

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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

EXTERNAL (for
general distribution)

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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 30/81

Fear of Torture/extra judicial
killing

11 February 1981

EL SALVADOR: Hugo Antonio BONILLA
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Hugo Antonio Bonilla, aged 15, was arrested by members of the army in Armenia in the department of Sonsonate on 6 February 1981. He is reportedly held in prison in the town of Sonsonate. There are strong reasons to believe that Hugo Bonilla may be tortured while in detention and that he may "disappear".

The human rights situation in El Salvador has deteriorated sharply in recent months. AI is seriously concerned and fears a further increase in summary executions, torture and abduction by government forces as civil conflict continues between guerrillas and the government. Of some 8,000 Salvadorians estimated to have been killed during 1980, many are known to have been the victims of extra-judicial execution by the security forces. Peasants and young people appear to have been particular targets. Sources in El Salvador state that nearly 3,300 peasants were among those killed for political reasons in 1980. Between 14 and 30 January 1981 at least another 144 people were killed.

Despite government claims that those killed by its forces are guerrillas and guerrilla sympathisers, victims of torture and death at the hands of the security forces were not generally shown to have any direct involvement in armed guerilla activity.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

Telegrams/express letters urging that the physical safety of Hugo Antonio Bonilla be guaranteed and that he be immediately released.

APPEALS TO:

Comandante del Puesto
Comandancia Local
4 Avenida Norte 16
Armenia, Sonsonate
El Salvador

(local army commander)

Colonel Rafael Flores Lima
Jefe de Estado Mayor del Ejército
Calle Concepción
Final Pasaje Merazo
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Army Chief of Staff)

Ing. José Napoleón Duarte
Presidente
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

Please send copies of appeals to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 11 March 1981