

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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International Secretariat • 10 Southampton Street • London WC2E 7HF • United Kingdom • Telephone: 01-836 7788 • Telex: 28502

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Fear of Torture/Legal Concern

1 July 1983

EL SALVADOR: Lic. Ricardo Ernesto CALDERON JUAREZ
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Lic. Ricardo Ernesto Calderón Juárez, Secretary General of the National University of El Salvador, was detained at his home at midday on 28 June 1983 by heavily armed men in plain clothes, believed to be members of the National Police. His arrest has been acknowledged and he is being held at the National Police Headquarters for investigation.

Lic. Calderón Juárez has previously been arrested on 10 February 1981 when troops burst into a regular meeting of the *Consejo Superior Universitario* (Supreme University Council) of the National University. Twenty members were detained with him, including the deans of six faculties and the interim Rector of the National University, Lic. Miguel Angel Parada. Fourteen of the University Council were released shortly afterwards; the others, including Lic. Calderón Juárez, were eventually located in Santa Tecla prison. Lic. Calderón Juárez was released on 27 March 1981 (see UA 32/81, AMR 29/12/81 11 February, AMR 29/15/81 20 February, AMR 29/26/81 10 April). Amnesty International is concerned that he may be tortured while in detention.

Teachers and other workers in the field of education have often been a specific target of repression in recent years in El Salvador. The National University itself was completely occupied by the army on 26 June 1980. Students, professors, university administrators and staff were taken into custody and at least 22 people were killed.

The arbitrary arrests, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions which have been carried out against members of the teaching profession 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 (*Asociación Nacional de Educadores de El Salvador "21 de Junio"*), 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 have also 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, "disappearance", and extrajudicial executions at the hands of the official military and police services, who act on

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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.

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 legal situation of Lic. Calderón Juárez and urging that he be immediately released unless charged and brought before a court. Seek assurances that his physical integrity will be guaranteed while in detention.

APPEALS TO:

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*

Sr. Arturo Mendez Azahar
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Minister of Justice)

*Telegrams to: Ministro Justicia Mendez
Azahar, San Salvador, El Salvador*

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

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

COPIES TO:

Comisión de Derechos Humanos de
El Salvador (CDHES)

Av. las Américas y Calle San José
Urb. Isidro Menéndez, Edif. ACUS
San Salvador, El Salvador

(human rights commission)

CDHES (governmental)

Dr Benjamin Cestoni

2a Planta

Edif. Fiscalía General de la República
Centro de Gobierno

San Salvador, El Salvador

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

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

Please try to organize some appeals from TEACHERS/ACADEMICS.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 12 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.