

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/26/83
Distr: UA/SC

UA 157/83

"Disappearance"

21 July 1983

EL SALVADOR: Ismael RECINOS LOPEZ
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Ismael Recinos López was reportedly detained by uniformed members of the *Guardia Nacional* (National Guard) at 3 p.m. on 15 July 1983 in San Salvador. His present whereabouts are not known. Sr. Recinos López is Director of Public Relations of the National University of El Salvador, San Salvador.

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. Staff and students at the university have continued to be a target of repression since 1980 and as recently as 28 June 1983, the Secretary General of the National University, Ricardo Calderón Juárez, was arrested by the National Police (see UA 144/83, AMR 29/41/83 1 July). Amnesty International has received reports that other members of staff at the university have also been threatened recently.

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 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, "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

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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.

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 expressing concern at the detention of Ismael Recinos López and requesting clarification of his whereabouts and legal situation. Urge 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:

S.E. don Alvaro Magaña
Presidente de la República
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador
*Telegrams to: Presidente Magaña,
San Salvador, El Salvador*

Coronel Aristides Napoleón Montes
Director de la Guardia Nacional
Colonia Atlacatl
San Salvador, El Salvador
(Director of National Guard)
*Telegrams to: Coronel Montes,
Director Guardia Nacional,
San Salvador, El 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:

Prof. Carlos Aquilino Duarte Funes
Ministro de Educación
Ministerio de Educación
Calle Delgado y 8a Avenida Norte
San Salvador, El Salvador

CDHES (governmental)
Dr. Benjamin Cestoni
2a Planta
Edif. Fiscalía General de la República
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador

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)

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 1 September 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.