

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England

EXTERNAL (for
general distribution)

*Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition and infliction of death penalties and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons whether or not they have used or advocated violence.
(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))*

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Fear of Torture/"Disappearance

13 May 1981

EL SALVADOR: Alvaro MORALES RODRIGUEZ
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Amnesty International has received reports that Alvaro Morales Rodriguez, a Nicaraguan citizen, was detained on 4 April 1981 by members of the *Policía de Aduana* (Customs Police) at San Salvador airport. Sr. Morales Rodriguez was on board a flight from Managua, Nicaragua, to New Orleans, USA, which was stopping over in San Salvador.

Sr. Alvaro Morales Rodriguez's present whereabouts are unknown and there is serious concern for his safety.

Background information

Thousands of Salvadorians have been killed over the past year. The government attributes the deaths to murder by unofficial groups or to fighting between government and guerrilla forces. However, Amnesty International has accumulated unequivocal evidence that there is a consistent pattern of killing by the security forces of peasants, young people and other victims who have not been involved in guerrilla activities.

On 9 April 1981 Amnesty International sent a telegram to the Salvadorian authorities urging them to investigate the reported massacre on 7 April 1981 of more than 20 people in a suburb of San Salvador. Witnesses told reporters that the killings were carried out by the National Guard and the police. At the same time, Amnesty International called on the government to guarantee the safety of 138 people named on an apparent death list published by the Salvadorian army in early April 1981. The list included the names of priests, human rights activists, university rectors and former members of the government.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: *A limited number of appeals is requested; please organize about a third of the appeals that would normally be sent.*

Telegrams/express letters requesting clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of Alvaro Morales Rodriguez, and urging the government to do everything possible to ensure his physical safety.

APPEALS TO:

Director de la Policía de Aduana
Final Avenida Peralta
Contig. Dorado San Salvador
El Salvador

Coronel Jaime Abdul Gutierrez
Vice-Presidente de la Junta de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

Copies of appeals may be sent to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country, and to the following Nicaraguan newspaper:

Barricada
Reparto Gloria Mantica
Managua, Nicaragua

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 13 June 1981