

**URGENT  
ACTION**

**amnesty  
international**

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 97/83 (AMR 29/11/83 5 May, AMR 29/13/83 20 May) -

EL SALVADOR: Dr Angel IBARRA TURCIOS  
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Amnesty International has received the following letter from the governmental Human Rights Commission of El Salvador, dated 23 June 1983:

*Comisión de Derechos Humanos  
de El Salvador*

*23 June 1983*

*"Dear Sirs,*

*We are pleased to address your international organization in order to inform you that the various letters sent to the Nation's authorities by your members concerning Dr Angel Ibarra Turcios' situation have been forwarded to the El Salvador Human Rights Commission (CDH) for reply.*

*In this respect the Commission wishes to point out to Amnesty International and associates that Dr Angel Ibarra Turcios was in fact captured by security forces on 28 April 1983. According to the evidence collected it was proven that said professional belongs and actively works for the terrorist group "Popular Liberation Forces" [Fuerzas Populares para la Liberación], FPL.*

*On 12 May this year, Doctor Ibarra was placed at the disposition of the Judicial Power's Military Investigating Judge\*, and is currently detained in the Mariona Penitentiary [Centro Penitenciario de Mariona].*

*For Amnesty International's information, and in order to mitigate the fears for Dr Ibarra's fate, expressed by some of its members, the Commission wishes to point out that the aforementioned professional may be visited on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays at the Penitentiary by relatives and friends and, if desired, even by a member of Amnesty International, in order to find out about Dr Ibarra's physical state and health.*

*Finally, the El Salvador Human Rights Commission (CDH) politely requests Amnesty International to circulate this letter among its members and to other similar international organizations with which it cooperates. We ask that you acknowledge receipt of this letter.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Monseigneur Freddy Delgado  
Coordinator*

*Office of the Executive Secretary  
El Salvador Human Rights Commission  
Republic of El Salvador, Central America "*

*.../...*

*\*Juez Militar de Instrucción*

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.

Dr Ibarra, aged 26, was detained together with Lutheran pastor Rev. Medardo Gómez, who was subsequently released. In a letter to the Lutheran World Relief board, Rev. Gómez wrote, "Because of your timely action, thank God, I'm free, and possibly if it had not been for that, Ibarra and I would be dead. I knew of the risks I was under because of our humanitarian work, but I constantly prayed to the Lord that He would use me as He wants for his service. I think it was a 'school' and a testing that he put me through. So I can now, having had my faith tested, give testimony to how marvellous it is to feel comforted with the assurance that God is with us".

Dr Ibarra has been reported to be in an extremely serious condition. He was allegedly given electric shocks in the feet and eardrums. His shoulder is reported to have been dislocated and he is said to be suffering from internal injuries. He is also reported to be suffering from bone cancer.

Further recommended action:

Please organize a few appeals per section, referring to Mons. Delgado's letter to the International Secretariat and asking for details of the medical treatment Dr Ibarra has been receiving following his alleged torture while in detention. Request assurances that his physical integrity will be guaranteed throughout his period of detention.

Letters should also ask for details of the charges brought against him, and for an indication of the nature of any evidence held by the authorities which led to his arrest. Also request the name of the judge to whom his case has been assigned.

*Please try to organize at least one appeal per section from a MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL.*

Appeals to:

Dr Arturo Méndez Azahar  
Ministro de Justicia  
Ministerio de Justicia  
Sal Salvador, El Salvador  
*(Minister of Justice)*

Coronel Reynaldo López Nuila  
Director de la Policía Nacional  
6a Calle Oriente  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
*(Director of National Police)*

.../...

- 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.

Sr. Director  
Centro Penitenciario La Esperanza  
Calle a  
Cantón Mariona  
Mejicanos  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Copies to:

Dr Arturo Zeledón Castrillo  
Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia  
Palacio Nacional  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Monseigneur Freddy Delgado  
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de  
El Salvador (gubernamental)  
2a Planta  
Fiscalía General de la República  
Centro de Gobierno  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(governmental human rights commission)*

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.