



# CENTRAL AMERICA SPECIAL ACTION (CASA)

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HONDURAS / EL SALVADOR

23 September 1982

CASA 53/82

7 Arrests

1. Arquimedes Antonio CANADA RODRIGUEZ (also known as Alejandro MONTENEGRO)
2. César Amilcar GONZALEZ
3. José Antonio CACERES GALINDO
4. Gisella REYES
5. Teresa de Jesús SERRANO
6. Grecia Lidice ARMIJO REYES
7. Roberto Armando CRUZ SERRANO

All seven of the above were detained in Honduras in August 1982 by the Honduran anti-terrorist squad, COBRA. On 22 August they were reportedly handed over to another branch of the Honduran security forces, Fuerzas de Seguridad Pública (FUSEP), Public Security Forces. Since then, their whereabouts have remained unknown. All seven are believed to be citizens of El Salvador and members of the political opposition there. Two of them are believed to be children. On 20 September the Salvadorian authorities announced that the Honduran security forces had handed over to them Arquimedes Antonio CANADA RODRIGUEZ. It is feared that the other six people may have also been handed over to them. In a recent statement, the Honduran authorities have acknowledged that certain Salvadorians allegedly held in Honduras have been deported to El Salvador.

### Background Information

Amnesty International has received many reports from Honduras of human rights violations, involving both Salvadorian and Honduran citizens, including arbitrary arrests, torture, kidnappings and killings, allegedly committed by both Salvadorian and Honduran security forces and paramilitary groups. Such violations have continued since President Suazo Córdova took office on 27 January 1982, following elections in November 1981 at which his Liberal Party gained a sizeable majority.

Victims of human rights violations have included political activists, trade unionists, peasant farmers, religious workers, Salvadorian refugees and Hondurans working with Salvadorian solidarity groups and refugee assistance committees.



Recommended Actions

Appeals should be addressed to both the Honduran and Salvadorian authorities:

a) Appeals to the Honduran authorities

Letters to the Honduran authorities should express concern at the detention and subsequent 'disappearance' of the seven people referred to above. Request the immediate release of any children that may be among them and assurances that the physical integrity of all of them be guaranteed while in detention. Urge the Honduran authorities to ensure that they are not returned to El Salvador where they risk persecution, and that, in accordance with Honduran law, they be released unless charged and brought before a court.

Appeals to:

Sr. Oscar Mejía Arellano (Minister of Interior and Justice)  
Ministro del Interior y Justicia  
Ministerio del Interior y Justicia  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Cor. Daniel Bali Castillo (Head of FUSEP)  
Comandante de las Fuerzas de Seguridad  
Pública (FUSEP)  
Bo. Casamata  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Copies to:

Msgr. Héctor Enrique Santos Hernández (Archbishop of Tegucigalpa)  
Arzobispo de Tegucigalpa  
Arzobispado  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

b) Appeals to the Salvadorian authorities

Letters to the Salvadorian authorities should request clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of Arquimedes Antonio Canada Rodríguez, whom they have publicly acknowledged to have been handed over to them by the Honduran authorities, and urge that his physical integrity be respected. Enquiries should also be made concerning reports that the other six people were also handed over to them and similar clarification and assurances on their behalf.

Appeals to:

Sr. Alvaro Magaña Borja (President of the Republic)  
Presidente de la República  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

General José Guillermo García (Minister of Defence and Public  
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública Security)  
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Copies to:

Oficina de Tutela Legal del Arzobispado  
Comisión Arquidiocesana de Justicia y Paz  
Apdo. 2253  
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Legal Aid Office of the  
Archbishopric)

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