

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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general distribution)

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Further information on UA 117/83 (AMR 29/14/83 23 May) - Torture/Health Concern

EL SALVADOR: Julio ROMERO TALAVERA
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Amnesty International has received reports that on 19 May 1983 Ekhart Peters and Carlos Jose Gutiérrez of the Costa Rican Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice visited Julio Romero Talavera in the headquarters of the *Policía de Hacienda* (Treasury Police) in San Salvador.

Julio Romero, a pilot from Costa Rica, was arrested in January 1981 and accused of violating Salvadorian airspace. He was initially imprisoned in La Esperanza prison and then transferred to the headquarters of the *Policía de Hacienda*. He is reported to have been tortured and to be in a critical state of mental and physical health.

Following their visit, the representatives of the Costa Rican Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice are reported to have told the press that Julio Romero was in a severe state of depression and that there was a notable deterioration in his physical condition. Julio Romero's family have reported that he weighs only 80 lbs and that his mental faculties are impaired.

Ekhart Peters and Carlos Gutiérrez also discussed the case of Julio Romero with the Salvadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fidel Chávez Mena. They are reported to have expressed concern about the slowness of the trial proceedings against Julio Romero, which have effectively come to a standstill. They requested Sr. Chávez to intervene in order to speed up the trial and are reported to have said that, if Julio Romero is found guilty, the Costa Rican government would take steps to obtain a pardon or some other kind of exemption for him.

Further recommended action:

Please continue sending appeals expressing serious concern that Julio Romero Talavera is in a serious state of physical and mental health as a result of his treatment while in detention. Urge that he be given all necessary medical treatment, if necessary in a hospital.

Urge that trial proceedings against Julio Romero Talavera be promptly resumed, or otherwise that he be released.

Appeals should be sent to:

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

Dr Fidel Chávez Mena
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Calle Santa Tecla
San Salvador, El Salvador

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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.

Coronel Nicolas Carranza
Director General de la Policía de Hacienda
Calle Concepción
San Salvador, El Salvador

COPIES TO:

Dr Arturo Zeledón Castrillo
Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

(President of Supreme Court of Justice)

Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El
Salvador (CDHES)
Av. las Américas y Calle San José
Urb. Isidro Menéndez Edif. ACUS
San Salvador, El Salvador

(independent human rights commission)

Dr Carlos José Gutiérrez
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
San José, Costa Rica

(Costa Rican Minister of Justice)

CDHES

Dr Benjamin Custoni
2a Planta
Fiscalía General de la República
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador

(governmental human rights commiss

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 20 July 1983.

- 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.