

**URGENT
ACTION****amnesty
international****URGENT
ACTION**

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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Fear of Torture/"Disappearance"

25 February 1981

EL SALVADOR: Recent arrests and abductions
=====1. People detained by the National Police:

- Luz America VAQUERANO, medical student, detained on 19 February 1981 by members of the National Police in plain clothes in San Salvador; her present whereabouts are unknown;
- Maximiliano MONTOYA PINEDA, aged 27, worker at Lido S.A. company, was detained on 18 February 1981 by members of the National Police in plain clothes in San Salvador; his present whereabouts are unknown;
- Joaquín CACERES AREVALO, aged 40, a guard at the *Instituto Salvadoreño de Seguro Social* (ISSS), detained on 31 January 1981 and reportedly being held by the National Police;
- Juan José CACERES HERNANDEZ, aged 14, son of Joaquín Caceres Arevalo, detained on 19 December 1980 and reportedly being held by the National Police;
- Marta ALAS, aged 20, detained at 6.30 am on 17 January 1981 in Montecarmelo by members of the National Police and reportedly being held by the National Police;
- Alejandro MOLINA LARA, aged 36, detained at 7.00 am on 15 January 1981 in San Salvador by members of the army and reportedly being held by the National Police;
- Alberto QUEZADA, aged 30, medical doctor, detained in January 1981 by members of the armed forces in eastern El Salvador and reportedly being held by the National Police;
- Seiso CASTRO, aged 38, surgeon, detained by members of the army in January 1981 in San Miguel and reportedly being held by the National Police.

Joaquín Caceres Arevalo and Juan José Caceres Hernandez are father and brother respectively of a member of the El Salvadorian Human Rights Commission (*Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador*) which has been frequently harassed by the security forces during recent months. The information and administrative secretary of the Commission was abducted from his home in San Salvador on 25 January; he was detained by the National Police until 11 February. Other relatives of people connected with the Commission have also been victims of abduction; on 3 February 1981 Ramon Turcios Paniagua, aged 47, the father of the person in charge of the photographic laboratory of the Commission was seized from his home by members of the air force - he was subsequently found dead five blocks from his home.

2. People seized by the National Guard from Santa Tecla prison:

Mauricio SARAVIDA and Ing. Guillermo Antonio OLIVA MONTOYA were seized from the prison of Santa Tecla on 18 February 1981 by members of the National Guard; their present whereabouts are unknown.

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AI has received information from relatives of prisoners detained in the prison of Santa Tecla that prisoners are being harassed by security guards and have had tear gas bombs thrown into their cells.

3. Person arrested by members of the Air Force:

Carlos Alberto VASQUEZ SANCHEZ, aged 26, a medical student and teacher at the El Milagro Academy in Soyapango, was arrested by members of the Air Force in Soyapango on 19 February 1981 at his home; his present whereabouts are unknown.

AI is gravely concerned about the safety of all these people.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send separate appeals for the three different groups.

Please organize only a few appeals per UA group.

Telegrams/express letters expressing concern at the arrest of these people and requesting the authorities to ensure that their physical safety is guaranteed.

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

and to:

For group 1: Coronel Carlos López Nuila
Director de la Policía Nacional
6 calle Oriente, San Salvador, El Salvador

For group 2: Coronel Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova
Director de al Guardia Nacional
Columia Atlactl, San Salvador, El Salvador

For group 3: Coronel Rafael Flores Lima
Jefe de Estado Mayor del Ejército
Calle Concepción, Final Pasaje Merazo
San Salvador, El Salvador

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 25 March 1981

Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.

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:

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".

The name of Amnesty International can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective.

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.

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".

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.