



# CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/12/82  
Distrib : CO/AD +  
relevant NS

EL SALVADOR

15 February 1982

CASA 06/82 "Disappearance" of Manuel de Jesús CRUZ REYES

According to witness reports, members of the Salvadorian armed forces burst into the home of Manuel de Jesús Cruz Reyes on 15 March 1981 at 9:30 pm in Colonia Costa Rica, San Salvador, taking him away blindfolded and threatening to arrest the other members of the family as well.

Manuel de Jesús Cruz, aged 22, was a sociology student at the Catholic University in San Salvador. A writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf but was later withdrawn when the lawyers involved received death threats.

Manuel de Jesús Cruz was originally taken to Mariona Prison in San Salvador and later transferred to Santa Tecla Prison in the department of La Libertad. From there, he was again transferred and is now believed to be held in a detention centre in the department of San Vicente. There are grave fears for his safety as the Salvadorian authorities have not acknowledged his detention.

#### Background information

Human rights violations on a massive scale in El Salvador continue to be brought to the attention of Amnesty International. Amnesty International is aware that these violations of human rights have occurred at a time of civil conflict between guerrilla groups and the Salvadorian authorities. However, there is a systematic pattern of human rights violations, including torture, "disappearance" and cold-blooded murder being carried out by the Salvadorian security forces, and directed against people not involved in guerrilla activities. Testimonies received by Amnesty International implicate all branches of the Salvadorian security forces in gross abuses of human rights.



Recommended action

Please send telegrams/express letters/airmail letters expressing concern about the arrest of Manuel de Jesús Cruz Reyes and urging that his physical safety be guaranteed. Also request details of the place of his detention and his legal situation, and urge that he be released unless charged and brought before a court of law.

Appeals to:

General José Guillermo García (Minister of Defense and  
Ministro de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública Commander-in-Chief of the  
Ministerio de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública Armed Forces)  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador.

Coronel Rafael Flores Lima (Army Chief of Staff)  
Jefe de Estado Mayor del Ejército  
Calle Concepción, Final Pasaje Merazo  
San Salvador, El Salvador.

Copies of appeals to:

Dr Leonel García Delgado (President of the Supreme  
Presidente Court of Justice)  
Corte Suprema de Justicia  
Palacio Nacional  
San Salvador, El Salvador.

Orientación (Newspaper of the  
Arzobispado de San Salvador Archbishopric)  
Seminario San José de la Montaña  
San Salvador, El Salvador.

Señor Director (Director of Prisons)  
Dirección General de Centros Penales y  
Readaptación  
3 Avenida Norte y Calle CP  
San Salvador, El Salvador.

And to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Please bring this case to the attention of STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS in your country and ask them to send appeals.