

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AMR 29/30/85
Distr: UA/SC**

UA 202/85

Fear of Torture

24 July 1985

EL SALVADOR: Facundo Mauricio RAMIREZ, trade unionist

Amnesty International is concerned about Facundo Mauricio Ramírez, leader of the *Sindicato de Trabajadores Bancarios* (Bank Workers' Union), who is reported to have been arrested in Ciudad Credisa, San Salvador, on 20 July 1985 by armed men in plain clothes, believed to have been members of the National Police. Sr. Ramírez' house is reported to have been searched on the same day. He is now believed to be held at the National Police Headquarters in San Salvador and there are fears that he may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

Under Decree Law 50 of February 1984, suspects may be held for up to 15 days in incommunicado detention before being brought before a military examining magistrate. It is during this period that torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment are frequently inflicted.

Background information

Since President José Napoleón Duarte assumed office in June 1984, Amnesty International has continued to receive reports of human rights abuses, including arbitrary detentions, "disappearances", individual death squad-style killings and the extrajudicial execution of non-combatant civilians. Such violations, however, appear to be taking place on a more selective basis against people suspected of being in opposition to the present government or of being sympathetic to those that are. In response to expressions of international concern regarding human rights violations, a series of administrations have blamed them on the so-called death squads, which Amnesty International has concluded to be made up of members of the Salvadorian security and military forces acting under direct orders of superior officers.

Amnesty International has noted with interest various statements concerning human rights issues which President Duarte has made since taking office, as well as a number of steps which have been taken in this regard. These include the announcement of special enquiries to investigate some of the thousands of abuses reported since 1979, the restructuring of the country's security forces, and plans to implement a number of judicial reforms, including legislation related to the training of forensic experts, judges and prosecutors. However, in all but a very few known instances, the many thousands of human rights abuses which have occurred in recent years have gone uninvestigated and their perpetrators unpunished.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express letters/airmail letters:

- seeking assurances that Facundo Mauricio Ramírez is being treated humanely while in detention;
- urging that he be released unless promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- if charged, urging that internationally recognized standards of the right to fair trial be adhered to and that he be allowed immediate access to an independent lawyer of his choice.

APPEALS TO:

Exmo. Sr. José Napoleón Duarte
Presidente de la República de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

*Telegrams to: Presidente Duarte,
San Salvador, El Salvador*

Telexes to : 20644 re sal

Sr. Miguel Alejandro Gallegos
Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión Social
Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social
2a Av. Norte 428
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Minister of Labour and Social Security)

*Telegrams to: Ministro Trabajo Gallegos, San
Salvador, El Salvador*

COPIES TO:

Dr. Julio Alfredo Samayoa
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
3a Av. Norte y 11a Calle Poniente
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Minister of Justice)

Cor. Adolfo Antonio Revelo
Director General de la Policía Nacional
6a Calle Oriente
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Head of National Police)

*Telegrams to: Cor. Revelo, Policia Nacional, San
Salvador, El Salvador*

Socorro Jurídico Cristiano
"Arzobispado Oscar Romero"
Apartado Postal 06-294
San Salvador, El Salvador

(independent Christian Legal Aid Office)

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

Please organize some appeals from TRADE UNIONISTS.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 September 1985.