

URGENT ACTION amnesty international URGENT ACTION

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EXTERNAL (for
general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

30 September 1983

EL SALVADOR: Warner Wilfredo Hernando QUIJADA
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Amnesty International has received reports that Warner Wilfredo Hernando Quijada, a student aged 29, was taken handcuffed from his home in Nejapa, San Salvador, by men in civilian clothes at 6 pm on 23 September 1983. The men, who are believed to have been members of the security forces, said that he was being taken away "for investigation" but refused to say where he would be held. His family have made inquiries at several police stations and establishments belonging to the armed forces but so far without result.

The Archbishop of San Salvador, Monsignor Rivera y Damas, is reported to have mentioned Warner Quijada in his sermon on 25 September 1983 and called on the authorities to disclose his place of detention and condition.

Warner Quijada is a student of industrial engineering in his final year at the National University of El Salvador.

There is serious concern for his safety.

Background information

Students, teachers and others in the field of education have often been a specific target of repression in recent years in El Salvador. The National University itself was completely occupied by the army on 26 June 1980. Students, professors, university administrators and staff were taken into custody and at least 22 people were killed. Staff and students at the university have continued to be a target of repression since 1980. Amnesty International recently received reports that on 13 September 1983 Pedro Flores Peña, a law student, was detained and on 14 September 1983 the head of the Foreign Relations Department at the Law Faculty of the University, Hugo Francisco Carrillo Cabrera, was detained (See UA 213/83 AMR 29/35/83 21 September). Amnesty International has also received reports that other members of staff at the same university have recently been threatened.

The arbitrary arrests, torture, "disappearances" and extra-judicial executions which have been carried out against members of the teaching profession appeared to be an attempt to eradicate the teachers' union ANDES (*Asociación Nacional de Educadores de El Salvador "21 de Junio"*), an active corporate member of the mass organization *Bloque Popular Revolucionario* (BPR - Popular Revolutionary Block). The BPR is a member of the *Frente Democrático Revolucionario* (Democratic Revolutionary Front), the broad grouping which since its formation in 1980 has led the opposition to the Salvadorian government. Teachers may also have been targeted for repression since, as educated people, the government appears to believe that they could constitute a focus of opposition to the established authorities.

Arrests, torture, "disappearances" and killings have been carried out by the regular police and military forces, or the paramilitary groups to which they are linked.

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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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters/airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the reported arrest of Warner Wilfredo Hernando Quijada
- requesting clarification of his whereabouts and legal situation
- urging that he be humanely treated while in detention
- urging that he be immediately released unless charged and brought before a court

APPEALS TO:

S.E. don Alvaro Magaña Borja
Presidente de la República de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams to: *Presidente Magaña, San Salvador, El Salvador*

Coronel Carlos López Nuila
Director de la Policía Nacional
6a Calle Oriente
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Director of National Police)

Telegrams to: *Director Policia Nacional López Nuila, San Salvador El Salvador*

General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova
Ministro de Defensa y Seguridad Publica
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Casa Presidencial

San Salvador, El Salvador
(Minister of Defence)

Telegrams to: *Ministro Defensa Vides Casanova, San Salvador, El Salvador*

COPIES TO:

Mons. Arturo Rivera y Damas
Arzobispo de San Salvador
Arzobispado de San Salvador
1 Calle Poniente 3412
Apdo. 01-126
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Archbishop of San Salvador)

Prof. Carlos Aquilino Duarte Funes
Ministro de Educación
Ministerio de Educación
Calle Delgado y 8a Avenida Norte
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Minister of Education)

Comisión de Derechos Humanos
Dr Benjamin Cestoni
2a Planta
Edif. Fiscalía General de la República
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador

(governmental human rights commission)

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 11 November 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.