



# CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/31/83  
Distrib: CO/GR + rel. SC

E L S A L V A D O R

18 August 1983

Further information on CASA 06/82 (AMR 29/12/82) of 15 February 1982

"Disappearance" of Manuel de Jesús CRUZ REYES

Manuel de Jesús Cruz Reyes was reportedly detained at 9.30 p.m. on 15 March 1981 in Colonia Costa Rica, San Salvador, when uniformed soldiers burst into his home. From the uniforms the men were wearing, it is believed that they were from the Zapote army barracks. Manuel Cruz was taken away blindfolded and other members of the family who were present were also threatened with arrest.

Subsequent unofficial reports indicated that Manuel Cruz was being held in Mariona Prison in San Salvador but later reports indicate that when the prison authorities learned that his relatives were looking for him there, he was moved to Sensuntepeque. Other reports indicate that he may have been held in Santa Tecla Prison at the time of the August 1981 hunger strike there.

The Salvadorian authorities have consistently denied that Manuel Cruz is in detention. In a letter dated 25 March 1983 to a member of Amnesty International, the Director General of Prisons, Dr. Marcos Alfredo Valladares Melgar, said that there was no record in their files of such a person.

Manuel de Jesús Cruz Reyes was aged 22 at the time of his arrest and was a sociology student at the University of El Salvador in San Salvador. A writ of habeas corpus was filed on his behalf but was later withdrawn when the lawyer involved received death threats.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION

Please renew appeals (5 appeals per section) on behalf of Manuel de Jesús Cruz Reyes, requesting clarification of his whereabouts and urging that his physical safety be guaranteed. Also request that, if in detention, he be released immediately unless charged and brought before a court of law.

APPEALS TO:

General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova (Minister of Defence and  
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública Public Security)  
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad  
Pública  
Doble Vía a Santa Tecla  
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Cor. Mario Alberto Reyes Mena (Chief of Staff of  
Jefe del Estado Mayor del Ejército the Army)  
C. Concepción, Final Pasaje Merazo  
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Sr. Angel Benjamin Cestoni (Executive Secretary of  
Secretario Ejecutivo the governmental Human  
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Rights Commission)  
El Salvador  
2º piso, Edif. Fiscalía General de  
la República  
13C. Poniente, Centro de Gobierno  
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Copies to:

Comisión de Derechos Humanos de (Non-governmental  
El Salvador (CDHES) Human Rights Commission)  
Av. las Américas y C. San José  
Urb. Isidro Menéndez, Edif. ACUS  
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Lic. Miguel Angel Parada (Rector of the National  
Rector University)  
Universidad de El Salvador (UES)  
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Please do not take any action on this case after 15 November 1983  
without first checking with the International Secretariat.