been beaten, but that they were subjected to psychological pressure, kept blindfolded and were forced to sign a "confession" acknowledging membership of an armed opposition group.

Victor Ramón DE LEON BONILLA (30)

Relations Secretary of SETA. On 27 June 1985, members of the National Police reportedly attempted to detain him while addressing a crowd of people, but were prevented from doing so by his fellow workers. Initial reports had erroneously indicated that he had been detained and that he was believed to be held at the National Police headquarters. (AI action: UA 176/85 AMR 29/24/85 and 29/44/85)

Mauricio Alcides DIAZ BRAND (32)

Rank and file member of SETA. Diaz Brand's body was reportedly found, together with the body of Francisco Antonio Fuentes Ayala (see below) and both bearing gunshot wounds, on/about 1 May 1985 near San Miguel. Diaz Brand and Fuentes Ayala had reportedly been detained on 22 April 1985 by the Arce Battalion (immediate reaction battalion). Both were accused of being "subversives" and were released eight days later.

Pedro Pablo DUBON RECINOS

Teacher and member of ANDES. Reportedly detained by the Treasury Police on 12 September 1985, together with his wife Maria Isabel Torres de Dubón (see below). Dubón Recinos was subsequently transferred to La Esperanza men's prison. The charges against the couple are not known to Amnesty International.

Salvador ESCALANTE CHAVEZ (30)

Quality controller at the Listo Coffee plant, and Secretary General of the FSR. Reportedly detained by plain clothes members of the National Police on 10 January 1985, several days before the FSR Annual Congress was due to take place, and accused of being a member of the Fuerzas Populares de Liberación (FPL), Popular Liberation Forces (one of the armed opposition groups). He was released on 24 January 1985, according to the Private Secretary of the Presidency "by order of the President of the Republic and as a token of good will of the government" ("con instrucciones del Sr. Presidente de la República y en una demostración de buena voluntad de parte del Gobierno").

Escalante Chávez had previously been detained by the National Police at the 19 January 1984 FSR Annual Congress and was released in June 1984. (AI action: UA 15/85 AMR 29/01/85, 29/02/85 and 29/04/85).

José Inocente ESQUIVEL

Rank and file member of ATRAMSA. Reportedly captured by armed men on 16 April 1985 and released two days later. No further details available.

José Américo FUENTES

Rank and file member of SETA. Reportedly detained on 1 November 1985 together with Eleuterio Hernández (see below) when bringing food to striking SETA workers, and held at the Treasury Police accused of theft. Both were released on/about 11 November 1985.

Francisco Antonio FUENTES AYALA (30)

Rank and file member of SETA. Reportedly detained on 22 April 1985 and released eight days later. His body was found, bearing gunshot wounds, on/about 1 May 1985. See case of Mauricio Alcides DIAZ BRAND, above.

Héctor Leonor GOMEZ

Rank and file member of ATRAMSA. Reportedly detained by members of the National Guard on 16 April 1985 and released two days later.

Sara GOMEZ DE MARTINEZ

Teacher and ANDES member. Reportedly detained together with her two children Regina Ester and Daniel Eduardo, on 27 November 1985 in Santa Tecla by uniformed members of the National Guard. Her husband Mario Alberto Martínez had reportedly also been detained in Santa Tecla earlier that month. No further details available at present.

Roberto Antonio GUATEMALA (24)

General Secretary of SIGEBAN. Reportedly detained on 4 March 1985 by members of the National Police and released on 9 March following a two-day bank workers strike demanding his release.

José Antonio HERNANDEZ (45)

Negotiations Secretary of a sub-section of SIP. Shot dead on 13 March 1985 by plainclothes men upon leaving work. Earlier the same month, Hernández and other union members had reportedly been threatened by their company's head of security.

Natividad Bernal HERNANDEZ

Secretary General of FUSS and member of the executive board of SIMAS, the Furniture Workers' Union. Reportedly detained on 4 August 1985 by members of the Treasury Police and released on 9 August 1985.

Rufino HERNANDEZ

Member of the executive board of SIMAS, the Furniture Workers' Union. Reportedly detained on 4 August 1985 by members of the Treasury Police and released on 9 August 1985.

