



**amnesty
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ
United Kingdom

**URGENT
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for
general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

15 November 1983

EL SALVADOR: Lic. Lucas Israel CARDONA, professor of zoology
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Amnesty International is seriously concerned about the safety of Lic. Lucas Israel Cardona, professor of zoology at the faculty of biology of the National University of El Salvador, who was abducted on 10 November 1983. As far as Amnesty International is aware, the detention of Lic. Cardona has not been acknowledged by the Salvadorian authorities.

Lic. Cardona, who is a member of the *Asociación de Educadores Universitarios* (AEU), Association of University Educators, was abducted at 12.30 pm on 10 November 1983 in front of the Edificio Saca (Saca Building), Antigua Fiscalía de la República (former National Fiscal headquarters), in the capital San Salvador, where he had just finished lecturing. Students and other professors witnessed his abduction. No information is as yet available about the identity of his captors.

Following reports of renewed abductions and killings in El Salvador by so-called "death squads", Amnesty International has called on the Salvadorian authorities to investigate the activities of these groups and to bring those responsible to justice. Amnesty International believes that such "death squads" act with the implicit or explicit authorisation of the Salvadorian security forces. Over the past few weeks, "death squads" have claimed responsibility for several killings, including the killing of university professors and students after their abduction.

Background information

The National University of El 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. During the incident, at least 22 people were reportedly killed and many students, teachers, administrators and other staff, as well as members of left-wing organizations and 15 foreign journalists, were taken into temporary custody. The campus has remained closed under military guard ever since but the university has continued operating without government support from various sites in the capital.

According to the 1982 report of the Salvadorian teachers' union *Asociación Nacional de Educadores de El Salvador "21 de Junio"* (ANDES "21 de junio"), 50 teachers "disappeared", 305 were killed and 8,000 had to leave the country for fear of their lives between 1980 and 1982.

(For detailed information about recent human rights violations against people in the field of education, please see CASA 25/83 AMR 29/39/83 24 October 1983 - "Recent Human Rights Violations affecting Students, Teachers, Academics and Univeristy Staff.")

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☎ 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

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*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telgrams/express letters/airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the "disappearance" of Lic. Lucas Israel Cardona
- 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

Please organize some appeals from TEACHERS and ACADEMICS

APPEALS TO:

S.E. Dr Alvaro A. Magaña Borja
Presidente de la República de
El Salvador

Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

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

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

(President of Constituent Assembly)

Telegrams to: *Sr. D'Aubuisson,*
Asamblea Constituyente, San Salvador,
El Salvador

General Carlos Eugenio 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

(Minister of Defence)

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

COPIES TO:

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

(Minister of Education)

Lic. Miguel Angel Parada
Rector
Universidad de El Salvador
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Rector of National University)

Dr Ramiro Arturo Méndez Asahar
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
3a Avenida Norte y 11a Calle Poniente
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Minister of Justice)

Sr. Secretario General
Dirección General de Educación
Universitaria
Ministerio de Educación
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Secretary General of University
Education, Ministry of Education)*

— 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 ¹ may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be 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 facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.

Confederación Universitaria Centroamericana (CSUCA)
Apartado 64
Ciudad Universitaria Rodrigo Facio
San José, Costa Rica

*(Confederation of Central American
Universities)*

Sr. Angel Benjamin Cestoni
Secretario Ejecutivo
Comisión de Derechos Humanos
de El Salvador (CDH)
2o piso, Edif. Fiscalía General
de la República
13C Poniente, 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 31 December 1983.