



CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street,
London WC2 7HF, England. Telephone: 01-836 7788 Telex: 28502



EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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E L S A L V A D O R

11 September 1981

CASA 32/81 Santa Tecla political prisoners on hungerstrike: follow up to previous appeals (see CASA 09/81, AMR 29/22/81 and CASA 19/81, AMR 29/44/81)

On 22 August 1981, 166 political prisoners in Santa Tecla prison as well as in the women's prison in Soyapango and the Mariona prison went on hunger-strike in protest at attacks on relatives of the political prisoners. AI has received reports that following the European Parliament delegation's visit to the Santa Tecla prison in July 1981, a number of the families received death threats and one of the relatives named Rubenia Cristales Flores was killed. The hunger-strike is also in protest against being held without trial - some of the political prisoners, for instance the STECEL electricity trade union leaders, arrested 22 August 1980, had been in ^{Santa Tecla} prison for a year without trial (see AI document AMR 29/42/80). One of the STECEL leaders, José Arnulfo Grande, was reportedly in a poor state of health after 8 days on hunger-strike. Similar reports have been received on the poor state of health of another hunger-striking political prisoner in Santa Tecla prison, named Jorge Martínez Asencio.

AI concern

In previous CASA actions, AI groups have sent appeals on behalf of the political prisoners in Santa Tecla prison, asking the authorities for clarification of the legal situation of each prisoner, and asking for guarantees for their physical safety. In the light of the current hunger-strike, AI groups should renew appeals asking that the prisoners be brought to trial or released, and for guarantees for the physical safety of the prisoners and their relatives. In your appeals AI groups should also refer to the hunger-strike in the prisons in Soyapango and Mariona.

Recommended Action

Express letters/letters to the Salvadorian authorities asking that the prisoners should be brought to trial or released, and for guarantees for the physical safety of the prisoners and their relatives.

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Appeals to:

Coronel Jose Guillermo García (Minister of Defence)
Ministro de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Lic. Leonel García Delgado (President of Supreme Court)
Presidente
Corte Suprema de Justicia
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

with copies to the following Venezuelan newspaper:

El Nacional
Apartado 209
Caracas, Venezuela

and to the Salvadorian diplomatic representatives to your country.

At Caracas

In previous CASA actions, AI groups have sent appeals on behalf of the political prisoners in Santa Tecla prison, asking the authorities for clarification of the legal situation of each prisoner, and asking for guarantees for their physical safety. In the light of the current hunger-strike, AI groups should now appeal asking that the prisoners be brought to trial or released, and for guarantees for the physical safety of the prisoners and their relatives. In your appeals AI groups should also refer to the hunger-strike in the prisons in Soyapango and Maricao.

Recommended Action

Request letters/letters to the Salvadorian authorities asking that the prisoners should be brought to trial or released, and for guarantees for the physical safety of the prisoners and their relatives.