



CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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E L S A L V A D O R

18 July 1983

CASA 17/83

6 RECENT "DISAPPEARANCES"

Amnesty International has received reports that the following 4 women and 2 children were arrested at 1.00 p.m. on 29 June 1983 in Colonia Dina of San Salvador, by members of the Treasury Police and National Police. To Amnesty International's knowledge, their detention has not been acknowledged, and there is serious concern for their safety.

- Silvia de Jesús RODRIGUEZ PEÑA, aged 25, psychologist, graduate of the University of California. Silvia was 3 months pregnant.
- Virgilia Natalia RODRIGUEZ, aged 1½ years, daughter of Silvia de Jesús.
- Evalyn Claudia CALDERON, aged 30, fourth year psychology student and relative of the above.
- Wilma Mercedes PAYÓN DE PORTILLO, domestic servant. Wilma Mercedes was 2 months pregnant.
- Tonya ALTAGRACIA DE PORTILLO, aged four, daughter of Wilma Mercedes.
- One other woman whose name is unknown.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has continued to receive regular reports identifying El Salvador's regular security and military units as responsible for torture, "disappearance" and individual and mass killings of non-combatant civilians from all sectors of society. Testimonies received by Amnesty International suggest unequivocally that all branches of the security forces have been implicated in human rights violations on a large scale. Many victims of these extra-legal measures have been members or alleged members of peasant, labour and religious organizations, human rights organizations, refugee and relief organizations or political parties. Other victims have included

non-combatant civilians living in areas targeted for security operations who have been suspected by the authorities of sympathizing with guerrilla forces.

Amnesty International is aware that these human rights violations in El Salvador are occurring at a time of civil conflict between guerrilla groups and the Salvadorian Government. It is also aware of reports of crimes having been committed by non-governmental opposition forces. However, the international and regional human rights instruments to which the Government of El Salvador is a signatory stipulate that even in time of war governments may not derogate from their commitment not to subject anyone to arbitrary deprivation of life or torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Please send express letters, telegrams, airmail letters, asking for clarification of the whereabouts of the four women and two children, and that their physical integrity be guaranteed while in detention. With regards to the children, ask for their immediate release into the care of relatives unless their mothers wish otherwise. Also urge that the two pregnant women be given adequate medical care. Finally, urge that the four women be released unless formally charged and brought before a court of law.

APPEALS TO:

Coronel Carlos Reynaldo López Nuila (Head of National Police)
 Director de la Policía Nacional
 Cuartel General de la Policía Nacional
 6 Calle Oriente
 San Salvador
 El Salvador

Director General de la Policía de Hacienda (Head of Treasury Police)
 Calle Concepción
 San Salvador
 El Salvador

Sr. Roberto D'Aubuisson (President of Constituent
 Presidente de la Asamblea Constituyente Assembly)
 San Salvador
 El Salvador

S.E. Don Alvaro Magaña Borja (President of El Salvador)
 Presidente de la República de El Salvador
 Casa Presidencial
 San Salvador
 El Salvador

COPIES OF APPEALS TO:

Dr. Arturo Zeledón Castrillo (President of the Supreme Court)
 Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia
 Palacio Nacional
 San Salvador
 El Salvador

Monseñor Freddy Delgado
Coordinador
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de
El Salvador (CDH)
2a Planta
Edif. Fiscalía General de la República
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador
El Salvador

(Governmental Human Rights
Commission)

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

(non-Governmental Human Rights
Commission)