

URGENT amnesty international URGENT ACTION

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.* AI Index: AIR 37/05/81
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Fear of torture/extra-judicial killings 24 March 1981

HONDURAS: Twenty Salvadorian refugees
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AI has received reports that twenty Salvadorian refugees, whose names are not yet known, were arrested on 19 March 1981 by the Honduran authorities at Los Hernandez in the municipality of La Virtud, department of Lempira in Honduras.

The twenty had fled with large numbers of other Salvadorian peasants from the Cabanas region of El Salvador across the river Lempa which marks the frontier between El Salvador and the department of Lempira, Honduras. The Honduran army has been attempting to prevent Salvadorians from seeking refuge in Honduras and AI has received reports that some of those who have succeeded in crossing the border have suffered detention or extra-judicial killing at the hands of the Honduran army.

On 14 May 1980 between 300 and 600 Salvadorian refugees were killed by Salvadorian troops while trying to cross the river Sumpul into Honduras where Honduran troops were attempting to prevent them from entering.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/airmail letters (Honduras has no express delivery service) asking for clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of the twenty detained Salvadorian refugees, and requesting guarantees of their physical safety. Please also urge the Honduran authorities not to send any Salvadorian refugee back to El Salvador as AI believes that this would put their lives at risk.

APPEALS TO: A few appeals per UA group only are requested.

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Coronel César Elvir Sierra
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

Minister of Defence and Public Security:

Coronel Mario Flores Theresin
Ministro de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

COPIES TO:

El Tiempo (newspaper)
Apdo.450
San Pedro Sula
Honduras

and to Honduran diplomatic representatives in your country.

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 24 April 1981