

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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ACTION**

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

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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.

UA 153/81

Fear of Torture/Disappearance (Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))

24 June 1981

EL SALVADOR: 36 people abducted in San Antonio Abad
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Amnesty International has received reports that 36 people were abducted at a religious meeting of a Christian community in San Antonio Abad on 14 June 1981 by members of an unofficial paramilitary group. There are strong reasons to believe that this group is acting with the complicity of the Salvadorian government. The present whereabouts of all 36 people are unknown and there is very serious concern for their safety while in the hands of their abductors. The 36 have been named as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Felip ALONSO | 19. Raula GAZIDIA |
| 2. Pablo ALVARADO | 20. Manuel GRANADA |
| 3. Leonia ALVAREZ | 21. Carlos IDELOS DARELLAS |
| 4. Tomas AROBLEZ | 22. Esperanza MELENDEZ |
| 5. Francisco AUXILES MIRANDO | 23. Benjamin MENDEZ |
| 6. Pito AVILEZ URRITILA | 24. Guilma MENDEZ MENDEZ |
| 7. Mario Orlando BARABONA ORTIZ | 25. Antonio MONTERROSA DE AROBLEZ |
| 8. Jorge CANDARY | 26. Eduardo PEREZ |
| 9. Elvira CHICAS | 27. Jorge PEREZ |
| 10. Carmen CORNEJO | 28. Lita PEREZ |
| 11. Elvira CORNEJO | 29. Mauricio PEREZ |
| 12. Felipe CORNEJO | 30. Antonio RODAS |
| 13. Jorge CORNEJO | 31. Rosa de RODAS |
| 14. Rosa CORNEJO | 32. Carmen RODRIGUEZ |
| 15. Vilma CORNEJO | 33. Antonio SANTA CRUZ |
| 16. Laura GAZIDIA | 34. Antonio SERRANO LOPEZ |
| 17. Mariana GAZIDIA | 35. Omar Edrondo TALOSIL |
| 18. Rafael GAZIDIA | 36. VASQUEZ CONTERAS (first name not known) |

Background information

Human rights violations on a massive scale in El Salvador continue to be brought to Amnesty International's attention. Amnesty International is aware that these human rights violations have occurred at a time of escalating civil conflict between guerrilla groups and the Salvadorian authorities and is also aware of reports of human rights violations having been committed by non-governmental forces. However, there is a systematic pattern of human rights violations, including torture, "disappearance" and cold-blooded murder, being carried out by the Salvadorian security forces, and directed against people who are not involved in guerrilla activities. Testimonies received by Amnesty International implicate all branches of the Salvadorian security forces, whether nominally military, military police or paramilitary, in violations which have occurred on such a scale that they constitute a gross and consistent pattern of human rights abuses.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters/letters expressing concern about the detention of these 36 people and urging that their physical safety be guaranteed. Please also request details of their place of detention and their legal situation.

Appeals from RELIGIOUS GROUPS in your country may be organized.

Appeals to:

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

Copies may be sent to:

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

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 24 July 1981

In order to ensure that all names are included in at least some appeals the following national sections are asked to appeal in particular for the following prisoners:

- | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|--|---------|---|
| 1 - 5 | AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
BANGLADESH
BARBADOS
BELGIUM | 6 - 10 | CANADA
DENMARK
FAROE ISLANDS
FINLAND
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY | 11 - 15 | FRANCE
GREECE
HONG KONG (grc)
ICELAND
IRELAND |
| 16 - 20 | INDIA
ISRAEL
ITALY
IVORY COAST
JAPAN | 21 - 25 | LUXEMBOURG
MEXICO
NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
NIGERIA | 26 - 30 | NORWAY
PUERTO RICO (group)
SPAIN
SRI LANKA
SWEDEN |
| 30 - 36 | SWITZERLAND
TRINIDAD (group)
UNITED KINGDOM
USA
VENEZUELA | | | | |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action. | <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. |
| <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:

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". | <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". |
| <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. | <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. |