

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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"Disappearance"

4 September 1987

**EL SALVADOR: Salvador UBAU, trade unionist**

Amnesty International is concerned about reports of the "disappearance" of trade unionist Salvador Ubau, who was abducted on 1 September 1987 at 8.00 am in San Salvador. Five heavily armed men forced him into a white pick-up, licence plate number 87659. The authorities deny holding him and his whereabouts remain unknown.

Salvador Ubau, who works at the *Universidad Nacional* (National University), is Secretary General of the *Comité de Coordinadores del Sindicato de Trabajadores Universitarios* (CCTU), Coordination Committee of the Union of University Workers. A paid advertisement denouncing the abduction of Salvador Ubau was placed in the national press by the National University; it accused the security forces of being responsible for his abduction. On 3 September there were demonstrations in San Salvador denouncing the "disappearance" of Salvador Ubau. Amnesty International is concerned for his safety.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Due to a legislative strike, the State of Siege declared in 1980 was not renewed in January 1987. Decree Law 50 (promulgated in February 1984 to govern penal procedures against persons accused of offences against the state while constitutional guarantees were suspended) was allowed to lapse in February. A new Decree 618, similar to Decree 50 and apparently intended to ensure that exceptional measures can still be applied in proceedings against persons suspected of offences against the state, was promulgated by the assembly in mid-March 1987.

Since the State of Siege lapsed, Amnesty International has noted that some branches of the security forces appear to have been abiding by constitutional provisions, according to which detainees, including those suspected of political offences, may be held for 72 hours only. The detention should at that point be acknowledged and the detainee transferred to a recognized detention centre, or alternatively released.

However, Amnesty International has continued to receive reports that those who have been detained by the military in the countryside continue to be held for longer periods in unacknowledged detention, during which time they have allegedly been subjected to maltreatment and torture.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the reported abduction and subsequent "disappearance" of Salvador Ubau, and requesting that an investigation be immediately conducted into his whereabouts;
- seeking assurances that, if detained, he be treated humanely and that he be either charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released.

**APPEALS TO:**

Exmo. Sr. José Napoleón Duarte  
Presidente de la República  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Gral. Carlos Vides Casanova  
Ministro de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública  
Ministerio de Defensa y de Seguridad  
Pública  
Doble Via a Santa Tecla  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Presidente Duarte,

San Salvador, El Salvador  
Telexes: 20245 rs sal;  
20445 cgfa sal; 20522

Telegrams: -Ministro Defensa,  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
Telexes: 20446 cefa; 30345

COPIES TO:

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

Dr Francisco José Guerrero  
Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia  
Centro de Gobierno "José Simeón Cañas"  
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Archbishop)

(President of the Supreme Court)

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

Please organize some appeals from TRADE UNIONISTS/UNIVERSITY WORKERS.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 October 1987.