

**URGENT
ACTION**

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EXTERNAL (for
general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/66/81

Distr: UA

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))

September 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, AMR 29/51/81 20 July)

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

Several Urgent Action participants who have appealed on behalf of these people have received the following reply from the Minister of Justice of El Salvador, Mario Antonio Solano:

Sir

Our country, El Salvador, has, for approximately two years, been suffering under armed aggression from pressure groups who adhere to two different ideological viewpoints but who have a common objective: the downfall of the present government. This government has proposed, and is at present carrying out, agrarian, banking and foreign trade reforms. Next year it proposes to elect a Consultant Assembly which would provide the political reforms this country needs.

The government's opposition is formed of minority elite groups who since independence in 1821 have held powers - political economic, social, cultural etc. - in this country. This is proved by the remnants of these powers which they still retain in spite of the reforms which have been carried out. Opposition also comes from insurgent groups, under different names and ideological labels, who claim they are leading a people's revolt and who carry out their actions under the pretext of being the representatives of popular power. The government's reply is to maintain the continuity of the republican, democratic and representative system by means of a public referendum which will take place in March 1982. As is natural and obvious, an appropriate response must be made to armed aggression - something ordinary intelligence understands or will understand. Concrete actions are carried out under the responsibility of the Republic's Armed Force, and the judiciary bodies proceed according to the regulations laid down by the judicial power. After legal proceedings the detainees are kept in the custody of the Ministry of Justice, in appropriate penal centres. The following people can be found in such centres: Ana Marguarita Gasteazoro, Eleotherio de Jesus Carcamo and Rafael Barrera. You or one of your representatives can see them and talk with them on permitted days and at the permitted times.

International propaganda, tendentious disfiguration of the real situation, sensationalism useful to the aims of factions, and whatever means of misinforming about the conditions of the detainees, all serve to give a biased view of the facts, the people and the reality. You can rest assured that on principle I am committed to the safeguarding of human rights here and in whatever part of the world.

Yours faithfully

Mario Antonio Solano - Minister of Justice

Amnesty International believes that these three people are no longer in any physical danger.

Further recommended action:

Those Urgent Action participants who have received a reply from the Minister of Justice and who wish to reply may write to Sr Solano, thanking him for his reply and asking him for details of the evidence and charges against these three people.

Letters should be sent to:

Dr Mario Aantonio Solano
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
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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