

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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Disappearance

4 July 1980

EL SALVADOR: Raul BAIREs  
Manuel PENA BONILLA  
Carlos GONZALEZ

AI has learnt of the arrest of Raúl Baires, Manuel Peña Bonilla and Carlos Gonzalez on the morning of 3 July. The three men were arrested by members of the *Cuerpos Combinados* (combined forces, which includes the National Police) while they were travelling on a bus in Colonia San Francisco in the city of San Salvador. The police have denied any knowledge of their detention or whereabouts. It is feared that they are being held in incommunicado detention by the security forces and there is grave concern for their physical safety.

Raúl Baires is the information officer of the *Bloque Popular Revolucionario* (BPR – Popular Revolutionary Block). Manuel Peña Bonilla is secretary general of the *Unión de Pobladores de Tugurios* (UPT – Slumdweller's Union). Carlos Gonzales is the *secretario de Urbanización* of the National Teachers' Association (ANDES).

On 18 April 1980 two other members of the UPT were shot dead while putting up posters; another was seriously injured. On 21 May 1980 one of the leaders of ANDES, Professor Lionel Menendez was shot and wounded in San Salvador. He was subsequently abducted by armed men from the operating theatre of a San Salvador hospital. More than 45 teachers have been killed so far this year. On 26 June 1980 armed forces attacked the National University in San Salvador, where a meeting of about 320 people was taking place, and, according to reports, several arrests, including students and teachers, were made.

Serious violations of human rights continue in El Salvador and have intensified sharply since the beginning of 1980. Hundreds of peasants have been killed and abducted since the new government, which came to power in October 1979, announced a program of land reform, imposed a state of siege, imposed press censorship and sent troops into action in rural areas. Arbitrary detentions, "disappearances" and killings by military and security forces have taken place in the cities as well as in the rural areas. Killings of oppositionists or suspected oppositionists persist and violence and threats of violence continue to be directed against organizations and individuals who have protested against and tried to monitor and report on these human rights violations. Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, an outspoken defender of human rights in El Salvador, was assassinated on 24 March 1980.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Telegrams/express letters/letters requesting clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of Raúl Baires, Manuel Peña Bonilla and Carlos Gonzalez and asking for guarantees of their physical safety.

**APPEALS TO:**

Sr Mario Antonio Solano  
Ministro de Justicia  
Ministerio de Justicia  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Dr Pablo Mauricio Alvergue  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Palacio Nacional  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Col. Eugenio Videz Casanova  
Director, Guardia Nacional

Sres. Miembros de la Junta  
Revolucionaria de Gobierno

Colonia Atlactl S.S.  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Palacio Nacional  
San Salvador, El Salvador

COPIES TO: Capitán Oswaldo Marinco  
Presidente, Consejo Permanente de las Fuerzas Armadas ((COPEFA)  
Segunda Brigada d'Arteria  
Cuartel San Carlos  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Socorro Jurídico  
Arzobispado de San Salvador  
Apdo. Postal 6-294  
San Salvador, El Salvador

and to Salvadorean diplomatic representatives to your country.

*Please try to bring the case of Carlos Gonzales to the attention of teachers' organizations in your country and ask them to appeal on his behalf.*

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 15 August 1980