



CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/55/82

Distrib: CO/AD + relevant NS

E L S A L V A D O R

8 July 1982

CASA 37/82

Six recent arrests

The following six people have been arrested in El Salvador during the past few weeks. In all but one of the cases the authorities have not acknowledged the detentions and in only two cases is there any indication of where they might be being held. They were all detained by armed men, some in military uniform and others in plain clothes. Amnesty International is gravely concerned about the safety of these people.

1. Francisco Antonio PENATE MELARA

Aged 38, married with one child, Director of the Department of Business Administration at the University of San Salvador, also runs his own business. He was reportedly taken from his personal business office in San Salvador at 3.30 p.m. on 30 June by armed men. Unofficial reports indicate that he was seen alive in the headquarters of the Guardia Nacional shortly afterwards, and that interrogation was to begin on 2 July.

2. Pablo Plutarco APARICIO VALENZUELA + one other

Driver, aged 36, arrested at 12.30 p.m. on 30 May 1982 in his home in Colonia San José Las Flores, Apopa, Departamento de San Salvador, by army troops, some in uniform and others in plain clothes. He was taken away with another person whose name is not known.

3. Oscar Armando SALAZAR HERNANDEZ

Student, aged 18, living in Santa Ana, Departamento de Santa Ana, arrested at 5.50 p.m. on 24 May 1982 near a cinema in Santa Ana by members of the Policía Nacional.

4. Benjamín LOPEZ RAMIREZ

Worker, aged 35, living in Soyapango, Departamento de San Salvador, arrested at 6 p.m. on 14 May 1982 at a bus stop in San Salvador by members of the security forces.

5. Ana Gloria CRUZ CASTILLO

Student, aged 22, living in Colonia Amatepec, Soyapango, Departamento de San Salvador, arrested at home at 10.30 p.m. on 27 April 1982 by armed men in plain clothes believed to be from the Policía Nacional, who were travelling in a vehicle with a rotating red light on top. It is reported that the Policía Nacional confirm they are holding her for investigation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Telegrams/express letters/ letters to the Salvadorian authorities expressing concern at the arrest of the above six people, requesting clarification of their whereabouts and legal situation, and urging that their physical safety be guaranteed.

Each group should send appeals to one or two government ministers and/or heads of the security forces or armed forces, selecting the most appropriate ones according to the information available, e.g. in the case of No. 1, appeals should be directed to the Minister of Education and the head of the Guardia Nacional. Most addresses can be found in AMR 29/39/82 of 21 May 1982. Others are given below.

Coronel Carlos López Nuila (Nos. 3, 5) (Head of the National Police)
Director de la Policía Nacional
6 calle Oriente
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova (Head of the National Guard)
Director de la Guardia Nacional
Colonia Atlacatl (No. 1)
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Coronel Rafael Flores Lima (No. 2) (Chief of Staff of the Army)
Jefe del Estado Mayor del Ejército
Calle Concepción, Final Pasaje Merazo
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Jefe de la Policía Nacional (No. 3) (Head of the National Police,
Santa Ana Santa Ana)
Departamento de Santa Ana, EL SALVADOR

Copies of appeals to:

CDHES (El Salvador Human Rights Commission)
Av. las Américas y Calle San José
Urb. Isidro Menéndez, Edif. ACUS
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Target sector work

Appeals should be encouraged from relevant occupational groups, e.g. university professors, businessmen, students, etc.

Note

A limited urgent action was sent to three national sections (U.S.A., Canada, Costa Rica) on 2 July 1982 on behalf of Francisco Antonio Penate Melara (No. 1).