

**URGENT  
ACTION**

**amnesty  
international**

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International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England

EXTERNAL (for general distribution) *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))* AI Index: AMR 29/82/81  
Distr: UA

4 December 1981

Further information on UA 170/81 (AMR 29/49/81 13 July) - "Disappearance"

EL SALVADOR: Edgar Mauricio VALLEJO  
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Edgar Mauricio Vallejo, aged 23, a writer who is well-known throughout Central America, was seized by masked men in plain clothes in the Plaza del Sol in San Salvador on 4 July 1981. He was driven away in a jeep without number plates. His detention has still not been acknowledged by the Salvadorian authorities.

Sr. Vallejo taught at the faculty of humanities of the National University of San Salvador until it was closed in June 1980. His poems and stories have been published in the magazine EDUCA (*Editorial Universitaria Centroamericana*) which is published by the *Conferencia Universitaria Centroamericana* in Costa Rica.

Many Urgent Action participants who sent copies of their appeals to EDUCA have received the following reply from EDUCA's director:

"Dear Sir

*We have received a copy of the letter which you sent to the Salvadorian authorities requesting the release of the writer Edgar Mauricio Vallejo.*

*Despite international pressure on behalf of Mauricio, the Salvadorian authorities have still refused to explain his whereabouts. We consider it important that you continue to ask your friends and institutions in your country to send appeals which may help to secure his release.*

*I should like to take this opportunity to send you a leaflet which describes the situation in which Salvadorian refugees live in Honduras and which Mauricio helped to write.*

*I should also like to express our appreciation of your actions on behalf of Mauricio, and Mauricio's wife and family will receive a copy of your letter.*

*Sincerely,  
Sebastian Vaquerano  
Director, EDUCA* "

Enclosed with the letter was a leaflet describing the plight of Salvadorian refugees in Honduras.

Some Urgent Action participants have received a further letter from EDUCA saying that a released prisoner had seen Edgar Mauricio Vallejo in custody in "El Zapote" prison in San Salvador. Amnesty International therefore believes that the Salvadorian authorities should continue to be requested to acknowledge his detention.

Further recommended action:

Please continue to send appeals to the Salvadorian authorities expressing concern that the detention of Edgar Mauricio Vallejo has not been acknowledged and his whereabouts not disclosed. Urge that full clarification of Sr. Vallejo's detention

be given and that, in the absence of charges against him, he be immediately released.

APPEALS TO:

Coronel Jose Guillermo García  
Ministro de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública  
Ministerio de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Ing. José Napoleon Duarte  
Presidente  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*As before, please organize some appeals from JOURNALISTS and WRITERS in your country.*

Appeals may continue until 4 January 1982.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.</li><li><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"><li>Article 3, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person";</li><li>Article 5, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";</li><li>Article 9, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile".</li></ul></li><li><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.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><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.</li><li><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".</li><li><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.</li></ul> |
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