Raúl HERNANDEZ DIAZ (35)

Rank and file member of SETA. Reportedly detained by members of the National Police on 30 May 1985 while addressing a crowd of people. He was released the same day.

Eleuterio HERNANDEZ IRAHETA

Finance Secretary of SETA. See case of José Américo Fuentes, above. Released on/about 11 November 1985.

Jorge Alberto LARA ALBEÑO (35)

Negotiations Secretary of STISSS. Reportedly detained on 2 June 1985, together with Guillermo Rojas (see below), in the Social Security Hospital in San Salvador when Salvadorian troops, accompanied by members of the National Police, National Guard, Treasury Police and a special battalion wearing gas masks took control of the hospital in an apparent attempt to terminate the four weeks old takeover of the hospital by striking health workers. The strike had been declared illegal.

Following a work stoppage and a march by various unions, Lara Albeño and Rojas were released on 5 June 1985 after reportedly having signed an agreement to call off the health workers strike pending further negotiations.

Julio LOPEZ

Member of SUTC. Reported by FENASTRAS as having been found murdered in San Salvador on 10 September 1985. No further details available.

Miguel LOPEZ (55)

General Secretary of ANC. "Disappeared" in July 1985, although José Facundo Ramírez (see below) claims having seen him while in detention at the National Police Headquarters between 20 and 25 July 1985.

Juan Ramón MARQUEZ ALVARADO (31)

Relations and Sports Secretary (Secretario de Relaciones y Deportes) of the Montserrat sub-section of the Sindicato de la Empresa Avicola (Montserrat division of the Poultry Enterprise Union). Reportedly detained on 9 August 1985 by members of the National Guard and accused of belonging to the Communist Party. Transferred to La Esperanza men's prison some days later. His house has reportedly been searched and his family has received death threats.

Ernesto Alfredo MARROQUIN (41)

Organization Secretary of ATRAMSA. Reportedly captured in September 1985 by the Ejército Secreto Anticomunista (ESA), Secret Anti-Communist Army, one of El Salvador's so-called "death squads", and subjected to torture, including electric shocks and having a toothbrush inserted into his anus. Subsequently reportedly handed over to the Treasury Police where he was forced to sign a "confession" without knowing its contents, and finally transferred to La Esperanza men's prison on 9 September 1985. Marroquin has reportedly been accused of being advisor to the Communist Party and of being a member of the Fuerzas Populares de Liberación (FPL), Popular Liberation Forces.

Elsy Esperanza MARTINEZ (24)

Rank and file member of ANDES. Detained on 2 July 1985 by members of the National Police and released on 22 July. No further details available.

Sandra Elizabeth MARTINEZ (24)

Rank and file member of SIGEBAN. Reportedly detained on/about 6 March 1985 by members of the National Police and released on 9 March following a two-day bank workers strike pressing for her release.

Victor Manuel MARTINEZ

President of SUCEPES. Detained on 31 October 1985 after leaving a trade union meeting in San Salvador. He was reportedly held by the Treasury Police on accusation of being a leading member of the Communist Party, but was released on 9 November following strike action by SUCEPES in support of his release.

Martinez is reported to have gone into hiding, fearing further persecution because of his trade union activities.

Juan Pablo MEJIA

UCS member. Reportedly kidnapped on 21 November 1985 in San Agustin, Usulután department after attending a meeting at the La Cabaña cooperative, and accused by his armed kidnappers of returning from a meeting with the guerrillas. He was found dead the following day.

Freddy MERLOS

STISSS member. Reportedly detained together with his wife and son on 1 December 1985 near Zacatecoluca, La Paz department, by members of the armed forces. No further details available.

Juan Antonio MONTERROSA LOPEZ (32)

Rank and file member of SETA. Reportedly detained on 29 July 1985 in La Libertad by members of the National Guard and killed, after torture, on 30 July 1985. No further information available.

Juan de Dios MONTES

Leader of ASTTEL. Detained on 23 November 1985 and released on 25 November 1985. See case of Mauricio Cruz, above.

David Roberto (or Heriberto) MORALES

Member of the Executive Board of SIMAS, the Furniture Workers' Union. Detained on 4 August 1985 by members of the Treasury Police and released on 9 August.

