

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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

EXTERNAL (for general distribution) 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))

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UA 41/82 "Disappearance" 9 February 1982

EL SALVADOR: Manuel DE PAZ Rigoberto CALDERON ALVARADO
Walter Giovanni CALDERON IRASTA
José Francisco ZAMBRANO BENITEZ
José Francisco MELGARA Ana Elizabeth MOYA FRANCO
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Manuel de Paz, secretary general of the Salvadorian Social Security Institute (*Sindicato de Trabajadores de Instituto Salvadoreño de Seguro Social*), was abducted at 9.00 am on 28 January 1982 in the Boulevard de los Heroes in San Salvador. He was abducted by armed men in civilian clothes who, according to eyewitnesses, are believed to have been members of the security forces. Aged 46, Sr. de Paz is married and has three children.

José Francisco Melgara, a small farmer aged 66, was seized by army troops at 9.30 pm on 15 January 1982 at his home in Avenida Ruana in San Salvador.

Rigoberto Calderon Alvarado, a shoemaker aged 52, was detained on 20 January 1982 at his home/shop in calle Francisco Menendez, Barrio Candalaria, San Salvador, together with two of his assistants, Walter Giovanni Calderon Irasta, aged 19, and José Francisco Zambrano Benitez, also aged 19. They were all taken away by army troops.

Ana Elizabeth Moya Franco, aged 18, was detained on the morning of 2 February 1982 by army troops at her home in Colonia Joya de Sereno, San Juan, San Salvador.

There are grave fears for the safety of all these people. Of the thousands of people abducted by the Salvadorian security services, very many have been subsequently tortured, murdered or have "disappeared".

Background information

Amnesty International continues to receive persistent reports of human rights violations on a massive scale in El Salvador. Although these violations of human rights are occurring at a time of continuing civil conflict between guerrilla groups and the Salvadorian authorities, torture, "disappearances" and cold-blooded murder are being carried out by the Salvadorian security services against people not involved in guerrilla activities. Testimonies received by Amnesty International implicate all branches of the Salvadorian security services in gross abuses of human rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

APPEALS TO:

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

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

Army Chief-of-Staff

(Vice-President)

COPIES TO:

Orientación (newspaper of Archbishopric)
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 9 March 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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