

**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  
and infliction of death penalties and torture or other cruel, inhuman or  
degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detainees  
restricted persons whether or not they have used or advocated violence.  
(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))*

AI Index: AMR 29/43/81

Distr: UA

UA 146/81

"Disappearance"

22 June 1981

EL SALVADOR:	Rafael Antonio PEPEZ	Martha Luz PENA
	Orlando CHAVEZ ZELAYA	Yolanda LOPEZ
	Rene Max COLOPAS	Zilma PENA
	Inez de Jesús AUGUSTA TALAICON	Ana Margarita GESTABOLO
	Carlos HERRERA	Mirama Yolanda LOPEZ
	Juan Albina MIENTAS	Miguel Angel ORGALA
		plus one other

The 13 people above are all schoolteachers in El Salvador and were reportedly captured by Salvadorian security forces on 17 June 1981.

AI is seriously concerned about the safety of the detained persons in view of the fact that, between January and mid-March 1981, 156 teachers are reported to have been killed in El Salvador (reports from the *Socorro Juridico*, the Legal Aid office of the Archbishopric of San Salvador). For background on teachers killed in 1980, see AI document "72 teachers killed January - August 1980" (AMR 29/56/80).

On 19 March 1981, ANDES 21 de Junio (the Salvadorian teachers' union *Asociación Nacional de Educadores Salvadoreños "21 de Junio"* (ANDES 21 de Junio) - National Association of Salvadorian Educators "21 June") reported that its headquarters had been raided the previous day by members of the National Police and two employees were arrested. It said the raid was the third on its headquarters.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Telegrams/express letters/letters expressing concern at the detention of the 13 persons and requesting the authorities for details of their legal situation and place of detention. Please urge that their physical safety be guaranteed.

TEACHERS/STUDENTS/ACADEMICS ARE PARTICULARLY REQUESTED TO APPEAL.

Appeals to: (Please do not mention AI)

Vice-President and Commander-in-Chief  
of the armed forces:

Coronel Jaime Abdul Gutierrez  
Vicepresidente de la Junta de El Salvador  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Education Minister:

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

Copies of appeals to:

- *Diario Novedades*, Av. Moralos y Balderas ZP 1, Mexico DF, Mexico
- El Salvadorian diplomatic representatives to your country.

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 22 July 1981