

**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.

AI Index: AMR 29/16/81
Distr: UA

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CANADA (both branches), FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, USA

UA 42/81

Fear of Torture

24 February 1981

EL SALVADOR: Colonel Arnulfo Adolfo MAJANO
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Colonel Arnulfo Adolfo Majano, aged 44, former member of the government junta of El Salvador, was detained on or about 20 February 1981 and is now in the custody of the Ministry of Defence. According to reports, the Salvadorian authorities have refused to say where he is being held, although they have acknowledged his detention.

AI fears that Colonel Majano may be tortured or otherwise ill-treated while in detention.

Although Colonel Majano led the military coup that overthrew President Carlos Humberto Romero in October 1979, he was removed from the civilian-military junta in December 1980, reportedly at the request of right-wing officers. Before his removal, Colonel Majano was the prime mover behind land and social reforms promised by the junta. He subsequently accused the government of condoning right-wing death squads. In November 1980 he escaped an assassination attempt, and he had been in hiding since his removal from office until his arrest on 20 February.

The human rights situation in El Salvador has deteriorated sharply in recent months. AI fears a further increase in summary executions, torture and abduction by government forces as civil conflict continues between guerillas and the government. Of some 8,000 Salvadorians estimated to have been killed during 1980, many were the victims of extra-judicial execution by the security forces. Peasants and young people have been the principal victims.

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: FOR ACTION ONLY BY THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL SECTIONS:
CANADA (both branches), FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, USA

Telegrams/express letters asking for clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of Colonel Arnulfo Adolfo Majano and requesting guarantees of his physical safety.

Please organize only a few appeals per UA group.

APPEALS TO:

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

Colonel José Guillermo Garcia
Ministro de Defensa y de Seguridad
Pública

Ministerio de Defensa y de
Seguridad Pública

Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 16 March

Copies of appeals may be sent to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your count: