

# URGENT ACTION amnesty international URGENT ACTION

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EXTERNAL (for  
general distribution)

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UA 252/82                      Fear of Torture/Extrajudicial execution                      26 October 1982

EL SALVADOR: Luis Antonio MENJIVAR                      Jorge HERRERA  
David Elias GUADRON VALENCIA                      Carlos MENJIVAR  
Pedro RAMIREZ ESQUIVEL                      Héctor FERNANDEZ  
Pablo RAMIREZ CORNEJO                      Daniel (or David) AVALOS  
Raúl Antonio CASTRO PALOMARES                      Berta Alicia CASTRO  
Vicente ORTIZ  
=====

Amnesty International has received reports that several labour and opposition leaders have recently been arrested in different parts of the capital, San Salvador.

The following people were arrested on 18 October 1982:

- Luis Antonio Menjivar: leader of the *Movimiento Popular Social Cristiano* (MPSC), Popular Social Christian Movement
- David Elias Guadrón Valencia: labour leader and member of the *Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario* (MNR), National Revolutionary Movement, a social democrat political party
- Jorge Herrera: labour leader and member of the MNR

All three men are members of the executive committee of the *Frente Democrático Revolucionario* (FDR), Democratic Revolutionary Front, a coalition of opposition parties, formed in April 1980.

Others arrested at about the same time are:

- Carlos Menjivar: member of the FDR
- Pedro Ramírez Esquivel: member of the *Federación Nacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de El Salvador* (FENASTRAS), National Federation of Salvadorian Workers
- Héctor Fernandez: member of FENASTRAS
- Pablo Ramirez Cornejo: metal worker, member of FENASTRAS
- Daniel (or David) Avalos: worker in dairy products factory, member of FENASTRAS
- Raúl Antonio Castro Palomares: sugar worker, member of the *Federación Unitaria Sindical de El Salvador* (FUSS), Federation of Salvadorian Unions
- Berta Alicia Castro: head of Textile Workers Union
- Vicente Ortiz: head of Dockworkers Union

The present whereabouts of all these people are unknown and there is serious concern for their safety.

On 24 October 1982, in a sermon in the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador, Father Jesus Delgado accused the Salvadorian security forces of being responsible for the abduction of these opposition and labour leaders, and asked for clarification of their whereabouts.

In November 1980, six FDR leaders, including Secretary General and former Minister of Agriculture under the first post-Romero government, Enrique Alvarez, were kidnapped as they were about to hold a news conference. An estimated 200 men in army and National Police uniforms surrounded the area while men in plain clothes arrested the six FDR leaders. Their bullet-ridden bodies, showing signs of torture, strangulation and dismemberment, were later found.

On 19 October 1982 Mauricio Domenech, a member of the executive committee of the MNR, was reported to have been detained by members of the Salvadorian security services (*see UA 248/82*) and on 20 October 1982 Professor Carlos Molina was also reported to have been detained (*See UA 250/82*). Both men were members of the executive committee of the FDR.

#### Background information

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 victims of such violations, including arbitrary detention, "disappearance", and extrajudicial execution at the hands of the official and military 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 inquiries about these violations.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters/airmail letters expressing concern about the reported detention of these labour and opposition leaders and urging that they be humanely treated while in detention. Request clarification of their whereabouts and legal situation, including details of charges, if any, and urge that they be immediately released unless charged and brought before a court of law.

*Please organize some appeals from TRADE UNIONISTS and members of...  
POLITICAL PARTIES.*

*Urgent Action coordinators are asked to try and ensure, if possible, that all names are included in some appeals.*

- 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.

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, El Salvador*

General José Guillermo García  
Ministro de Defensa y Seguridad Pública  
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad  
Pública

Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*Telegrams to: Ministro de Defensa  
García, San Salvador, El Salvador*

*For appeals on behalf of labour leaders/  
trade unionists:*

Dr Julio Alfredo Samayoa  
Ministro de Trabajo  
Ministerio de Trabajo  
2 Avenida Norte  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*Telegrams to: Ministro de  
Trabajo Samayoa, San Salvador,  
El Salvador*

COPIES TO:

Comisión Arquidiocesano de Justicia y Paz  
Arzobispado de San Salvador  
Urbanización Isidro Menendez  
Calle San José  
Avenida Las Américas  
Apartado Postal 22 53  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Archdiocese Justice and Peace Commission)*

Conferencia Episcopal de El Salvador  
1 CF 3412  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Salvadorian Bishop's Conference)*

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 7 December 1982.

STOP PRESS:

*Amnesty International has received reports that eight members of the opposition were to be tried by a military court on 25 October 1982, charged with "terrorist acts against the state". It is not yet known, however, which of the people named above may have been brought to trial. Please send appeals as recommended above.*