



CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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E L S A L V A D O R

21 September 1981

CASA 36/81 Ten recent arrests

The people named below were reported to have been arrested in the capital, San Salvador, by members of the Salvadorian army. Their detention has not been acknowledged by the government and there are grave fears for their safety while they are held in incommunicado detention.

1. Buenaventura RIVAS AYALA, aged 44, arrested in the first week of September.
2. Ricardo Eduardo RAMOS, aged 31, arrested in the first week of September.
3. José Marco RIVERA RIVERA, aged 17, arrested in the first week of September.
4. René RODRIGUEZ FUENTES, aged 22, arrested in the first week of September.
5. Juan Pablo ACOSTA ARTEAGA, aged 43, arrested in the first week of September.
6. René Arturo ACOSTA AGUILAR, aged 20, arrested in the first week of September.
7. Marco Antonio ACOSTA AGUILAR, aged 22, arrested in the first week of September.
8. José Francis VALCRESPO CASACRE, aged 15, arrested 17 August 1981.
9. Jaime Eduardo MENDIOLA, aged 26, arrested 23 August 1981.
10. Daniel Guillermo RAMOS, aged 22, arrested 21 August 1981.

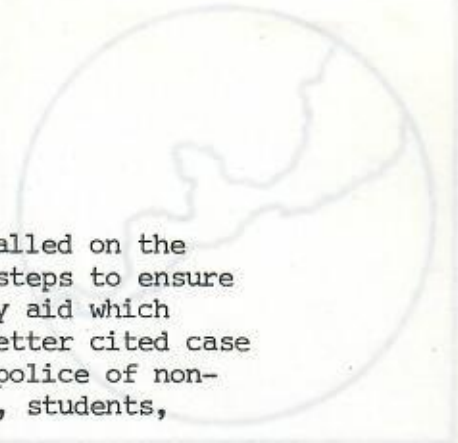
Background information

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 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, "disappearances" and cold-blooded murder being carried out by the Salvadorian security forces, and directed against people 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 at the arrest of these people and requesting the authorities to ensure that their physical safety is guaranteed.

Appeals to:

Coronel Rafael Flores Lima
Jefe de Estado Mayor del Ejército
Calle Concepción, Final Pasaje Merazo,
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Commander in chief of the army

Copies to:

Orientación

(newspaper of the Archbishopric)

Arzobispado de San Salvador
Seminario San José de la Montaña
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.