

**URGENT  
ACTION**

**amnesty  
international**

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International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England

EXTERNAL (for *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.* AI Index: AMR 29/28/82  
general distribution) (Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c)) Distr: UA

UA 105/82

Fear of Torture/Extra-legal execution 23 April 1982

EL SALVADOR: Ilda Gloria SALAZAR  
Lucia SALAZAR  
Diana Melina HERNANDEZ SALAZAR

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On 18 April 1982 uniformed members of the National Police arrested Ilda Gloria Salazar, a laboratory technician aged 34, and her daughter, Lucia, a student aged 15, at their home in San Salvador. They were taken away in Sra. Salazar's car, a red Volvo with Guatemalan number plates. Sra. Salazar's other daughter, Diana Melina Hernandez Salazar, aged 13, was left in the apartment with six plain clothes members of the security forces.

There is great concern for the safety of Ilda Salazar and her two daughters.

Background information

The security forces in El Salvador have been carrying out a systematic and widespread program of torture, "disappearances", and individual and mass killings of men women and children. The victims have included not only people suspected of opposition to the authorities, but thousands who were simply in areas targeted for security operations, whose death or mutilation seems to have been completely arbitrary. Testimonies received daily by Amnesty International implicate all branches of the Salvadorian security services in such violations of human rights - both military and police units as well as paramilitary squads acting with their explicit or implicit warrant - and the violations have occurred on such a scale that there can be no question that they constitute a gross and consistent pattern of human rights abuses.

Amnesty International has repeatedly drawn attention to human rights violations in El Salvador carried out under the juntas in power since General Carlos Humberto Romero was overthrown in October 1979. It has repeatedly appealed to the authorities to investigate and account for arbitrary detention or the "disappearance" or murder of priests, trade union leaders, church workers, teachers, academics, peasant families and community workers as well as the "disappearance" and killing of patients abducted from hospital sickbeds by security agents. In no single instance have the Salvadorian authorities issued a satisfactory response.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters expressing grave concern about the abduction of Ilda Gloria Salazar and Lucia Salazar and that Diana Melina Hernandez is being forcibly confined by the security services at her home. Urge that the physical safety of all three be guaranteed while in the hands of the security services and urge their immediate release.

APPEALS TO:

There is uncertainty about which ruling coalition will eventually emerge

from the elections in El Salvador on 28 March 1982.

Please direct appeals to the Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your own country, asking them to pass on your concerns to the appropriate authorities in El Salvador.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 23 May 1982.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Letters and telegrams should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to the relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Article 3, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person";</li><li>Article 5, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";</li><li>Article 9, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile".</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> The name of Amnesty International can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Information about the alleged connection of any person with an organization which is banned in their country is provided as background only and should not be included in appeals.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> In Urgent Action cases, where Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the possible ill-treatment of prisoners, appeals are issued when the circumstances of a person's arrest or disappearance make such treatment likely. Do not make direct accusations and, unless otherwise instructed, do not use the word "torture".</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Send at least one telegram or express letter immediately. Other letters can be sent afterwards to the addresses listed. Copies of letters should be sent to the relevant diplomatic representatives in your country. Copies of any replies received should be sent immediately to the International Secretariat, or to your national section or Urgent Action coordinator. Thank the official who has replied, requesting that you be kept informed about the case.</li></ul> |
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