



# CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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E L S A L V A D O R

30 April 1982

María Elizabeth GUZMAN DE QUEZADA

Follow Up to CASA 37/81 (AMR 29/69/81 of 1 October)

AI has received further details on María Elizabeth GUZMAN DE QUESADA (26) employee of the National University of El Salvador, mother of two young children, Gabriel Francisco Quezada (5) and Matilde Quezada (2), who was arrested at her home on 1 September 1981.

The further details concern previous attacks on the Quezada family. In November 1980, María Elizabeth's husband, Francisco QUEZADA, was arrested and was held in Santa Tecla prison (now closed) until 16 July 1981 when he was released. A week later, men in civilian clothes believed by eye-witnesses to be members of the security forces, came to their home looking for Francisco Quezada. On not finding Francisco Quezada at home, they abducted his father, whose tortured corpse was subsequently found near the ANTEL offices in Chalatenango. At the end of March 1981, another close relative of Francisco Quezada, named Nelson Quezada, a student aged 17, was abducted by heavily armed men in civilian clothes. He has since "disappeared". In May 1981, yet another member of the Quezada family, aged 15, suffered an attack: he was shot at by gunmen firing from a passing car and was wounded in the abdomen. On 30 August 1981, Giovanni Quezada, another relative, was killed following an attack by assailants near the Bloom Hospital in San Salvador. It was on her return from the funeral of Giovanni that María Elizabeth Guzman de Quesada was abducted from her home by 20 heavily armed men, believed by eye-witnesses to be members of the security forces.

#### Recommended Action

Letters expressing grave concern about the abduction of María Elizabeth Guzman de Quezada and the previous attacks on the Quezada family. Urge that her physical safety be guaranteed while in the hands of the security forces and urge her immediate release.

#### Appeals to:

There is uncertainty about the coalition which will eventually emerge from the elections in El Salvador on 28 March 1982.

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