



# CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)



Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street,  
London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom. Tel: 01-833 1771 Telex: 28502

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/39/83  
Distr: SC/CO/GR/PG

E L S A L V A D O R

24 October 1983

CASA 25/83

## RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AFFECTING STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ACADEMICS AND UNIVERSITY STAFF

Students, teachers, academics and other workers in the field of education have been a specific target of repression in El Salvador in recent years. Arbitrary arrests, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions have been carried out against them by the regular police and military forces and by paramilitary groups believed to be linked to the official security forces. Amnesty International is deeply concerned at recent reports of the renewed activity of the so-called death squads, who have openly claimed responsibility for the abduction and killing of several people, including university staff and students, over the past few weeks.

### The National University

The National University of El Salvador, based in San Salvador, has been a particular target of repression since 1980. On 26 June 1980, army troops supported by tanks and helicopters occupied the university campus. At least 22 people were reported killed during the takeover and many students, teachers, administrators and other staff, as well as members of leftwing organizations and 15 foreign journalists, were taken into custody. The campus has remained closed under military guard ever since but the university continues to operate without government support from various sites in the capital.

In October 1980, the rector of the university, Félix Ulloa Martínez, who was also President of the World University Service based in Geneva, was shot dead. His name had previously appeared on several anonymous death lists. On 10 February 1981 troops burst into a regular meeting of the Consejo Superior Universitario, the Supreme University Council. Twenty people were detained including the deans of six faculties, the interim rector Miguel Angel Parada and the Secretary General of the university, Lic. Ricardo Ernesto Calderón Juárez. Fourteen of the council members were released shortly afterwards but the others were held in Santa Tecla Prison until 1 April 1981.

In April 1983 a commission was set up by the Salvadorian Government to investigate the possibility of returning the campus buildings to the university authorities. However, in July 1983, the rector of the university, Dr. Miguel Angel Parada, stated publicly that measures to return the campus to the university authorities had been "frozen" by order of the President of the Republic.

On 29 June 1983 the Supreme University Council issued a public statement denouncing the arrest of students, lecturers and administrative staff from the university, including that of Lic. Ricardo Ernesto CALDERON JUAREZ, the Secretary General of the university, the previous day. The statement also called on the government to speed up the return of the university installations to the university authorities and to provide the necessary funds to rehabilitate the buildings and to carry on the work of the university. It concluded by reiterating "the decision taken by the entire university community not to permit the annihilation of the University of El Salvador, because it is a university that refuses to die."

Recent arrests, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions of staff and students at the National University

Secretary General of the National University Lic. Ricardo Ernesto CALDERON JUAREZ was reportedly detained at his home in San Salvador on 28 June 1983 by 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 one of the guerrilla groups currently involved in civil conflict with the Salvadorian government forces. After being held for 11 days in the custody of the National Police, where he was reportedly subjected to torture; he was transferred to the main men's prison, La Esperanza, in Mariona, San Salvador. At the time of his transfer he was reported to be suffering from severe migraine and internal bleeding. Later reports indicate that one of his lungs has collapsed.

On 29 June 1983, 30-year-old psychology student at the National University Evelin Claudina CALDERON was reportedly detained by members of the Treasury Police and National Police, together with three other women, two of whom were pregnant, and two children. As far as Amnesty International is aware, their detention has not been acknowledged and their present whereabouts are not known. Evelin Claudina Calderón was previously secretary for student affairs at the Confederación Universitaria Centroamericana (CSUCA), Confederation of Central American Universities, which is based in Costa Rica.

On 13 September 1983, four men in plain clothes reportedly abducted law student and member of the Supreme University Council Pedro FLORES PEÑA. On 24 September 1983 his wife is reported to have found his tortured and decapitated body near the university. However, other sources indicate that four days after the body was found the Ejército Secreto Anticomunista (ESA), Secret Anti-Communist Army, a rightwing death squad, admitted that they had kidnapped Pedro Flores Peña but claimed that he was still alive and that his wife had mistakenly identified her husband.

On 14 September 1983, 31-year-old Hugo CARRILLO CABRERA, head of the Foreign Relations Department at the Law Faculty of the National University, was reportedly detained by armed men as he was returning from the university to his home in a San Salvador suburb. His detention has so far not been acknowledged by the authorities and his present whereabouts is not known.

On 20 September 1983, Amílcar MARTINEZ ARGUERA, professor of economics at the Foreign Relations Department of the Law Faculty at the university and Director of Social and Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was reportedly taken from his home together with his wife and daughter. The two women were later released. A rightwing death squad, the Brigada Maximiliano Hernández Martínez, subsequently claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, saying that Martínez had been submitted to a 'political trial' because of his connections with the left. Family sources report that Dr. Martínez recently underwent brain surgery and that he is still under medical care. They have requested the kidnappers to ensure that he receives all necessary medication.

On 23 September 1983, 29-year-old engineering student Bernard Wilfredo HERNANDEZ QUIJADA was taken handcuffed from his home by men in plain clothes, believed to be members of the security forces. Subsequent reports indicate that he is being held at the headquarters of the National Police in San Salvador, although the reason for his arrest is not known.

The following day, 24 September 1983, two more students from the university, Jaime ENRIQUEZ BAUTISTA and Carlos Adilio DIAZ, were reportedly abducted by men in plain clothes as they were leaving an office at the university. Their present whereabouts are not known.

On 7 October 1983, the body of Dora MUÑOZ, professor of chemistry at the National University, was found in San Salvador, together with those of three other people. Attached to the bodies was a communiqué from the Brigada Maximiliano Hernández Martínez, accusing them of 'high treason' and of belonging to the Partido Comunista del Salvador (PCS), Communist Party of El Salvador. The four had reportedly been strangled.

