

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"/Fear of Torture

16 June 1983

EL SALVADOR: Isaac Nelson RENDEROS SILIEZAR
Arelly RENDEROS SILIEZAR, wife of above
Carmen AQUINADA (also reported as Sonia AGUINADA)
Adelina CHICAS and her daughter, Elizabeth
Alfredo ACOSTA, his wife, three children and
three other unidentified people
Dr. Vincente AREVALO, former dean of the
San Salvador Medical School

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Isaac Nelson Renderos Siliezar was reportedly detained by the National Guard at 7.30 p.m. on 1 June 1983 while waiting for his wife in his car in a shopping centre in San Salvador. Later that same night, police went to his home and arrested his wife and three children, aged four to seven. Carmen Aquinada, Adelina Chicas and her daughter, Elizabeth, were also arrested on 1 June. The children were later released but the others were reported to be held at the National Police Headquarters in San Salvador.

A report in the national newspaper *El Mundo* subsequently quoted a police communique stating that Isaac Renderos had committed suicide while in detention, despite previous denials by the authorities that he was being held. His death was also reported by the Archbishop of San Salvador in his weekly homily on 5 June. Isaac Renderos is alleged to have died from hanging in the basement of the National Police Headquarters. The authorities continue to deny that they are holding the three women.

Alfredo Acosta, former deputy in the Salvadorian National Assembly in 1974 and member of the *Unión Democrática Nacionalista* (UDN), Nationalist Democratic Union, was reportedly taken from his home in San Salvador, together with his wife and three children and three other unidentified people, at 8 p.m. on 8 June 1983. (The UDN currently forms part of the *Frente Democrático Revolucionario* (FDR), Revolutionary Democratic Front, a coalition of forces in opposition to the present Salvadorian Government, made up of political parties, trade unions and mass organizations.)

Dr. Vincente Arévalo, a former dean of San Salvador Medical School, was reportedly taken from his home in Santa Ana on 9 June 1983 by uniformed men.

So far as Amnesty International is aware, the detentions of Alfredo Acosta, those arrested with him, and Dr. Vincente Arévalo have not been acknowledged.

Amnesty International has been following the human rights situation in El Salvador closely for a number of years and has concluded that the security forces have been regularly involved in a systematic and widespread program of torture, "disappearance", and

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Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation.

individual and mass killings of men, women and children. Under a recent amnesty law passed by the Salvadorian Constituent Assembly on 4 May 1983, as many as 500 political prisoners have been released. However, the law does not benefit the several thousand people who have "disappeared" in El Salvador over the last few years, who are believed to be held in secret detention centres. Many others are believed to have been killed by the security forces or paramilitary groups. Despite the recent releases, Amnesty International continues to receive regular reports of arbitrary detention, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial executions of non-combatant civilians in El Salvador.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters/letters:

- expressing concern at the reported detentions of these people and urging that they be humanely treated while in detention;
- requesting clarification of their whereabouts and legal status and urging that they be immediately released unless formally charged and brought before a court;
- expressing concern at reports that Isaac Nelson Renderos Siliezar committed suicide while in detention and urging that an independent investigation be carried out to determine the cause of his death;
- expressing concern at reports of the detentions of the children of Alfredo Acosta.

APPEALS TO:

S.E. don Alvaro Magaña
Presidente de la República
de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams to: *Presidente Magaña,
San Salvador, El Salvador*

Coronel Carlos López Nuila
Director de la Policía Nacional
6a Calle Oriente
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Director of National Police)

Telegrams to: *Sr. López Nuila,
Director, Policía Nacional,
San Salvador, El Salvador*

General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova
Ministro de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Minister of Defence)

Telegrams to: *Ministro Defensa Vides
Casanova, San Salvador, El Salvador*

.../...

- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.
- Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to 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 may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity are often more effective.
- Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.
- In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new information.
- Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your national section Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.

COPIES TO:

Dr. Benjamin Custoni
CDHES (gubernamental)
2a Planta, Fiscalía General de la República
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador
(human rights commission)

Diario El Mundo
2a Av. Norte 211
San Salvador, El Salvador
(newspaper)

Oficina de Tutela Legal del Arzobispado
Comisión Arquidiocesano de Justicia y Paz
Apartado 2253
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Commission for Justice and Peace)
and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

For Alfredo Acosta: appeals from PARLIAMENTARIANS are urged.

*For Dr. Vincente Arévalo: appeals from MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS/
ACADEMICS are urged.*

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the
International Secretariat if sending appeals after 28 July 1983.