



CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)



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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/81/82

Distrib : CO/AD + relevant NS

EL SALVADOR

9 September 1982

CASA 50/82 "Disappearance" of José Antonio ROSALES

Amnesty International has received reports that José Antonio Rosales, aged 23, was arrested at 1.00 pm on 10 August 1982 at the corner of the Maternity Hospital and 25 Avenida Norte in the capital San Salvador. He was reportedly arrested by uniformed members of the National Police who took him away in a taxi in the direction of the National Police Headquarters.

José Antonio Rosales was a photographer for the Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador (CDHES), El Salvador Human Rights Commission, an independent human rights monitoring group which both provides assistance to victims of human rights abuses and publicizes their cases. His arrest has been denied by the Salvadorian authorities.

Background Information

Those active in the defense of the human rights of the people of El Salvador have frequently become the target of human rights violations. The most recent incident involving CDHES personnel was the reported killing on 27 April 82 of former CDHES collaborator and journalist Tomás Antonio Leiva. Sr. Leiva is reported to have been killed by a paramilitary group in the province of Morazán. (see CASA 24/82 AMR 29/40/82 "Human rights violations affecting human rights activists").

In January 1981, the information and administration secretary of the CDHES, Victor Medrano, was abducted and held by the National Police until 11 February 1981, and on 3 February 1981 the father of the photographic technician of the CDHES was seized from his home by members of the air force; he was later found dead, five blocks away from his home. On 4 December 1981 Carlos Eduardo Vides, medical student and secretary of the statistics department of the CDHES, was arrested together with two other CDHES collaborators, Francisco Antonio Cortez Barraza and Norberto Huevo Martínez. Although the three men were seen in the cavalry barracks of the 5th Infantry regiment on 29 December 1981, they are still being held illegally; no charges have been brought against them.

In early October 1980 María Magdalena Enríquez, press secretary of the CDHES, was found dead in a shallow grave about 20 miles from San Salvador. She had been detained on 3 October 1980. Another representative of the CDHES, Ramón Valladares Pérez was killed on 26 October 1980 by unidentified gunmen.

Recommended Action

Please send express letters/letters expressing serious concern at the arrest of José Antonio Rosales, requesting details of his place of detention and legal situation. Appeals should urge that he be immediately released unless formally charged, and that his physical safety be guaranteed while in detention. Letters may also ask the authorities to take concrete measures to protect other members of the CDHES and other human rights workers.

Appeals to

Cor. Reynaldo López Nuila (Head of the National Police)
Director de la Policía Nacional
Cuartel General de la Policía Nacional
6 Calle Oriente
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

General José Guillermo García (Minister of Defense and Public Security)
Ministro de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

Copies of appeals to

Dr. Arturo Méndez Azahar (Minister of Justice)
Ministro de Justicia
Ministerio de Justicia
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

CDHES
Av. Las Américas y Calle San José
Urb. Isidro Menéndez, Edif. ACUS
San Salvador, EL SALVADOR

And to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.