

**URGENT
ACTION**

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Further information on UA 144/83 (AMR 29/21/83 1 July, AMR 29/27/83 21 July) -
Legal Concern

EL SALVADOR: Lic. Ricardo Ernesto CALDERON JUAREZ
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Lic. Ricardo Ernesto Calderón Juárez, Secretary General of the National University of El Salvador, was detained at his home at midday on 28 June 1983 by heavily armed men in plain clothes, believed to be members of the National Police.

In a statement dated 9 July 1983, the Salvadorian armed forces announced that 38-year-old Ricardo Calderón had been handed over to a military judge and that he had admitted working for the *Fuerzas Populares de Liberación* (FPL), Popular Liberation Forces, which is currently involved in civil conflict with the Salvadorian government forces. Ricardo Calderón was transferred to La Esperanza prison, Mariona, after being held for 11 days in the custody of the National Police. He is reported to have been psychologically tortured while in the custody of the National Police and is reported to be now suffering from severe migraine and internal bleeding.

The International Secretariat has received the following letter from the Salvadorian Minister of Justice, Sr. Arturo Ramiro Mendez Azahar:

"The Ministry of Justice, for which I am responsible, is receiving telexes and letters from members of groups affiliated to Amnesty International requesting information about the detention of Licenciado Ricardo Ernesto Calderón Juárez, and urging his immediate release.

In respect to this case, I should be grateful if your organization could inform its affiliated groups that Licenciado Ricardo Ernesto Calderón Juárez is at the disposition of the relevant judge and is being held in the Central Prison "La Esperanza" where he is being well-treated, is visited by his family and friends and is able to receive correspondence.

I should like to thank the members of Amnesty International for expressing concern about this case.

Yours sincerely

*Arturo Ramiro Mendez Azahar
Minister of Justice"*

Further recommended action:

Please continue to send appeals requesting full details of the charges against Ricardo Calderon Juarez, and an indication of any evidence which led to his arrest.

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation.

Letters should also express concern about reports that Ricardo Calderon was tortured while in the custody of the National Police.

Letters should be sent to:

Sr. Arturo Mendez Azahar
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
San Salvador, El Salvador

Copies may be sent to:

Dr Arturo Zeledon Castrillo
Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

(President of Supreme Court)

Comisión de Derechos Humanos
de El Salvador

Dr Benjamin Cestoni
2a Planta

Edif. Fiscalía General de la República
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador

(governmental human rights commission)

Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 2 October 1983.

– Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

– Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 – “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.”

Article 5 – “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Article 9 – “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.”

– The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity are often more effective.

– Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

– In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new information.

– Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your national section Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.