URGENT ACTION amnesty international URGENT ACTION

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 1(c))

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Further information on UA 41/82 (AMR 29/11/82 9 February) - "Disappearance"

EL SALVADOR: Manuel DE PAZ · Rigoberto CALDERON ALVARADO
Walter Giovanni CALDERON IRASTA
José Francisco ZAMBRANO BENITEZ
José Francisco MELGARA Ana Elizabeth MOYA FRANCO

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According to reports received by Amnesty International, Manuel de Paz has been seen alive in the custody of the *policía de hacienda* (treasury police) in San Salvador. He is reported to have lost a lot of weight. As far as is known, the Salvadorian authorities have not acknowledged his arrest.

Sr. Paz, secretary general of the Union of the Salvadorian Social Security Institute Workers (*Sindicato de Trabajadores de Instituto Salvadoreño de Seguro Social*) was abducted on 28 January 1982 in San Salvador by armed men in civilian clothes who were believed to be members of the security forces.

Amnesty International has received no more information about the other people mentioned in the Urgent Action.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please continue to send appeals on behalf of Manuel de Paz. Express concern about reports that he is being detained, request clarification of his legal situation and assurances of his physical well-being. Urge that, in the absence of charges against him, he be immediately released.

Please also continue to send appeals on behalf of the other people mentioned in the Urgent Action. Request clarification of their whereabouts and legal situation, request assurances that they are being humanely treated and urge their release unless charged and brought before a court of law.

Appeals should be sent direct to the Salvadorian Embassy in your country, asking them to convey your concern to the appropriate authority in El Salvador.

Note: The International Secretariat is asking Urgent Action participants to write directly to the Salvadorian Embassy in their country because the present composition of the Salvadorian government is uncertain following the elections in El Salvador on 28 March 1982.