

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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ACTION**

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

EXTERNAL (for
general distribution)

Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition of 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.

I Index: AMR 29/35/81
Distr: UA

NOTE: A shortened version of this Urgent Action was telexed to the following national sections on 15 May: CANADA (both branches), MEXICO, VENEZUELA, USA

UA 118/81

Fear of torture/extrajudicial killing

13 May 1981

EL SALVADOR: Anna Marguarita GASTIAZORO
Eleotherio de Jesús CARCAMO
Rafael BARRERA

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Anna Marguarita Gastiazoro, Eliotherio de Jesús Carcamo and Rafael Barrera were arrested by security forces on 13 May 1981 at the Institute of Social Studies in San Salvador.

All three are members of the *Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario* (MNR - National Revolutionary Movement). The MNR is a social democrat party and a member of the opposition coalition, *Frente Democrático Revolucionario* (FDR - Revolutionary Democratic Front). According to reports received by Amnesty International, the headquarters of the MNR in San Salvador have also been raided.

There has since been no news of the whereabouts of these three people and there is grave concern for their safety.

On 27 November 1980 six leaders of the FDR were detained by uniformed army and National Police troops in San Salvador. Within 24 hours their mutilated bodies were found in roadside ditches in the outskirts of San Salvador. The government of El Salvador almost immediately denied any responsibility for the arrest and murder of the six leaders and the military operation of 27 November was officially attributed to extremist forces "outside government control", the same explanation adopted by government representatives to account for an estimated 6,000 cases of people seized and murdered in which government forces were implicated. In a message to the General Assembly of the United Nations on 3 December 1980, Amnesty International pointed to the overwhelming evidence that Salvadorian troops were responsible for the detention and murder of the six FDR leaders.

An apparent death list of the names of 138 people, including priests, human rights activists, university rectors and former members of the El Salvador government was published by the Salvadorian army in early April 1981. The Salvadorian army has a long history of summary executions, torture and abduction, and there is evidence that paramilitary squads operate with the complicity of the security forces.

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

Telegrams/express letters urging the authorities to take immediate measures to ensure the physical safety of Anna Marguarita Gastiazoro, Eleotherio de Jesus Carcamo and Rafael Carcamo, to disclose their place of detention and release them immediately.

APPEALS TO:	Ing. José Napoleón Duarte Presidente de la Junta de El Salvador Casa Presidencial San Salvador, El Salvador	Coronel José Guillermo García Ministro de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública Ministerio de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública San Salvador, El Salvador
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FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 13 June 1981

PLEASE BRING THESE CASES TO THE ATTENTION OF SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTIES IN YOUR COUNTRY AND ASK THEM TO APPEAL ON THEIR BEHALF.