

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EL SALVADOR

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MODESTO RODRIGUEZ ESCOBAR : FURTHER INFORMATION

Amnesty International has been informed that Modesto RODRIGUEZ ESCOBAR, Secretary General of the Federación Sindical de Trabajadores de la Industria del Alimento, Vestido, Textil, Similares y Conexos de El Salvador (FESTIAVTSCES), Trade Union Federation of Salvadorian Food, Clothes, Textile and Related Industries Workers, was released several months after his detention on 4 July 1985.

Modesto Rodríguez Escobar claims to have been severely tortured while being held for seven days in incommunicado detention at the headquarters of the Salvadorian Treasury Police, and to have been coerced into signing an extrajudicial declaration accepting accusations made against him. He was then transferred to La Esperanza men's prison on 19 July 1985, accused of belonging to the Communist Party.

He was released several months later on the grounds that there existed insufficient proof for his continued detention.

Amnesty International is asking the Salvadorian authorities for an investigation into the torture allegations and that those responsible be brought to justice.