

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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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. (Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))

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Fear of Torture/Extrajudicial killing 13 April 1981

HONDURAS: Sixto Francisco GUARDADO GUARDADO
José Antonio GUARDADO GUARDADO
Teresa de Jesus GUARDADO GUARDADO
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Sixto Francisco Guardado Guardado, José Antonio Guardado Guardado and Teresa de Jesus Guardado Guardado, all of whom are Salvadorians in exile in Honduras, were arrested shortly after the deportation of their brother, Facundo Guardado Guardado, from Honduras to Panama on 31 March 1981. Facundo Guardado Guardado is a leader of the *Frente Democrático Revolucionario* (FDR - Revolutionary Democratic Front), a coalition of Salvadorian opposition parties. He was arrested in Honduras on 31 January 1981 after returning from a visit to the Salvadorian refugee camps on the Salvadorian/Honduran border. He was reportedly tortured while in detention. Although the Honduran authorities originally denied that he was being detained, he was later released after he was named on the list of 15 political prisoners whose release was demanded by four members of a little-known guerrilla organization who hijacked a Honduran aircraft.

The Honduran authorities have refused to acknowledge the arrest and detention of Sixto Francisco, José Antonio and Teresa de Jesus Guardado Guardado and there are grave fears for their well-being as long as their detention is not acknowledged. There are also fears that they may be returned to El Salvador where AI believes their lives would be in serious danger.

Many Salvadorian refugees have fled from El Salvador to Honduras, in an attempt to escape torture and killing by Salvadorian security forces. The Honduran army has been trying 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 extrajudicial 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 Sixto Francisco, José Antonio and Teresa de Jesus Guardado Guardado. Please urge that they be humanely treated while in detention and that they not be sent back to El Salvador where their lives would be in danger.

A limited number of appeals is requested. Each UA group is asked to send about half the number of appeals which they would normally send.

APPEALS TO:

Director of DNI (National Department of Investigation):

Tnte. Coronel Manuel López Grijalva
Director
Departamento Nacional de Investigación
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

President of the Supreme Court:

José Pinola Gómez
Presidente de la Corte Suprema
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

COPIES TO:

El Tiempo (newspaper)
Apartado 450
San Pedro Sula
Honduras

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 13 May 1981

Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.

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:

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 can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective.

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.

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".

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.