

CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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E L S A L V A D O R

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CASA 11/82 Follow Up to recent Urgent Actions and CASA's on detained teachers and students:

Orlando Juventino GENOVES (UA 138/81, AMR 29/39/81 of 4 June 1981)
Douglas Mauricio RAMIREZ & Melida VILLATORO DE RAMIREZ (UA 27/82, AMR 29/06/82 of 22 January 1982 and AMR 29/09/82 of 4 February 1982)
Ana María GOMEZ (UA 233/81, AMR 29/68/81 of 24 September, 29/83/81 of 10 December and 29/88/81 of 29 December)
Armando FLORES (CASA 11/81 of 24 April 1981, Limited telex action)
Carlos Eduardo VIVER, Francisco Antonio BARRAZA, Norberto HUEZO MARTINEZ (UA 306/81, AMR 29/85/81 of 15 December and AMR 29/07/82 of 27 January)

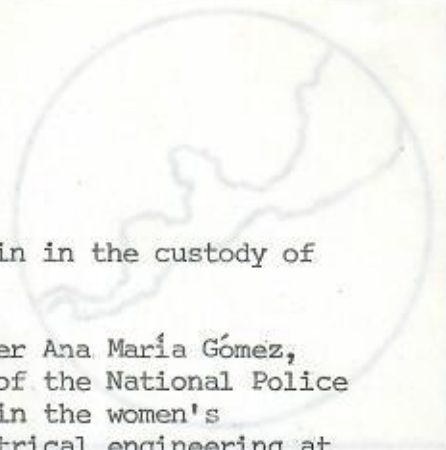
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Amnesty International continues to receive information on "disappearances", arbitrary detentions and extra-judicial killings of teachers and students in El Salvador. Between January 1980 and mid-March 1981, 156 teachers are reported to have been killed in El Salvador according to reports from Socorro Jurídico, the Legal Aid Office of the Archbishopric of San Salvador (note correction to figure cited in AMR 29/43/81 of 22 June 1981). In September 1981, the Salvadorian teachers' union Asociación Nacional de Educadores Salvadoreños "21 de Junio" (ANDES 21 de Junio) announced that a total of 60 of its members had been killed during 1981 while 12 had "disappeared". One of those who has "disappeared" was Orlando Juventino Genoves, aged 34, president of the ANDES teachers' trade union, who was arrested in San Salvador on 9 May 1981 by uniformed members of the National Police (see AMR 29/39/81 of 4 June). He was arrested with architect Marta Ivon Galindo, who was immediately allowed visits from her relatives and who was released on 23 May. The detention of Orlando Juventino Genoves was however denied by the National Police and no news has since been received on his whereabouts.

Another ANDES union official, Melida Villatoro de Ramírez, recently elected public relations secretary of the executive board of the ANDES union and employed by the National Government Employees Pension Institute, INPEP, was arrested on 19 January 1982 with her husband Douglas Mauricio Ramírez, teacher and director of university extension courses at the National University of El Salvador and former member of the ANDES executive board. The public relations office of the National Guard acknowledged their arrest and sent out an official communiqué accusing the Ramírez couple of subversive activities. They have not however,

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been formally charged or brought before a court, and remain in the custody of the National Guard. Fears for their safety continue.

Also accused of subversive activity is student leader Ana María Gómez, aged 25, arrested on 28 August 1981 by uniformed members of the National Police in San Salvador, and subsequently believed to be located in the women's prison in Ilopango. Ana María Gómez is a student of electrical engineering at the National University in San Salvador, and a member of the executive board of the General Association of Salvadorian Students, Asociación General de Estudiantes Universitarios Salvadoreños (AGEUS). A former leader of AGEUS, Armando A Flores, aged 25, student of agronomy, was detained on 3 March 1981 by the army in Santa Ana and found dead in May 1981. Ana María Gómez is also a member of several other organizations including the Asociación de Mujeres de El Salvador (AMES), Salvadorian Women's Association of which she is a founder member, and had participated in a campaign for the release of political prisoners in El Salvador. None of the organizations in which she was active are illegal or operate clandestinely. She is reported to have been both physically and mentally tortured and to now be in a very weak state.

Amnesty International is also concerned for the safety of two medical students and a secondary school teacher, arrested on 4 December 1981 in San Vicente, and later located in the cavalry barracks of the 5th Infantry regiment in San Vicente. The three are Carlos Eduardo Viver, aged 20, medical student at the National University, Norberto Huevo Martínez, aged 25, student of odontology at the National University and Francisco Antonio Barraza, aged 27, secondary school teacher. All three men work for the El Salvador Human Rights Commission (Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador - CDHES), an independent human rights monitoring group which provides assistance to victims of human rights abuses and publicizes their cases. Although the three men were seen in the cavalry barracks of the 5th Infantry regiment on 29 December 1981, they are still being held illegally; no charges have been brought against them.

Recommended Action

This information is EXTERNAL and may be used for publicity; it should be provided to teachers and students associations.