

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Extrajudicial execution

23 November 1989

EL SALVADOR: Adrian Esquino LISCO
Natividad de Jesús MONDRAGON
Valentin PEREZ CORTEZ

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Adrian Esquino Lisco, member of the Executive Board of the *Unidad Nacional de Trabajadores Salvadoreños* (UNTS, the National union of Salvadorian Workers, and leader of the *Asociación Nacional de Indígenas* (ANIS), the National Association of Salvadorian Indigenous People, and for the safety of two other members of ANIS, Natividad de Jesús Mondragón and Valentin Pérez Cortez, following the recent attacks and killings of trade union leaders and cooperativists.

Adrian Esquino Lisco and other members of the Executive Board of UNTS are reported to be on an army blacklist and Radio Cuzcatlan, the army radio station, has been broadcasting accusations and threats against them. Natividad de Jesús Mondragón and Valentin Pérez Cortez have also been publicly accused by local army commanders of visiting Nicaragua to make contacts for the Salvadorian guerrilla forces. Amnesty International believes that they all three may have been targeted because of their activities as members of ANIS, an organization which defends the human rights of indigenous populations of El Salvador, and which works closely with peasant cooperatives in some areas. Though there are no reports of his detention, the whereabouts of Natividad Mondragon are unknown. Valentin Pérez was recently detained but was reported to have escaped his captors.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Trade unionists and cooperative workers have been particular targets of human rights violations, including torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution in recent months. UNTS' leader, Febe Elisabeth Velasquez was killed along with none other members of the trade union federation FENASTRAS when a powerful bomb exploded at the FENASTRAS offices on 31 October.

On 11 November 1989 heavy fighting between government troops and the guerrillas broke out in the capital San Salvador, with similar attacks taking place in some of the country's provinces. Reports give a toll of over 1,300 dead and many injured, among the casualties there are many reportedly killed during the bombardment by government forces of densely populated areas of San Salvador, where the *Frente Farabundo Martí de Liberación Nacional* (FMLN), Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, continues to hold positions. On 12 November 1989 the Salvadorian government declared a nation-wide state of siege and a curfew, with the suspension of all constitutional guarantees.

On 16 November 1989 six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter were extrajudicially executed when uniformed soldiers carrying automatic weapons entered the residence of the Salvadorian Jesuits on the campus of the Central American University "Jose Simeon Canas" in San Salvador. According to reports the victims were interrogated by the soldiers before being summarily executed.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telephone calls/telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the recent death threats directed against Adrian Esquino Lisco, Natividad de Jesús Mondragon and Valentin Pérez Cortez, urging that these be investigated to prevent further intimidation and that measures be taken to ensure their safety.

APPEALS TO:

S.E. Alfredo Cristiani
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San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Presidente Cristiani
San Salvador, El Salvador
Telephone: (503) 421172; 218280
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Gral. Rafael H. Larios
Ministro de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública
Doble Vía a Santa Tecla
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Cnel. Rene Emilio Ponce
Jefe del Estado Mayor Conjunto de la Fuerza
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Telephone: (503) 237116; 241599
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COPIES TO:

Lic. Benjamin Cestoni
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador
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San Salvador, El Salvador

Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador,
no-gubernamental (CDHES)
Urbanización La Esperanza
Pasaje 1, No. 117
San Salvador, El Salvador

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 January 1989.