



CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/46/82

Distrib: CO/AD plus
relevant NS

E L S A L V A D O R

14 June 1982

CASA 30/82

50 recent 'disappearances' /
unacknowledged detentions

The following persons have 'disappeared' in El Salvador since the elections for a constituent assembly held on 28 March 1982. They were all abducted by armed men, sometimes in military uniform and sometimes in plain clothes. As far as Amnesty International is aware, none of the people listed below have been acknowledged by the Salvadorian authorities to be under arrest, although in one or two cases witnesses have reported seeing them taken to National Police headquarters. Amnesty International is gravely concerned about the safety of these people. (The list is in reverse date order.)

1. José Guadalupe GUERRA
2. Jorge Adalberto RAMIREZ CUCHILLAS, aged 25
3. José Ilias RAMIREZ CUCHILLAS, aged 13, farmworker
4. Natividad de Jesús RAMIREZ CUCHILLAS, aged 60, farmworker

All four of the above were arrested by army troops on 19 May 1982 in Cantón El Progreso, Santa Tecla, Departamento de la Libertad, at 11 p.m. Two others who were with them, Teresa Pérez, aged 20, and Rufino Ramírez Hernández, a 45-year-old farm labourer, were killed.

5. Oscar SANTAMARIA MORENO

Salesman, aged 30, detained at 12 noon on 18 May 1982 at the corner of Novena Calle Oriente and Avenida Cuscatancingo, San Salvador, by armed civilians travelling in an orange truck.

6. Alvaro GONZALEZ

Aged 21, abducted at 10.30 p.m. on 13 May 1982 in Quezaltepeque, Departamento de la Libertad, by National Police and men in plain clothes. He was arrested together with Raúl Romero González, who was reported in the press on 18 May to have been killed by paramilitary agents on 16 May at Colonia El Sayón, Quezaltepeque.

7. Jorge Alberto FLORES

Aged 18, living in Santo Tomás, Departamento de San Salvador, abducted at 9.00 a.m. on 8 May 1982 at the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Salvador by eight members of the Treasury Police (Policía de Hacienda) travelling in a van. This incident was reported in the press on 20 May, saying that the National Police had also been involved.

8. Rafael Alfonso JIMENEZ ROSALES
Student, aged 19, detained at 10 p.m. on 8 May 1982 in the street outside his home in Colonia San José, Soyapango, Departamento de San Salvador, by armed civilians and army troops travelling in a white pick-up truck.

9. Oscar Enrique RAMIREZ LIMA
Carpenter's apprentice, aged 14, detained in the afternoon of 8 May 1982 in Calle Concepción, Soyapango, Departamento de San Salvador (near the headquarters of the Treasury Police) by members of the Treasury Police.

10. Margarita PASCACCIO DE LOPEZ
Retired teacher, aged 56, living in Ciudad Satélite, San Salvador, detained at 7:00 a.m. on 7 May 1982 near Colegio García Flamenco while taking her grandchild to school, by heavily-armed men in civilian clothes who dragged her out of the car she was driving and put her into a yellow mini-bus.

11. Ricardo Antonio ABARCA BERMUDEZ
White collar worker, 13 years old, abducted at 8.30 p.m. on 5 May 1982 at the Doña Mary Restaurant in Colonia San Antonio, Mejicanos, Departamento de San Salvador, by armed civilians.

12. Mauricio Armando BARRERA FLORES
Shoemaker, aged 25, living in Colonia Amatepec, Soyapango, Departamento de San Salvador, detained at midnight on 5 May 1982 by armed civilians using a yellow van.

13. Francisco Alirio COTO (or Minton Alirio ESCOTO DIAZ)
Shoemaker, aged 17, living in Colonia Amatepec, Soyapango, Departamento de San Salvador, detained at midnight on 5 May 1982 by men wearing plain clothes but who admitted belonging to the army.

14. María Ester MENDEZ CORTEZ
Housewife, aged 17, living in Ayutuxtepeque, abducted from her home at 9 p.m. on 5 May 1982 by plainclothed men who said they were from the army, travelling in three vehicles - a blue car, a blue and black car and a coffee-coloured van.

15. William Ernesto PINEDA
Student, aged 16, living in Colonia Tránsito, San Marcos, Departamento de San Salvador, detained at 1 a.m. on 5 May 1982 by members of the security forces based at Zapote. The following day, other security forces travelling in a white pick-up truck, registration No. 24,411, told his father that he was being held in Zapote.

