



CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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CASA 12/81

Fear of Torture/"Disappearance"

12 May 1981

EL SALVADOR: Recent arrests and abductions

1. People detained by combined security forces and army:

- Claudia OKOZCO, architect, former teacher at the National University and former member of the governing board of the Colegio de Arquitectos de El Salvador, was detained with 5 other persons (names unknown) on 15 April 1981 by security forces in plain clothes at her home in San Salvador during the curfew. Her whereabouts and those of the persons detained with her are unknown.

- Alfonso REYNA MELENDEZ, Secretary General of the textile union Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Industria Textil, Acabados, Similares y Conexos (trade union of workers of the Textile Industry, Finishing and Allied Trades), was detained by security forces with 20 other members of the union on 9 April 1981. The others were released while, according to a communique from the Ministry of Defence of 20 April, he is to be tried under Decree 507 of 7 December 1980. Decree 507 supplements previous emergency legislation: in article 7 it appears to authorize 6 months incommunicado detention at a pre-trial stage; under article 11, only slight evidence is required to prove membership in illegal political organizations.

- Vilma AGUILAR, a 17 year old student, was detained by the army in the town of Mejicanos/ department of San Salvador; her current whereabouts are unknown. on 7 April 1981

- Julio MURCIA, a 19 year old student, detained by security forces on 6 April 1981 in the town of Mejicanos, department of San Salvador; his current whereabouts are unknown.

2. Detention by the National Police

- Emilio ZELAYA COREAS, a public accountant, aged 32, was detained on 8 April 1981 by members of the National Police in San Salvador. His current whereabouts are unknown.

3. People detained by the National Guard and the National Police

- Imelda R. ALVARADO, an 18 year old student, was detained by members of the National Guard and the National Police on 5 April 1981 in San Salvador; her current whereabouts are unknown.

- Eduardo A. COREAS, a sales manager, aged 46, was detained by members of the National Guard and the National Police on 4 April 1981 in San Salvador; his current whereabouts are unknown.

4. Detention by the Hacienda Police

- Manuel de Jesus RODRIGUEZ RUIZ, a 22 year old worker at the Asociación Nacional de Acueductor y Alcantarillados (National Association of Waterworks and Sewage), (ANDA), was detained on 4 April 1981 by uniformed and plainclothes members of the Hacienda Police and taken away bound in a Hacienda Police truck. He had previously been detained by the same security force on 12 January 1981 and had been released 5 days later. His current whereabouts are unknown.

AI is gravely concerned about the safety of all these people.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send separate appeals for the four different groups.

Telegrams/express letters/letters expressing concern at the arrest of these people and requesting the authorities to ensure that their physical safety is guaranteed.

APPEALS TO: Coronel Jaime Abdul GUTIERREZ
Vicepresidente de la Junta de EL Salvador
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

and to:

For group 1: Coronel Rafael Flores Lima
Jefe de Estado Mayor del Ejército
Calle Concepción, Final Pasaje Merazo
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

For group 2: Coronel Carlos López Nuila
Director de la Policía Nacional
6 calle Oriente, San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

For group 3: Coronel Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova
Director de la Guardia Nacional
Colonia Atlactl, San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

& Coronel Carlos López Nuila
Director de la Policía Nacional
6 calle Oriente, San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

For group 4: Coronel Francisco Morán
Director de la Policía de Hacienda
Calle Concepción, San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

For students and teachers some appeals may be sent to the Minister of Education:

Ing. Carlos Aquilino Duarte
Ministro de Educación,
Ministerio de Educación
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

For workers and employees some appeals may be sent to the Minister of Labour:

Dr Julio Alfredo Samayoa
Ministro de Trabajo
Ministerio de Trabajo
2 Avenida Norte
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR