

**URGENT  
ACTION**

**amnesty  
international**

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International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England

*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 detained or restricted persons whether or not they have used or advocated violence.  
(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))*

EXTERNAL (for  
general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/45/82  
Distr: UA

2 June 1982

Further information on UA 307/81 (AMR 29/86/81 18 December) - "Disappearance"

EL SALVADOR: Dr Carlos Armando VARGAS LOPEZ  
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Dr Carlos Armando Vargas López, a surgeon aged 31, professor of the faculty of medicine in the department of physiology at the National University of El Salvador, was abducted on 16 December 1981 at 4.30 p.m. outside the 'Pasteur' clinic where he worked. He was abducted by men in plain clothes believed by eye witnesses to be members of the security forces, who had been waiting outside the clinic for an hour in a white Volkswagen and a Toyota van. At the same time two men in plain clothes were standing at the entrance to the clinic with rifles, undisturbed by ordinary police passing by. Dr. Vargas attempted to resist arrest and shouted for help. He was gagged, hit on the head with a rifle butt and thrown in the back of the Volkswagen van. It is believed that Dr. Vargas is being held by the Treasury Police (*Policia de Hacienda*) although this is denied by the authorities.

Dr. Vargas began working as a lecturer in physiology at the university in 1979. Together with other doctors, he became active in 1980 in the Committee in Defence of Patients, Medical Workers and Health Institutions, an organization formed in response to attacks by security forces and paramilitary groups on patients and staff in clinics and hospitals throughout the country. When the military occupied and closed down the university in May 1980, Dr. Vargas returned to private practice, taking over his father's clinical laboratory in the centre of the city. It was from there that he was abducted.

Further recommended action:

Please continue to appeal on behalf of Dr. Carlos Armando Vargas López, seeking clarification of his whereabouts and requesting guarantees for his safety.

APPEALS TO:

S.E. don Alvaro Magaña (*President of the Republic*)  
Presidente de la República de El Salvador  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Dr. Fernando Berrios Escobar (*Minister of Health*)  
Ministro de Salud Pública  
Ministerio de Salud Pública  
San Salvador, El Salvador

COPIES TO:

Comité Nacional de Defensa de los Pacientes, Trabajadores  
e Instituciones de Salud  
Decanato Facultad de Medicina  
Universidad de El Salvador  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Committee for Defence of Patients, Workers and Health Institutions)*

Diario "El Mundo" (newspaper)  
2a Av. Norte, No. 211  
San Salvador, El Salvador

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

*Appeals from MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS in particular are requested.*

Please check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals  
after 2 July 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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