

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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EXTERNAL (for International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England) 29/54/81
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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.

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Disappearance Statute, Article 1 1981

EL SALVADOR: Recent abductions

The following 23 people were abducted in San Salvador between 20 and 29 July by members either of the National Police or the National Guard:

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|-----|---|--------------|
| 1. | Luis Gustavo ORELLANA, aged 24 | 29 July 1981 |
| 2. | Ario Reinaldo GARAY, aged 21 | 28 July 1981 |
| 3. | Ana VASQUEZ, aged 19 | 26 July 1981 |
| 4. | Hugo ORTIZ SANTA MARIA, aged 18 | 25 July 1981 |
| 5. | Edgardo Antonio SALAMANCA, aged 17 | 24 July 1981 |
| 6. | Mauricio TEJADA, aged 30 | 22 July 1981 |
| 7. | Paulo LEIVA, aged 19 | 21 July 1981 |
| 8. | Salvador Antonio CASTRO, aged 23 | 21 July 1981 |
| 9. | Maria Isabel SALINAS, aged 37 | 21 July 1981 |
| 10. | Blanca Esteban SALINAS, aged 30 | 21 July 1981 |
| 11. | Salvador SALINAS, aged 16 | 21 July 1981 |
| 12. | Braulio Salvador ALMIJO, aged 35, teacher | 20 July 1981 |
| 13. | Elsa Irma BELTRAN, aged 20, teacher | 20 July 1981 |
| 14. | Ricardo Adan PENA, aged 18 | 20 July 1981 |
| 15. | Edit Yolanda BELTRAN, aged 14 | 20 July 1981 |
| 16. | Roberto Alejandro ARMIJO, aged 17 | 20 July 1981 |
| 17. | José Francisco ISADA, aged 54, teacher | 20 July 1981 |
| 18. | Antonia Beatriz CELALA, aged 37 | 20 July 1981 |
| 19. | José Ernesto RODRIGUEZ, aged 25 | 20 July 1981 |
| 20. | Marta Araceli LARA, aged 22 | 20 July 1981 |
| 21. | Delores del Carmen RAMIREZ, aged 25 | 20 July 1981 |
| 22. | Rafael RAMIREZ, aged 22 | 20 July 1981 |
| 23. | Oswaldo Esteban RAMIREZ, aged 16 | 20 July 1981 |

The present whereabouts of all these people are unknown and there is very serious concern for their safety.

Background information

Human rights violation on a massive scale in El Salvador continue to be brought to the attention of Amnesty International. Amnesty International is aware that these 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 gross abuses of human rights.

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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 which 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/letters expressing concern about the abduction of these people and urging the authorities to guarantee their physical safety.

APPEALS TO:

Coronel Jaime Abdul Gutierrez
Vice-Presidente de la Junta de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial, San Salvador, El Salvador

Coronel Carlos López Nuila
Director de la Policía Nacional
6 Calle Oriente, San Salvador, El Salvador

Coronel Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova
Director de la Guardia Nacional
Colonia Atalactl, San Salvador, El Salvador

Teachers may wish to appeal in particular on behalf of the three people named as being teachers, and may send appeals to the Minister of Education:

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

Copies to:

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Appeals may continue until 3 September 1981.

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Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.

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".

The name of Amnesty International can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective.

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.

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".

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.

In order to ensure that each individual's name is included in at least some appeals the following national sections are asked to appeal in particular for:

AUSTRALIA prisoners numbered
AUSTRIA 1 - 3
BANGALDESH
BARBADOS
BELGIUM

FRANCE prisoners numbered
GREECE 7 - 9
HONG KONG (group)
ICELAND
IRELAND

LUXEMBOURG prisoners numbered
MEXICO 13 - 15
NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
NIGERIA

SWITZERLAND prisoners numbered
TRINIDAD (group) 20 - 23
UNITED KINGDOM
USA
VENEZUELA

CANADA prisoners numbered
DENMARK 4 - 6
FAROE ISLANDS
FINLAND
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

INDIA prisoners numbered
ISRAEL 10 - 12
ITALY
IVORY COAST
JAPAN

NORWAY prisoners numbered 16 - 19
PUERTO RICO (group)
SPAIN
SRI LANKA
SWEDEN