

**URGENT
ACTION**

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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
(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))*

20 July 1981

Further information on UA 118/81 (AMR 29/35/81 18 May, AMR 29/36/81 22 May,
AMR 29/37/81 2 June)

EL SALVADOR: Anna Marguarita GASTIAZORO
Eleotherio de Jesus CARCAMO
Rafael BARRERA

Several Urgent Action participants who have appealed on behalf of
these three people have received the following reply from the Director General
of the National Guard in El Salvador, Colonel Vides Casanova:

*I am replying to your letter of this year and thank you for your
concern for THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS in our country and in
particular for the physical condition of ANA MARGARITA GASTEAZORO,
ELEUTERIO DE JESUS CARCAMO and RAFAEL BARRERA, with respect to whom I
wish to inform you of the following:*

- a) Our government, specifically, has always maintained an interest in
and is respectful towards ALL HUMAN RIGHTS.*
- b) ANA MARGARITA GASTEAZORO, ELEUTERIO DE JESUS CARCAMO and RAFAEL BARRERA
were captured as subversives and terrorists, and because of their
activities hundreds of Christians have died including innocent children.
They are imprisoned in one of the Penal Centres in this capital city
and they are being tried by the competent authority in accordance
with the laws of our country.*
- c) You may be assured that whoever is captured by one of the security forces
in this country, El Salvador, will be treated in the proper manner, as
in any civilised country.*

*I should like to take this opportunity to express my special consideration
and high esteem for you.*

D.E.M. CARLOS EUGENIO VIDES CASANOVA

A reply was also received from Deane R. Hinton, Ambassador to the USA in
El Salvador:

*I thank you for your recent letter in which you express concern for the safety
of Ana Margarita Gasteazoro. The case of Ms. Gasteazoro came to my attention
while I was still in Washington; since my arrival in El Salvador I have
learned more about the reasons for her arrest.*

*The facts of this case, as I understand them, are the following. Ms.
Gasteazoro was arrested by the National Guard on 12 May in a house in
San Salvador. She is accused of participation in the guerrilla insurgency
in this country. The evidence found at the site of her arrest to substantiate
this claim included documents describing guerrilla activities, plans
for revamping the propaganda effort of the FMLN (the guerrilla umbrella
organization), and a proposal for utilizing foreign journalists in order
to favor the insurgency. A partial list of employees of this Embassy and*

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their telephone numbers were also found. Ms. Gasteazoro was allowed to speak with journalists on May 21; during the press conference she admitted to activities on behalf of the socialist MNR party but not to involvement with the guerrillas.

Your concern was specifically for Ms. Gasteazoro's safety. During her meeting with the press she demonstrated no sign of any mistreatment. More recently, I was told by a Salvadorian churchman that Ms. Gasteazoro has been well-treated and not subjected to coercion by the authorities.

Once again, I thank you for your letter and ask you to feel free to contact me again about this or any other matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

Deane R. Hinton.

Political colleagues of Ana Gasteazoro abroad categorically deny that she could have been involved in activities leading to the deaths of hundreds of people, as claimed by Colonel Vides Casanova.

She is believed to be being held in the women's prison in Ilopango, and Eleuterio de Jesús Carcamo in Santa Tecla Prison. The whereabouts of Rafael Barrera are still unknown.

Further recommended action: Those Urgent Action participants who have received a reply from Colonel Vides Casanova may reply thanking him for his letter and asking for full details of the evidence and charges against these three people. Please also ask for information about the place of detention of Rafael Barrera.

Appeals should be sent to:

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

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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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