16. Manuel de Jesús DIAZ TURCIOS
Aged 15, living in San Marcos, near San Salvador, previously detained in Mariona Prison until released at the end of March 1982, re-arrested on 4 May 1982 by heavily-armed civilians.

17. Marco (or Marcos) Ernesto SERRANO VILLACORTA (or VILLATORO)
Student, aged 16, living in San Marcos, near San Salvador, detained in his home at 11 p.m. on 4 May 1982 by members of the security forces based at Zapote, travelling in a white pick-up truck, registration No. 24,411 (see No. 15 above - William Ernesto Pineda).

18. Jorge Adalberto BENITEZ RIVAS

Worker, aged 29, living in San Marcos, near San Salvador, detained at his place of work in Avenida Norte, San Antonio Abad, San Salvador, by armed civilians who said they were from the National Police, at 10 p.m. on 3 May 1982.

19. Marcos Enrique GARCIA QUIÑONEZ

Student, aged 15, living in Colonia San Francisco, Ayutuxtepeque, detained on 2 May 1982 by armed civilians. Unofficial reports indicate that he is being held by the National Police.

20. Guillermo DIAZ

Student, living in Ayutuxtepeque, arrested by uniformed military on 1 May 1982.

21. Jorge Alberto CORNEJO GONZALEZ

Student, aged 20, living in Colonia Monte Carmelo, Soyapango, near San Salvador, abducted by four plainclothed men driving a cream-coloured vehicle on 30 April 1982 as he was leaving the Escuela Nacional de Comercio, National Business School, in Avenida de Cuba, San Salvador, where he was a student. He is believed to have been taken to the Zapote barracks.

22. Raúl Eduardo LOPEZ GALINDEZ (or LAINEZ)

Student, aged 18, living in Colonia Buenos Aires, Barrio San Jacinto, San Salvador, detained at 1 a.m. on 30 April 1982 by men in plain clothes who said they were from the army and who were driving a white Toyota pick-up truck.

23. José Luis AGUILAR DE PAZ

Construction worker, aged 31, living in Usulután, detained on 28 April 1982 in front of Usulután Prison by uniformed men from the prison. He is believed to have been taken to Usulután army barracks.

24. Carlos Enrique MONTES

Detained on 28 April 1982 by National Police in Soyapango, near San Salvador.

25. Ernesto Alfredo MUNJIA RIVERA

Motor mechanic, aged 24, living in Colonia Bosques del Matazano, Soyapango, near San Salvador, detained at his home at 1 a.m. on 28 April 1982 by armed civilians driving a beige-coloured vehicle.

26. Luis Alfredo CARDONA MARTINEZ

Carpenter, aged 23, living in Colonia Amatepec, Soyapango, near San Salvador, detained by armed civilians in his home at 10.00 p.m. on 27 April 1982.

27. Julio César CASTRO MONTANO

Student, aged 18, living in Colonia Amatepec, Soyapango, near San Salvador, detained at 10.30 p.m. on 27 April 1982, by heavily armed civilians. He is believed to have been taken to the headquarters of the National Police but they have denied holding him.

28. Marlene de los Angeles ORELLANA ROMERO

Student, aged 18, living in Colonia 22 de Abril, Soyapango, near San Salvador, detained by army and paramilitary troops at 12.30 a.m. on 28 April 1982 at her home. She is believed to be being held at the National Police headquarters in San Salvador.

29. Norman Francisco FLAMENCO AVALOS

Bank employee, aged 24, living in Colonia Amatepec, Soyapango, near San Salvador, detained at 8.30 a.m. on 26 April 1982 as he was going to work at the Atlacatl Bank, Metrocentro, San Salvador, by armed civilians driving a Toyota van.

30. Mauricio MORALES MARTINEZ

Driver, aged 49, living in Colonia Amatepec, Soyopango, near San Salvador, detained between 5 and 5.30 p.m. on 26 April 1982 in Calle Lara, Barrio San Jacinto, San Salvador, by armed men in plain clothes.

31. Esteban GUZMAN CASTELLANOS

Worker, aged 46, living in Colonia Las Mercedes, Apopa, San Salvador, detained at 8 p.m. on 25 April 1982 by army troops driving a white pick-up truck.

