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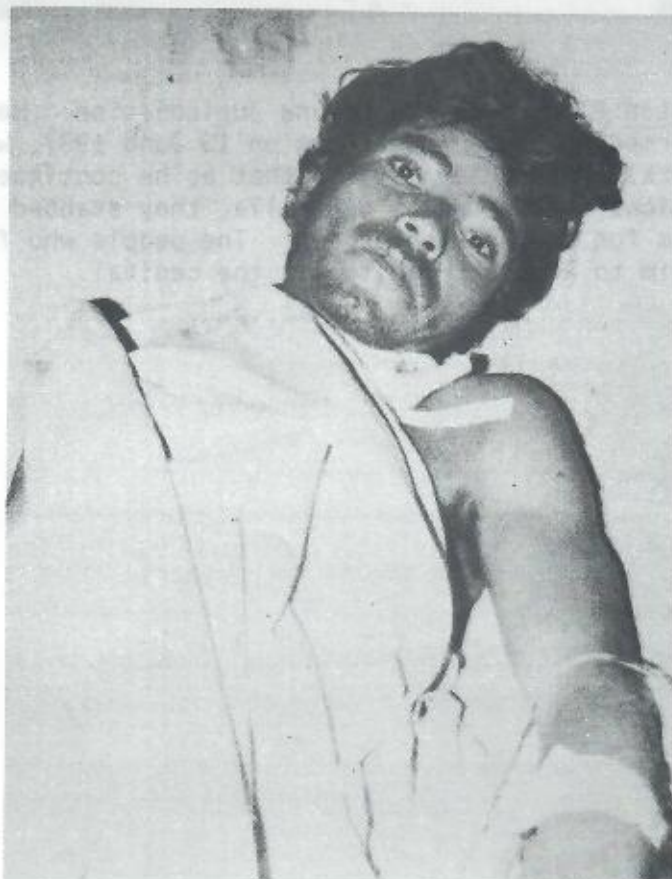
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27 July 1987

EL SALVADOR **ALLEGED ATTEMPTED EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION OF THREE PEASANTS
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHALATENANGO**

José Vertilio ALVARADO LOPEZ, aged 28, José Antonio ORTEGA ORELLANA, aged 25, and José Antonio LOPEZ CRUZ, aged 28, are campesinos (peasants) from different hamlets in the jurisdiction of La Laguna, Chalatenango department. They were hospitalized in Rosales Hospital in San Salvador on 14 June 1987, suffering from severe stab wounds which they allege were inflicted by uniformed soldiers of the 4th Infantry Brigade who had arrested them the previous day in separate incidents, on suspicion of collaborating with guerrillas. Amnesty International first appealed on their behalf on 17 and 18 June (see UA 162/87 AMR 29/28/87 and 29/32/87), urging that a full and impartial investigation be carried out into the allegations and that those responsible be brought to justice. The organization also asked for assurances that the peasants' physical integrity be guaranteed while hospitalized and that they be given adequate medical treatment. No official response was received. The three peasants have since been discharged from hospital.



José Vertilio ALVARADO LOPEZ

José Alvarado, married with two children aged two years and one month, was reportedly arrested at home in cantón (hamlet) La Cuchilla, La Laguna jurisdiction, on 13 June 1987 by uniformed soldiers. In an interview with local human rights workers, José Alvarado stated that he was taken for interrogation to cantón Plan Verde and that when he continued to deny the soldiers' charges that he was a guerrilla, they stabbed him in the throat and left him for dead on the street.

The people who found him the following day first took him to a hospital in Chalatenango from where he was transferred to Rosales Hospital in San Salvador.

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2. José Antonio ORTEGA ORELLANA

United Kingdom

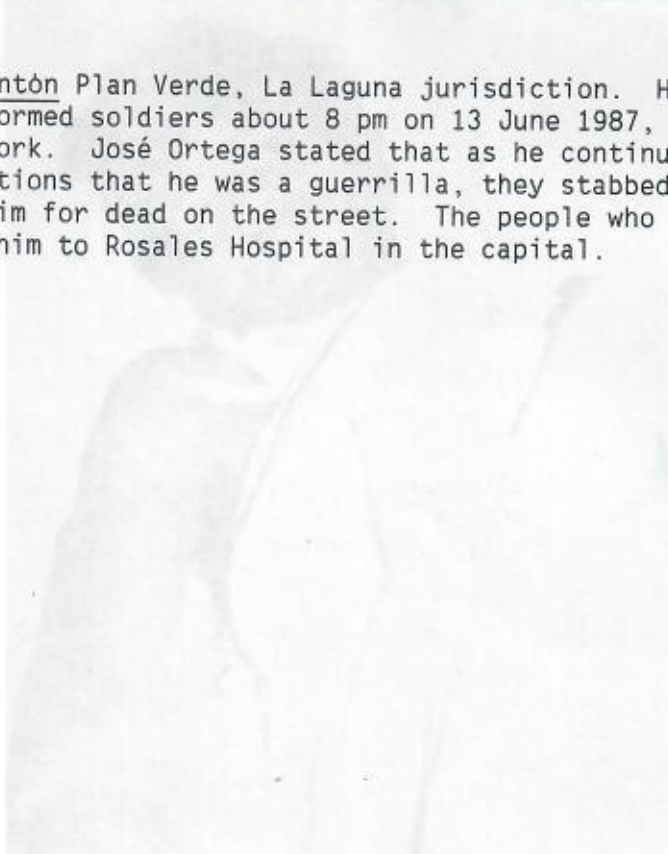
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José Ortega comes from Cantón Plan Verde, La Laguna jurisdiction. He was reportedly detained by uniformed soldiers about 8 pm on 13 June 1987, while on his way back home from work. José Ortega stated that as he continued to reject the soldiers' accusations that he was a guerrilla, they stabbed him in the throat and left him for dead on the street. The people who found him the following day took him to Rosales Hospital in the capital.

...in an interview...
...with local human rights workers, José Alvarado stated that he was taken for interrogation to Cantón Plan Verde and that when he continued to deny the soldiers' charges that he was a guerrilla, they stabbed him in the throat and left him for dead on the street.

The people who found him the following day first took him to a hospital in Chalatenango from where he was transferred to Rosales Hospital in San Salvador.



3. José Antonio LOPEZ CRUZ



José López, member of an agricultural cooperative and married with six children, was reportedly detained at his home in cantón Los Prados, La Laguna jurisdiction, on the night of 13 June 1987 by uniformed soldiers who separated him from the rest of his family. Testimony received by Amnesty International states that the soldiers who accused him of being a guerrilla collaborator, stabbed him with a grappling-iron (corvo) and a machete and left him for dead, and that two of the women in his home, including his wife, were raped. José López was taken to the emergency unit of Rosales Hospital the following day.

BACKGROUND

A wave of incidents reminiscent of the early 1980s, when security forces and the so-called "death squads" tortured and killed with impunity, have been recently reported from El Salvador. In some instances, the evidence clearly suggests security force involvement; in others men in plain clothes acting in the manner of the "death squads" were responsible. These "death squads" claimed responsibility for hundreds of killings a month in the early 1980s. Amnesty International concluded that these squads were customarily made up of regular police and military personnel, acting in plain clothes but under the orders of superior officers.

Amnesty International is repeating its appeals for a full and impartial investigation into these incidents and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

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