

**URGENT  
ACTION**

**amnesty  
international**

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Fear of torture/extrajudicial execution 22 October 1982

EL SALVADOR: Professor Carlos MOLINA  
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Amnesty International is seriously concerned about the safety of Professor Carlos Molina who is reported to have been arrested by Salvadorian security forces at 5.00pm on 20 October 1982 in the capital San Salvador.

Professor Molina is the Head of the School of Economics at the National University of El Salvador and is also a professor at the Jesuit university Universidad Centroamericana "José Simeon Cañas". He was arrested as he was leaving the School of Economics of the National University. He is also a member of the *Movimiento Independiente de Profesionales y Técnicos Salvadoreños* (MITPES), the Independent Movement of Salvadorian Professionals and Technicians.

The present whereabouts of Professor Molina are unknown.

Background information

Teachers and other workers in the field of education have often been a specific target of repression in recent years in El Salvador. The arbitrary arrests, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions which have been carried out against them by the regular police and military forces, or the paramilitary groups to which they are linked, appeared to be an attempt to eradicate the teachers' union ANDES (*Asociación Nacional de Educadores de El Salvador "21 de Junio"*) an active corporate member of the mass organization *Bloque Popular Revolucionario* (BPR - Popular Revolutionary Block). The BPR is a member of the *Frente Democrático Revolucionario* (FDR - Democratic Revolutionary Front). The FDR is a broad grouping which since its formation in 1980 has led the opposition to the Salvadorian government. Teachers have also been targetted for repression since, as educated people, they are seen as potential leaders of opposition to the established authorities.

Following the elections for a constituent assembly held on 28 March 1982, reports of human rights violations involving the official security forces have continued unabated. The violations are occurring in a context of continued conflict between the government and opposition forces but reports received by Amnesty International indicate that non-combatants from all sectors of Salvadorian society continue to be the victims of such violations, including arbitrary detention, "disappearance", and extrajudicial executions at the hands of the official military and police services, who act on occasion in conjunction with clandestine paramilitary squads who have their explicit or implicit warrant. As in previous years, in no single instance since the elections have the Salvadorian authorities issued a satisfactory response to enquiries concerning these violations. ....

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters/airmail letters expressing concern about the reported detention of Professor Carlos Molina and urging that his physical safety be guaranteed. Request clarification of his whereabouts and legal situation and urge that he be immediately released unless charged and brought before a court of law.

*Please organize some appeals from TEACHERS, ACADEMICS, TEACHERS' TRADE UNIONS and OTHER TRADE UNIONS.*

APPEALS TO:

Sr. Roberto D'Aubuisson  
Presidente de la Asamblea Constituyente  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*Telegrams to:*

*Sr. D'Aubuisson, Presidente  
Asamblea Constituyente, San  
Salvador*

Sr. Manuel Sermeno  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*Telegrams to: Sr. Sermeno, Ministro  
Interior, San Salvador*

COPIES TO:

Ing. Carlos Aquilino Duarte  
Ministro de Educación  
Ministerio de Educación  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Minister of Education)*

Comisión Arquidiocesano de Justicia  
y Paz

Arzobispado de San Salvador  
Urbanización Isidro Menéndez  
Calle San José  
Avenida Las Américas  
Apartado Postal 22 53  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Archdiocese Justice and Peace  
Commission)*

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 22 November 1982.

- 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.