

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for
general distribution)

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

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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.

UA 306/81

"Disappearance"

15 December 1981

(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))

EL SALVADOR: Carlos Eduardo VIVER
Francisco Antonio BARRAZA
Norberto HUEZO MARTINEZ

Carlos Eduardo Viver, Francisco Antonio Barraza and Norberto Huezo Martinez were seized on 4 December 1981 by members of the combined security forces. They were abducted while they were travelling in a white Toyota minibus, number 124774, in San Vicente. The Salvadorian authorities have denied that they are in detention and their present whereabouts are unknown.

All three men worked for the El Salvador Human Rights Commission (*Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador - CDHES*), an independent human rights monitoring group which both provides assistance to victims of human rights abuses and publicizes their cases.

Carlos Eduardo Viver, aged 20, is a medical student at the National University in San Salvador. Norberto Huezo Martinez, aged 25, is a student of odontology at the National University. Francisco Antonio Barraza, aged 27, is a secondary school teacher.

Background information

In January 1981 the information and administration secretary of the El Salvador Human Rights Commission, Victor Medrano, was arrested and held in the headquarters of the National Police in San Salvador until 11 February 1981. In early October 1980 Maria Magdalena Enriquez, press secretary of the Commission, was found dead in a shallow grave about 20 miles from San Salvador. She had been abducted on 3 October 1980. Another representative of the Commission, Ramon Valladares Perez, was killed on 26 October 1980.

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 of human rights have occurred at a time of escalating civil conflict between guerrilla groups and the Salvadorian authorities and is also aware of reports of abuses 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.

Talks on the human rights situation in El Salvador were held between Amnesty International and officials of the United States administration in Washington DC on 9 October 1981. The talks followed an exchange of correspondence earlier in the year about the possible effects of US military aid to El Salvador on human rights there between Amnesty International and the US Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, and the Deputy Secretary of State, William Clark Jr.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters expressing concern about the detention of Carlos Eduardo Viver, Francisco Antonio Barraza and Norberto Huezo Martinez, urging that their physical safety be guaranteed, and requesting clarification of their whereabouts and legal situation.

APPEALS TO:

Coronel Rafael Flores Lima
Jefe de Estado Mayor del Ejercito
Calle Concepción, Final Pasaje Merazo
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Army Chief of Staff)

Coronel Jaime Abdul Gutierrez
Vice-presidente de la Junta de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Vice-president and Commander-in-Chief
of the Armed Forces)*

COPIES TO:

Orientación

Arzobispado de San Salvador
Seminario San José de la Montaña
San Salvador, El Salvador

(newspaper of the Archbishopric)

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Appeals may continue until 15 January 1982.

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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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