

**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 I(c))*

AI Index: AMR 29/18/81
Distr: UA

UA 53/81

Fear of torture/Fear of extra-judicial killings

6 March 1981

EL SALVADOR: Luis Ernesto OLIVA MUÑOZ Nelson MEJIA
Angela María CULEYA Suzanna DE MEJIA
and their three children

Luis Ernesto Oliva Muñoz, aged 27, his wife Angela María Culeya and their three children, aged 6 years, 1 year and three months, were abducted by the National Police in San Salvador on 3 February 1981. The three children were later found alive by a roadside in El Rusol. There has been no news at all about the fate of their parents.

The same day, 3 February, Nelson Mejia and his wife Suzanna de Mejia, were also reported to have "disappeared". AI does not yet have any further details but there are strong reasons to believe that they too were abducted by the Salvadorian **security forces**.

There is very serious concern for the safety of these two couples.

There has been a further increase in summary executions, torture and abduction by government forces as civil conflict continues between guerrillas and the government in El Salvador. Of some 8,000 Salvadorians estimated to have been killed during 1980, many were victims of extra-judicial killing by the security forces. Peasants and young people have been the principle victims. Despite government claims that those killed by its forces are guerrillas 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: *A limited number of appeals only is required;
please organize only a few appeals per UA group.*

Telegrams/express letters requesting clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of both families and requesting guarantees of their physical safety.

APPEALS TO: Colonel José Guillermo García
Ministero de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador El Salvador

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

COPIES TO:

Orientación (journal of Archbishopric of San Salvador)
Seminario San José de la Montaña
San Salvador, El Salvador

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 6 April 1981