



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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relevant NS

E L S A L V A D O R

28 October 1981

CASA 45/81 Detention of 25 trade unionists (members of coffee workers union)

Ovidio AREVALO
Ernesto AREVALO
Raul CABRERA
Casimiro Antonio CORADA
Francisco GARCIA
Adolfo MORALES
Pedro MAYEN LEIVA
Salvador MONTERROSA
Carlos MORENO
Rafael QUEZADA

The 10 named above were part of a group of 800 coffee workers detained at 9.00 am on 19 September 1981 by the army and other government security units on the highway from Santa Ana to San Salvador. The workers, all members of the local branch of the coffee workers trade union, were travelling in six buses on their way to Puerto Conchaló to their general assembly where they were going to elect a new board of directors of the trade union branch. The 800 were taken to the army barracks of the 2nd Infantry brigade (2a Brigada de Infantería), were interrogated, photographed and their personal identity documents examined. 775 were then released; of the remaining 25 held, 13 (including the 10 named above) were taken to the headquarters of the National Police in San Salvador. The whereabouts of the other 8 are not known. Government authorities deny that the 18 are being held in the National Police headquarters, and there are grave fears for their safety while they are in incommunicado detention.

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. You should also ask for information on the place of detention of the eight whose whereabouts are unknown.

In conjunction with your national trade union liaison officer, try to get trade unionists to send similar appeals.

Appeals to:

Coronel Carlos López Nuila
Director de la Policía Nacional
6 calle Oriente, San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Chief of the National Police

.../...

with copies to:

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

newspaper of the Archbishopsric

and to the Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.



AL DEPARTAMENTO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
DIRECCION GENERAL DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
CALLE DE LA AMERICA
SAN SALVADOR
23 October 1981

EXCELSENTE (for general distribution)

EL SALVADOR

CASA 2501 Detention of 25 Salvadorian students in college workers union

- Orlando ARRIAGA
- Esteban ARRIAGA
- Rafael ARRIAGA
- Guillermo ARRIAGA
- Francisco ARRIAGA
- Adolfo ARRIAGA
- Francisco ARRIAGA
- Salvador ARRIAGA
- Carlos ARRIAGA
- Rafael ARRIAGA

The 20 names above were part of a group of 250 college workers arrested in 9:00 am on 23 September 1981 by the army and other government security units on the highway from Santa Ana to San Salvador. The workers, all members of the local branch of the Central Workers Union, were travelling in six buses on their way to Puerto Comalten to their general assembly where they were going to elect a new board of directors of the trade union branch. The 200 were taken to the army barracks of the San Antonio highway (La Estrella de Occidente), were interrogated, photographed and their personal identity documents examined. 775 were then released; of the remaining 25 held, 25 (including the 20 named above) were taken to the headquarters of the National Police in San Salvador. The whereabouts of the other 6 are not known. Government authorities deny that the 25 are being held in the National Police headquarters, and there are press reports for their safety which say in immediate detention.

Background:

Representatives of the Central Workers Union expressed concern at the arrest of these people and requested the authorities to ensure that their physical safety is guaranteed. You should also ask for information on the date of detention of the eight other workers who were arrested. In connection with your national section press information officer, try to get leads wherever to meet either officials.

Chief of the National Police

General Carlos Lopez Rella
Director de la Policía Nacional
Calle Occidente, San Salvador, EL SALVADOR