

**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  
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.  
(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))*

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"Disappearance"

25 May 1982

EL SALVADOR: Juan Francisco RAMIREZ  
and one other person (at present unnamed)

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Amnesty International is gravely concerned about the safety of Juan Francisco Ramirez, aged 27, who is the director of the Green Cross relief agency (a private, non-sectarian relief agency), and a relative of his.

Juan Francisco Ramirez and his relative were abducted by six gunmen who raided his house in San Salvador at midnight on 20 May 1982. The gunmen also took an unknown amount of money and numerous business papers from the house.

Amnesty International believes that Sr. Juan Francisco Ramirez and his relative may have been seized by the Salvadorian security forces or by paramilitary agents working closely with the security forces. The willingness of the Green Cross to attempt to assist victims of the current hostilities in all areas of the country regardless of their political affiliations has made it a target of government attack in the past. The abduction of Sr. Ramirez is the second attack on a Green Cross official in seven weeks. On 2 April 1982 a Green Cross paramedic was killed by unidentified gunmen.

Background information

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 recognised 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 Juan Francisco Ramírez and his relative and urging that their physical safety be guaranteed. Urge that they be released immediately.

APPEALS TO:

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

*(President of the Constituent Assmebly)*

Dr. Fernando Berrios Escobar  
Ministro de Salud Pública  
Ministerio de Salud Pública  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Minister of Health)*

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

*Telegrams to: Dr. Berrios Escobar,  
Ministro de Salud Pública, San  
Salvador*

COPIES TO:

General José Guillermo García  
Ministro de Defensa y Seguridad Pública  
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Minister of Defence and Public Safety)*

Monseñor Arturo Rivera y Damas  
Seminario San Jose de la Montana  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Acting Archbishop)*

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 25 June 1982.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Article 3, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person";</li><li>Article 5, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";</li><li>Article 9, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile".</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> The name of Amnesty International can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> 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.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 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".</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 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.</li></ul> |
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