32. Jorge Alberto RIVAS SANUVO

Mechanic, aged 20, arrested on 25 April 1982 at Fábrica (factory) Diana, town unknown.

33. Estanislao SANCHEZ SOLIS

Shoemaker's apprentice, aged 18, also working for the Salvadorian Red Cross, living in Colonia Amatepec, Soyopango, near San Salvador, abducted near his home at 5.30 p.m. on 25 April 1982 by armed civilians driving a mustard-coloured minibus, registration No. 36-662, which is reported to have been seen next day in the National Police carpark.

34. Santos SOLIS FLORES

Tractor driver, aged 23, living in Colonia Santa Catalina, 11 kilometres north of San Salvador, detained at 4.30 p.m. on 23 April 1982 at a machine shop in Calle Oriente, opposite the Librería (bookshop) Ibérica, by men in plain clothes travelling in a white van who are believed to have taken him to the National Police headquarters.

35. Moisés REYES PEREZ

Carpenter, aged 18, living near Ilopango, Departamento de San Salvador, abducted as he was about to board a bus near the central market in San Salvador on the morning of 22 April 1982, by armed men in plain clothes.

36. Mauricio Antonio ALAS

Student, aged 32, living in Colonia El Palmar, San Miguel, Departamento de San Miguel, detained on 13 April 1982 at Turcentro, Alto de la Cueva, San Miguel, by armed civilians travelling in a light blue pick-up truck.

37. Leopoldo Alberto BOLAÑOS ZOLORZANO

Small businessman, aged 40, living in Colonia Santa Lucía, Ilopango, Departamento de San Salvador, abducted at his home between 10 and 10.30 p.m. on 16 April 1982 by uniformed Treasury Police and taken away in an unidentified vehicle.

38. José Aristides LOPEZ NIETO

Student, aged 22, living in Colonia Vista Hermosa, Ilopango, Departamento de San Salvador, detained at 11 a.m. on 18 April 1982 by members of the National Guard in Colonia Amatepec, Soyapango.

39. José CUCHILLAS ARDON

Day labourer (jornalero), aged 38, living in Cantón San Jerónimo, under the jurisdiction of Nejapa, Departamento de San Salvador, detained in his home at 2.30 p.m. on 15 April 1982 by paramilitary agents from Defensa Civil from the Pinares Estate (finca) in Nejapa. He is believed to have been handed over to cavalry troops and to be held in Opico barracks.

40. Leonardo Esteban LANDAVEDE HERNANDEZ

Student, aged 18, living in San Salvador, detained between 9 and 10 a.m. on 15 April 1982 near the Terraza Cinema by uniformed National Guard members who took him away in a green jeep in the direction of the National Guard barracks.

41. Jesús SORIANO RAMIREZ

Aged 21, detained in mid-April 1982, place unknown.

42. Zelma PICHE FUNES

Aged 16, living in Colonia Los Angeles, San Marcos, near San Salvador, abducted at 11.30 p.m. on 12 April 1982 at home by plainclothed agents who said they were from the National Guard and took her away in a pick-up truck.

43. Oscar Armando VILCHES

Aged 25, living in Colonia Delaminez, Ciudad Delgado, detained on 6 April 1982. He is believed to be being held in the local prison at Ciudad Delgado.

44. Domingo Roque MENJIA CORDERA

Detained on 23 March 1982 by National Guard in Santo Domingo, Departamento de San Vicente.

45. Estela CHULO, aged 20, housewife

46. Rafael CHULO, aged 15, student

47. José Porfirio PAZ, aged 26, white collar worker, living in Cuscatancingo.

All three of the above were detained by armed civilians at 6 p.m. on 28 March 1982 as they were leaving San Jacinto market in San Salvador while driving a blue pick-up truck belonging to the latter, registration no. 117048=076.

48. Tomás PERALTA

49. Rogelio RIVERA AGUILAR

Both of the above were arrested in Chalatenango on 28 March 1982 by civilians and army troops.

50. Nestalí REYES

Worker in a shoe factory, aged 25, 'disappeared' at the end of March.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has been following the human rights situation in El Salvador closely for a number of years, and has concluded that the security forces have been regularly involved in a systematic and widespread program of torture, 'disappearance', 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 resident in areas targeted for security operations, whose murder or mutilation seems to have been completely arbitrary. Victims of arbitrary detention, 'disappearance' and murder have included priests, trade unionists, church workers, teachers, academics, peasant families, community workers and medical personnel, as well as patients abducted from their sickbeds or murdered in hospital by security agents.

