

**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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"Disappearance"

17 May 1982

EL SALVADOR: Raúl BELTRAN NAVARRETE
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Raúl Beltrán Navarrete, an agricultural engineer and a lecturer at the University of El Salvador, was abducted in San Salvador at 7.00 am on 14 May 1982. He was taken away in a vehicle with Salvadorian number plates, registration number 11695.

Amnesty International believes that Sr. Beltrán Navarrete has been seized by the Salvadorian security forces and there is grave concern for his safety.

The security forces in El Salvador have been carrying out a systematic and widespread program of torture, "disappearances", and individual and mass killings of men, women and children. The victims have included not only people suspected of opposition to the authorities, but thousands who were simply in areas targeted for security operations, whose death or mutilation seems to have been completely arbitrary. Testimonies received daily by Amnesty International implicate all branches of the Salvadorian security forces in such violations of human rights - both military and police units as well as paramilitary squads acting with their explicit or implicit warrant - and the violations have occurred on such a scale that there can be no question that they constitute a gross and consistent pattern of human rights abuses.

Amnesty International has repeatedly drawn attention to human rights violations in El Salvador carried out under the juntas in power since General Humberto Romero was overthrown in October 1979. Amnesty International has repeatedly appealed to the authorities to investigate and account for the arbitrary detention or the "disappearance" or murder of priests, trade union leaders, church workers, teachers, academics, peasant families and community workers as well as the "disappearance" and killing of patients abducted from hospital sickbeds by security agents. In no single instance have the Salvadorian authorities issued a satisfactory response.

Following the elections for a constituent assembly on 28 March 1982, there are indications that the process of negotiation is not yet complete between the various legally recognized political parties to form a government. There may be future changes in the cabinet and other political and military appointments. However, reports of human rights violations involving the official security forces have continued unabated.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters expressing grave concern about the abduction of Raúl Beltrán Navarrete and urging that his physical safety be guaranteed. Urge that he be released immediately.

.../...

APPEALS TO:

Sr. Alvaro Magaña
Presidente de la República de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

*Telegrams to: Presidente Magaña,
San Salvador*

Sr. Roberto d'Aubuisson
Presidente de la Asamblea Constituyente
San Salvador, El Salvador

*Telegrams to: Sr. d'Aubuisson, President
Asamblea Constituyente, San Salvador*

(President of Constituent Assembly)

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

*Telegrams to: Sr. Duarte, Ministro de
Educación, San Salvador*

(Minister of Education)

COPIES TO:

Orientación

Arzobispado de San Salvador
Seminario San José de la Montaña
San Salvador, El Salvador

(newspaper of Archbishopric)

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 21 June 1982.

Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.

Letters and telegrams should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to the 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 can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective.

Information about the alleged connection of any person with an organization which is banned in their country is provided as background only and should not be included in appeals.

In Urgent Action cases, where Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the possible ill-treatment of prisoners, appeals are issued when the circumstances of a person's arrest or disappearance make such treatment likely. Do not make direct accusations and, unless otherwise instructed, do not use the word "torture".

Send at least one telegram or express letter immediately. Other letters can be sent afterwards to the addresses listed. Copies of letters should be sent to the relevant diplomatic representatives in your country. Copies of any replies received should be sent immediately to the International Secretariat, or to your national section or Urgent Action coordinator. Thank the official who has replied, requesting that you be kept informed about the case.