



# CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)



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E L S A L V A D O R

Further information on CASA 25/83

## RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AFFECTING STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ACADEMICS AND UNIVERSITY STAFF

In the two months since CASA 25/83 (AMR 29/39/83 of 24 October 1983) was issued, Amnesty International has continued to receive reports of human rights violations carried out against students, teachers, academics and other workers in the field of education in El Salvador. Such violations continued to be carried out by both regular and military forces and by so-called 'death squads' which available evidence strongly suggests are made up of reservist and active duty members of the regular security and military forces, acting under orders of, or with the acquiescence of, high level security and military officials.

The National University remains closed since it was occupied by the Salvadorian army in June 1980. In many instances, people who were abducted by men in civilian clothes and who remained "disappeared" for several days or weeks, have subsequently re-appeared in official detention centres and vehicles used by the perpetrators have later been identified as belonging to the authorities. Furthermore, the military and security forces have consistently failed to pursue adequate investigations into such human rights abuses.

The National University of El Salvador continues to be singled out as a target of repression. At a press conference in London in November, the Rector of the University Miguel Angel Parada stated that four lecturers had been killed and three others kidnapped in the previous three months. He went on to describe how anonymous organisations were placing newspaper advertisements denouncing academics by name as subversives. According to the Rector, the advertisements arrive at the newspaper offices with the stamp of the army press office on them. The advertisements, which are usually signed by various 'death squads' or by the so-called "Asociación General de Trabajadores Universitarios", "General Association of University Workers", which does not exist, accuse the university authorities of being subversives and members of terrorist groups and ask the government to intervene. Individual university functionaries are sometimes singled out and accused of belonging to specific opposition groups.



On the weekend of 12/13 November, the National Police raided the printroom of the Faculty of Economic Sciences, where teaching notes are produced on a small printing press. Seven workers were arrested and another, Agustín NAJARRO, died after falling from a third floor window in circumstances which, as far as Amnesty International is aware, have not been clarified. The authorities subsequently announced that they had discovered "a terrorist cell where subversive propaganda was being printed" and that "on being discovered, the cell leader chose to commit suicide". According to the Rector, Agustín Najarro was the longest standing worker of the printroom and was not involved in politics.

On 19 November, a group calling itself the Comando Anticomunista de Salvación Universitaria, Anti-Communist Commando for University Salvation, dedicated to "erradicating Communists from the National University", claimed responsibility for the kidnapping a month earlier of Hugo Francisco CARRILLO CABRERA, the Head of the School of International Relations of the Law Faculty (see CASA 25/83, AMR 29/39/83, of 24 October). The Commando also reportedly ordered the Ministry of Education to suspend the deans of eight faculties of the university "for being linked to the movement of subversion in the country".

Three more staff from the National University have been killed since September. 37-year-old Manuel de Jesús BAIRES ZELAYA, Secretary of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, was reportedly intercepted by another car as he was driving to work on 20 September. As he got out of his car, the driver of the other vehicle, believed to be a member of a 'death squad' and accompanied by two other men, shot him in the chest. He died in hospital two days later. The name of Manuel de Jesús Baires Zelaya had appeared on a list of university staff identified as "subversive", published in a newspaper shortly before his death.

On 4 October, Dr. José Guillermo ORRELLANA OSORIO, Secretary of the Law Faculty of the National University, was kidnapped from his workplace by men in civilian clothes driving a light blue Toyota van. On 23 October his body was found on a roadside 54 kilometres outside San Salvador. He had reportedly been tortured and strangled.

38-year-old José Alonso ESCOBAR AGUILAR, a member of the administrative staff at the university, was reportedly kidnapped on 29 November. On 7 December his body was found 32 kilometres south of San Salvador at Sacacoya, Department of La Libertad.

Another professor from the Law Faculty, 35-year-old Juan Francisco AGUIRRE, was kidnapped as he was leaving his class at the university on 23 November. There has been no further news of his whereabouts.

Other cases involving students and teachers (not from the National University)

Amnesty International has also received reports of human rights violations perpetrated against staff and students of other educational institutions in El Salvador over the past few weeks.



Teacher Mario AGUILAR GUTIERREZ was reportedly shot dead by the Salvadorian army as he was driving along Kilometre 28 of the main road north from San Salvador on 17 September. Mario Aguilar was also President of the Development and Social Action Commission of the Baptist Association of El Salvador and was allegedly returning from a meeting with Honduran Baptists when the incident occurred.

29-year-old Evelyn del Carmen RAMOS, a student at the Polytechnic Institute of Engineering in San Salvador, was reportedly abducted by men in plain clothes believed to be members of the security or military forces together with three other students on 9 September. One of the four was subsequently released. However, the government continues to deny the detention of the other three.

On 23 November, a 29-year-old art teacher at the School of the Sacred Heart in San Salvador, Roberto FRANCO, was reportedly kidnapped in front of the National Theatre in San Salvador. According to witnesses, men in civilian clothes believed to be members of the security or military forces pulled him into a Cherokee Chief station wagon with smoked windows. Roberto Franco had just returned from touring the country with a puppet show aimed at teaching children about health care. There has been no further news of his whereabouts.

Further information on cases previously mentioned in CASA 25/83

Ricardo Ernesto CALDERON JUAREZ

(UA 144/83, AMR 29/21/83 and follow-ups AMR 29/27/83, 29/33/83 and 29/44/83)

Ricardo Ernesto Calderón Juárez was released from prison on 11 November when a United States delegation representing members of Congress, the Roman Catholic Church and international academic groups visited San Salvador to intercede with government officials on his behalf. He and his family have now left the country and are at present in the United States. Ricardo Calderón is Secretary General of the National University and was detained on 28 June 1983. He was held for 11 days in incommunicado detention by the National Police, where he was reportedly subjected to torture, before being transferred to La Esperanza Prison, Mariona, charged with belonging to one of the guerrilla groups currently involved in civil conflict with the Salvadorian government forces. He was released without having been brought to trial.

Carlos Obdulio DIAZ CARDENAS and Jaime Enrique BAUTISTA (note correct names)

(see follow-up to UA 213/83, AMR 29/37/83)

Originally reported to Amnesty International as a student, Carlos Obdulio Díaz Cárdenas is an employee of the Banco Central de Reserva, Central Reserve Bank, and a member of the Sindicato de Instituciones Financieras (SITRABIF), Financial Institutions' Trade Union. He was reportedly abducted together with Jaime Enrique Bautista, a law student from the University of Central America (UCA), on 24 September 1983. Their present whereabouts remain unknown.

Hugo Francisco CARRILLO CABRERA

(UA 213/83, AMR 29/35/83 and follow-up AMR 29/37/83)

As mentioned above, the Comando Anticomunista de Salvación Universitaria, the Anti-Communist Commando for University Salvation, claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Hugo Francisco Carrillo Cabrera on 14 September 1983. However, his whereabouts remain unknown.

Pedro FLORES PEÑA

(UA 213/83, AMR 29/35/83 and follow-up AMR 29/37/83)

Amnesty International continues to receive conflicting reports as to the fate of Pedro Flores Peña. Although his wife believed she had found his tortured and decapitated body near the university on 24 September, a few days later the Ejército Secreto Anticomunista (ESA), Secret Anti-Communist Army, not only claimed responsibility for his abduction but also produced a photograph of him in which he appeared together with a copy of a newspaper dated after the day the person his wife believed to be her husband was buried.

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Amnesty international has received no further information concerning any of the other cases referred to in CASA 25/83 (AMR 29/39/83) of 24 October.