#### Repression at the University of Central America (UCA)

The University of Central America (UCA), also based in San Salvador, was founded by the Jesuits in 1965. Although still run primarily by Jesuits, it has no formal ties to the church. It has also been the target of repression during recent years, although not on the same scale as the National University. Recently it has also suffered attacks from paramilitary groups. In September 1983, the Secret Anti-Communist Army claimed responsibility for planting bombs at the home of Italo LOPEZ VALLECILLOS, a professor at UCA who is also a wellknown writer, and in a Jesuit residence owned by the same university. They later warned López and the Jesuits that their "guns are pointed constantly at traitors of the people". 18 bombs have reportedly been placed at UCA since 1979.

#### Attacks on teachers and literacy workers

According to a 1982 report of the teachers' union, the Asociación Nacional de Educadores de El Salvador "21 de Junio" (ANDES), 50 teachers "disappeared", 305 were killed and 8,000 had to leave the country for fear of their lives between 1980 and 1982. The extent of the attacks on teachers appears to be an attempt to destroy ANDES, which is a member of one of the largest opposition bodies, the Bloque Popular Revolucionario (BPR), the Popular Revolutionary Block, which is in turn a member of the Frente Democrático Revolucionario (FDR), the Democratic Revolutionary Front, the broad front which, since its formation in 1980, has led the opposition to the Salvadorian Government.

In August 1982, 23 teachers, including five members of the ANDES executive committee, were arrested. Seven were released shortly afterwards for lack of evidence. However, the remaining sixteen were brought before a military judge and charged with participating in subversive activities. They were held for several months in prison without trial before being released. Several of them were reportedly subjected to various forms of torture, including punches to the head and stomach, electric shock and simulated execution, during the initial period of their detention when they were in the custody of the Policía de Hacienda, Treasury Police.

At least three literacy workers have been killed, allegedly by ESA, since July of this year. On 2 July 1983, the bodies of Joel HERRERA OCHOA, a technician in the literacy campaign, and his wife were dumped in a San Salvador hotel carpark, with notes from ESA pinned to them saying they were "communists supported by the government". On 12 September 1983, the bodies of two more literacy campaign workers were found in San Salvador with ESA communiqués stuffed in their pockets. Shortly afterwards, another literacy teacher was kidnapped by men in civilian clothes who said they were members of ESA. He was reportedly released after having been beaten. Recent press reports indicate that several teachers in the province of Santa Ana were seized by unknown men in early October 1983 and had their fingers hacked off before they were freed.

Following the killings of the literacy workers, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has announced that it plans to withdraw its adviser to the literacy campaign which was set up three years ago by the government as part of a program of social reform.

Attached at Appendix I is a partial chronological list of incidents of human rights violations against students, academics, teachers and other university staff since June 1983.

For further background to the human rights situation in El Salvador, please refer to "Assigning Responsibility for Human Rights Abuses: El Salvador's Military and Security Units" (AMR 29/73/82, September 1982), which includes reference to the activities of paramilitary death squads believed to be linked to the security forces, and "El Salvador in Outline" (AMR 29/72/82, August 1982).

## APPENDIX I

<u>Name</u>	<u>Profession</u>	<u>Details of human rights violation</u>
1. Ricardo Ernesto CALDERON JUAREZ (UA 144/83 - AMR 29/21/83 + follow-ups AMR 29/27/83 & 29/33/83)	Secretary General, National University	Arrested on 28 June 1983 and held in Mariona Prison since 9 July 1983
2. Evelin Claudina CALDERON (CASA 17/83 - AMR 29/25/83)	Psychology student, National University	"Disappeared" 29 June 1983
3. Joel HERRERA OCHOA and his wife Gloria	Literacy campaign worker	Found dead on 2 July 1983 with note from ESA* attached to body
4. Ismael RECINOS LOPEZ (UA 157/83 - AMR 29/26/83 + follow-ups AMR 29/32/83 & AMR 29/40/83)	Director of Public Relations, National	Detained on 15 July 1983; released on 21 July 1983 according to government sources.
5. Two men	Literacy campaign workers	Found dead on 12 September 1983 with notes from ESA on bodies
6. Pedro FLORES PEÑA (UA 213/83 - AMR 29/35/83 + follow-up AMR 29/37/83)	Law student and member of Supreme University Council, National University	Abducted on 13 September 1983 (ESA claimed responsibility); reportedly found dead by wife on 24 September 1983.
7. Hugo Francisco CARRILLO CABRERA (UA 213/83 - AMR 29/35/83 + follow-up AMR 29/37/83)	Head of Foreign Relations at the Law Faculty, National University	Abducted on 14 September 1983; present whereabouts unknown.
8. Amilcar MARTINEZ ARGUERA (follow-up to UA 213/83 - AMR 29/35/83)	Professor, Foreign Relations, National University	Abducted on 20 September 1983; present whereabouts unknown.
9. Bernardo Wilfredo HERNANDEZ QUIJADA (UA 218/83 - AMR 29/36/83 + follow-up AMR 29/38/83)	Engineering student, National University	Detained on 23 September 1983, held at National Police headquarters, San Salvador.
10. Carlos Adilio DIAZ and Jaime ENRIQUEZ BAUTISTA (follow-up to UA 213/83 - AMR 29/37/83)	Students, National University	Abducted on 24 September 1983; present whereabouts unknown.
11. Italo LOPEZ VALLECILLOS	Professor, University of Central America	Bomb planted at his home by ESA in September 1983.
12. Several people in Santa Ana province	Teachers	Seized by unknown men in early October 1983 and later released with their fingers cut off
13. Dora MUÑOZ	Chemistry professor, National University	Found dead on 7 October 1983 with note from ESA on body.

\* ESA = Ejército Secreto Anticomunista, Secret Anti-Communist Army, a rightwing death squad