

**URGENT  
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ACTION**

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**RELEASED**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 142/83

"Disappearance"

28 June 1983

EL SALVADOR: Ana Esther CONDE DE ROMERO  
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Ana Esther Conde de Romero, aged 51, was abducted at 4 p.m. on 22 June 1983 at her home in San Salvador by six heavily armed men in civilian clothes who reportedly identified themselves as being "authorities". She was driven away in a grey truck. As far as Amnesty International is aware, her detention has not been acknowledged.

Ana Esther Conde de Romero is a teacher at the *Escuela República de Alemania*, a school in San Salvador.

On 14 August 1982, 26 teachers and workers were arrested at the *Escuela República de Alemania* by members of the Salvadorian Treasury Police, while attending a work meeting. The authorities claimed that the group was preparing subversive activities and that they were in contact with guerrilla groups. On 27 August 1982, seven of those arrested were released for lack of evidence. On 30 August, the remaining 16 were brought before a military judge and charged with participating in subversive activities. Amnesty International received reports that, during the period that these people were held at the Treasury Police before being transferred to prison, they were subjected to torture. All have now been released. (See UA 196/82, AMR 29/74/82 19 August, AMR 29/77/82 24 August, AMR 29/02/83 14 February.)

Teachers and other workers in the field of education have often been a specific target of repression in recent years in El Salvador. The arbitrary arrests, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions which have been carried out against them by the regular police and military forces, or the paramilitary groups to which they are linked, appeared to be an attempt to eradicate the teachers' union ANDES, an active corporate member of the mass organization *Bloque Popular Revolucionario* (BPR - Popular Revolutionary Block). The BPR is a member of the *Frente Democrático Revolucionario* (Democratic Revolutionary Front), the broad grouping which since its formation in 1980 has led the opposition to the Salvadorian government. Teachers may also have been targeted for repression since, as educated people, they are potential leaders in small communities and, as such, could constitute a focus of opposition to the established authorities.

Following the elections for a constituent assembly held on 28 March 1982, reports of human rights violations involving the official security forces have continued unabated. The violations are occurring in a context of continued conflict between the government and opposition forces, but reports received by Amnesty International indicate that non-combatants from all sectors of Salvadorian society continue to be the victims of such violations, including arbitrary detention, .../...

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.

"disappearance", and extrajudicial executions at the hands of the official military and police services, who act on occasion in conjunction with clandestine paramilitary squads who have their explicit or implicit warrant. As in previous years, in no single instance since the elections have the Salvadorian authorities issued a satisfactory response to enquiries concerning these violations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters/airmail letters requesting clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of Ana Esther Conde de Romero and urging that her physical safety be guaranteed while in detention. Urge that she be released immediately unless charged and brought before a court.

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*

Sr. Roberto D'Aubuisson  
Presidente de la Asamblea Constituyente  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(President of Constituent Assembly)*

Telegrams to: *Sr. D'Aubuisson, Presidente*  
*Asamblea Constituyente, San 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*

COPIES TO:

Ing. Carlos Aquilino Duarte  
Ministro de Educación  
Ministerio de Educación  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Sr. Angel Benjamin Cestoni  
Secretario Ejecutivo  
CDHES  
2a Planta  
Fiscalía General de la República  
Centro de Gobierno  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(governmental human rights commission)*

Comisión Arquidiocesano de Justicia y Paz  
Arzobispado de San Salvador  
Urbanización Isidro Menendez  
Calle San Jose, Avenida Las Américas  
Apartado Postal 22 53  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Archdiocese Justice & Peace Commission)*

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

*Please organize some appeals from TEACHERS/ACADEMICS.*

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 9 August 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.