

**URGENT
ACTION**

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Further information on UA 201/82 (AMR 29/78/82 24 August) - "Disappearance"

EL SALVADOR: América Fernanda PERDOMO
Saúl VILLALTA
Maria Helena MARTINEZ DE RECINOS
Carla RECINOS MARTINEZ
and one other person, a maid, as yet unnamed
=====

América Fernanda Perdomo, who is aged 24 and is the public relations officer of the *Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador* (CDHES - El Salvador Human Rights Commission) was arrested on 20 August 1982 by heavily armed men in plain clothes in the suburb of Ciudad Satélite, San Salvador. She was arrested together with Saúl Villalta, a member of the executive committee of the *Frente Democrático Revolucionario* (FDR - the Democratic Revolutionary Front), which is a coalition of opposition parties formed in April 1980. According to reports, América Perdomo was meeting Sr. Villalta on behalf of the CDHES to discuss the release of military personnel being held by guerrillas belonging to the *Frente Farabundo Martí de Liberación Nacional* (FMLN - Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front). The FMLN is a coalition of groups conducting military opposition to the Salvadorian government.

Three other people were arrested with América Perdomo and Saúl Villalta: Maria Helena Martinez de Recinos, her 13-year-old daughter Carla, and a maid whose name is not yet known. Maria Helena de Recinos is a representative of the *Comité de Madres* (Mothers' Committee) and the wife of trade unionist Hector Bernabé Recinos who was arrested in August 1980 and who is still in detention.

It is believed that all five people were arrested by the *Policía de Hacienda* (Treasury Police) and that they may be held in the headquarters of the Treasury Police in San Salvador. The Treasury Police have, however, denied holding them.

Amnesty International has received no news of the whereabouts of these people since their arrest and concern for their safety continues.

Some Urgent Action participants who sent copies of the appeals to the CDHES have received a reply from the organization. The reply thanks those who have appealed on behalf of América Perdomo and Saúl Villalta, and includes information about these two people which was presented at a press conference organized by the CDHES on 24 August 1982.

Further recommended action:

Please send a letter to the Salvadorian authorities expressing serious concern that the arrests of América Fernanda Perdomo, Saúl Villalta, Maria Helena Martinez de Recinos, Carla Recinos Martinez and one other woman have not been acknowledged and that their whereabouts have not been made known. Urge that their place of detention be immediately disclosed and, unless charged and brought before a court, they be released.

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation.

Letters should be sent to:

Coronel Francisco Morán
Jefe de la Policía de Hacienda
Calle Concepción
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Head of Treasury Police)

Sr. Alvaro Magaña Borja
Presidente de la República
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Head of Treasury Police)

Copies of appeals may be sent to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

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.”

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity are often more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new information.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your national section Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.