Miguel Angel MORALES JOYA (37)

General Secretary of the Central Council of University Employees, Attorney and director of the National University Law Faculty's legal aid program. His name, together with the names of 10 other university staff and students, appeared on a death list published on 12 July 1985 by ESA.

Pedro NERIO BLANCO

Member of the Executive Board of SIMAS. Detained on 4 August 1985 by members of the Treasury Police and released on 9 August.

Pedro Armando OPORTO MARTINEZ (34)

Rank and file member of the union at the De León Factory and member of the FSR. Reportedly detained in the presence of witnesses on 15 June 1985 by uniformed and plainclothes members of the National Police. Although the authorities have denied his detention, he is said to have been seen in the headquarters of the National Police by another, now released, prisoner. (AI Action: UA 189/85 AMR 29/29/85 - Fear of torture).

Marco Antonio ORANTES (40)

Taxi driver and Finance Secretary of STINTS. Stopped on 29 January 1985 by men in plain clothes who asked him for a lift, and shot dead. Orantes has reportedly previously been detained in 1979 and was held for four months without charges.

Iván RAMIREZ

Rank and file member of SETA. Seized on 26 May 1985 by four armed men and since "disappeared".

José Facundo Mauricio RAMIREZ (30)

Negotiations Secretary of SIGEBAN and one of its founding members; also Social Security Secretary of FENASTRAS. Reportedly detained by plainclothes members of the National Police on 20 July 1985 and released five days later following a strike by FENASTRAS protesting his arrest.

Ramirez is reported to have been presented on Salvadorian television as a "subversive" and having acknowledged being a member of the armed opposition forces. He was reportedly given two weeks to leave the country. (AI action: UA 202/85 AMR 29/30/85 and 29/31/85 - Fear of torture).

Sergio Alfonso RODRIGUEZ

Leader of ASTTEL. Detained on 23 November 1985 and released on 25 November 1985. See case of Mauricio Cruz, above.

Salvador RODRIGUEZ DUARTE (70)

Secretary General of STINTS. Reportedly detained on 23 July 1985 by men in plain clothes and taken to the Treasury Police where he is said to have been deprived of sleep for some 72 hours and was threatened with reprisals against his family. Rodriguez Duarte was released on 26 July 1985 following threats of a general strike by the transport workers union.

Modesto RODRIGUEZ ESCOBAR (24)

Secretary General of FESTIAVTSCES and of STIAHCSES. Reportedly detained in Apopa, San Salvador department on 4 July 1985 by heavily armed men in plainclothes after leaving a meeting with members of SETRAS, with whom he had been meeting to try and solve their current labour dispute. He was taken to a secret bartolina (cell) of the Treasury Police where he was kept in incommunicado detention for seven days. According to a testimony which Rodriguez Escobar managed to transmit to the executive board of his trade union, it was during this period that he was beaten, given electric shocks and threatened with death.

Rodriguez Escobar has been accused of "political crimes against the government". His detention was reportedly not officially acknowledged until he was transferred to La Esperanza men's prison on 19 July. (AI action: UA 189/85 AMR 29/29/85; AMR 29/46/85).

Guillermo ROJAS (38)

General Secretary of STISSS. Detained on 2 June 1985 and released on 5 June 1985. See case of Jorge Alberto Lara Albeño, above.

Carlos Alberto (or Humberto) TABOADA REPRESA (54)

Member of ATRAMSA. Reportedly detained in the town of Santa Ana on 17 September 1985 by members of the Treasury Police. No further details available.

María Isabel TORRES DE DUBON

Teacher and member of ANDES. Detained on 12 September 1985 together with her husband Pedro Pablo Dubón Recinos, see above. She was subsequently transferred to Ilopango women's prison. The charges against her are not known to Amnesty International.

Alfredo Manzor VILLATORO

Member of STISSS. Reportedly seized in Soyapango on 26 July 1985 by armed men in plain clothes when returning from working night shift at the Social Security Hospital.

Oscar Armando ZELAYA (49)

Bus driver and former Organization Secretary of a sub-section of STINTS. Zelaya was reportedly shot dead on 4 February 1985 in San Juan by a "death squad" who had stopped Zelaya's bus and ordered his passengers to lie on the floor.

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