Following the elections for a constituent assembly held on 28 March 1982, reports of human rights violations involving the official security forces have continued unabated. The violations are occurring in a context of continued conflict between the government and opposition forces, but reports received by Amnesty International indicate that non-combatants from all sectors of Salvadorian society continue to be the victims of such violations, including arbitrary detention, 'disappearance', and extra-legal executions at the hands of the official military and police services, acting on occasion in conjunction with clandestine paramilitary squads who have their explicit or implicit warrant. As in previous years, in no single instance since the elections have the Salvadorian authorities issued a satisfactory response to enquiries concerning these violations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Express letters/letters expressing concern about the 'disappearance' of these 50 people, requesting clarification of their whereabouts and urging that their physical safety be guaranteed. In the event that they are under detention, request details of their place of detention and legal situation.

Appeals to:

General José Guillermo García	(Minister of Defence and
Ministro de Defensa y Seguridad Pública	Public Security)
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública	
Casa Presidencial	
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR	

Appeals for those arrested by the army may also be sent to:

Coronel Rafael Flores Lima	(Army Chief of Staff)
Jefe del Estado Mayor del Ejército	
Calle Concepción, Final Pasaje Merazo	
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR	

Appeals for those arrested by the National Police may also be sent to:

Coronel Carlos López Nuila	(Director of the National
Director de la Policía Nacional	Police)
6 calle Oriente	
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR	

Appeals for those arrested by the Treasury Police may also be sent to:

Coronel Francisco Morán	(Head of the Treasury Police)
Jefe de la Policía de Hacienda	
Calle Concepción	
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR	

Appeals for those arrested by the National Guard may also be sent to:

General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova	(Director of the National Guard)
Director de la Guardia Nacional	
Colonia Atlacatl	
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR	

Appeals for those arrested in the Departamento de la Libertad may be sent to:

Comandante Departamental	(Commander of the Department)
1 Av., 1-3	
Nueva San Salvador	
La Libertad, EL SALVADOR	

Appeals for those arrested in Usulután (No. 23 only) may be sent to:

Comandancia Departamental	(Commander of the Department)
6 Av. Nte. Final	
Usulután, EL SALVADOR	

Appeals for those arrested in the Departamento de San Miguel (No. 36) to:

Comandancia Local	(Local police chief)
Policía Nacional	
Calle Chaparrastique	
San Miguel, EL SALVADOR	

Appeals for those arrested in the Departamento de San Vicente (No. 44) to:

Comandancia del Puesto
Guardia Nacional
Calle Principal
Santo Domingo,
San Vicente, EL SALVADOR

(Local head of the National
Guard in Santo Domingo)

Appeals for those arrested in the Departamento de Chalatenango to:

Comandancia Departamental
Guardia Nacional
1 calle Pte. 1
Ciudad de Chalatenango
Chalatenango, EL SALVADOR

(Departmental Head of the
National Guard)

In cases where there is some indication of the place of detention, participants may like to try addressing appeals there, for example:

- Nos. 15, 17 and 21 Sr. Comandante
 Guarnición de Zapote
 Zapote, San Salvador
 EL SALVADOR
- No. 39 Sr. Comandante
 Guarnición de Opico
 San Juan Opico
 La Libertad, EL SALVADOR
- No. 43 Sr. Director
 Cárcel de Delgado
 Ciudad Delgado
 San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

For students some appeals may be sent to the Minister of Education:

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

For workers and employees, some appeals may be sent to the Minister of Labour:

Dr. Julio Alfredo Samayoa
Ministro de Trabajo
Ministerio de Trabajo
2 Avenida Norte
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Copies of appeals to:

Comisión de Justicia y Paz
Arzobispado de San Salvador
Seminario San José de la Montaña
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Copies also to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Appeals should also be encouraged from relevant occupational groups, for example: student groups on behalf of detained students, related trade unions on behalf of specific groups of workers, women's groups, etc.

NOTE

We realize that many national sections may not be able to arrange appeals on behalf of all those whose names are listed here. It is suggested that those sections take into account such factors as their own resources, their particular target sector interests, etc. and arrange appeals on as many as possible.