

URGENT amnesty international URGENT ACTION

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

EXTERNAL (for general distribution) *Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition of 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)) AI Index: AMR 29/50/81
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Torture/"Disappearance"

16 July 1981

EL SALVADOR: Dolores ALAS JIMENEZ
Ana Elizabeth FLORES

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Amnesty International is gravely concerned about the safety of Dolores Alas Jimenez, aged 37 and the mother of three children aged thirteen, four and three, and Ana Elizabeth Flores, a university student aged 23.

According to reports received by Amnesty International, both women were seized at 3.00 pm on 6 July 1981 by plainclothes men accompanied by uniformed members of the National Guard and National Police in the vicinity of the sportsground in San Salvador. Ana Elizabeth Flores was passing by as Dolores Alas Jimenez was being pushed into a white Toyota car without number plates. It is believed that she too was seized because she had witnessed the abduction of Sra. Alas Jimenez.

Both women are reported to be still alive but to have been ill-treated.

Background information

Human rights violations on a massive scale in El Salvador continue to be brought to the attention of Amnesty International. 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 in a gross and consistent pattern of human rights abuses.

In a letter dated 6 May 1981 Amnesty International called on the United States Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, to take steps to ensure that the USA did not give El Salvador's government military aid that would be used for murder, torture and other abuses. The letter cited case after case of abduction, murder and torture by troops and police of non-violent opponents, human rights workers, priests, teachers, students, journalists, medical workers and others.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters expressing grave concern at reports of the detention of Dolores Alas Jimenez and Ana Elizabeth Flores. Urge that all possible measures be taken to ensure their physical safety and that they be immediately released unless charged and brought before a court of law.

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Urgent Action coordinators may wish to organize appeals from women's groups and, in the case of Ana Elizabeth Flores, from students' groups.

APPEALS TO:

Ing. José Napoleón Duarte
Presidente
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

Col. Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova
Director General de la Guardia Nacional
Colonia Atlactl
San Salvador, El Salvador

Col. Carlos Lopez Nuila
Director de la Policía Nacional
6 Calle Oriente
San Salvador, El Salvador

Appeals on behalf of Ana Elizabeth Flores may also be sent to the Minister of Education:

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

COPIES TO:

the following newspapers:

Diario La Tribuna
Apartado Postal A501
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Diario El Nacional
Apartado 209
Caracas, Venezuela

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Appeals may continue until 16 August 1981.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.<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">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"/> The name of Amnesty International can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><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"/> 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"/> 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. |
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