

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

13 July 1988

EL SALVADOR: Fidel Angel QUINTINALLA

Amnesty International has received reports of the detention of Fidel Angel Quintanilla, a trade union leader of the Unión Nacional de Campesinos (National Union of Peasant Workers), on 12 July 1988, by members of the Fuerzas Aereas (Air Force) in Soyapango, San Salvador department. He was taken to Air Force headquarters in Ilopango, San Salvador department. Although his detention has been acknowledged by the Air Force, there are fears that he may be ill-treated while in custody.

The detention of Fidel Angel Quintanilla was carried out when a group of 300 campesinos marched to Soyapango, from San Salvador in support of strike action being carried out by members of the Asociación de Trabajadores de la Comisión Ejecutiva Hidroeléctrica (ATCEL), workers from the state-run electrical company. The campesinos were carrying food to the striking workers, who have been on strike since 15 June following dismissals of workers, including the trade union leadership, suspensions without pay and demands for increased wages. Union leaders attending the march stated that as the campesinos were handing over food to the electrical workers, over 300 members of the Air Force arrived, armed with rifles and truncheons, with the aim of dispersing the group. In the ensuing attack over 100 people were injured, some seriously, including the leader of the UNC, Orlando Fuentes.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes, telegrams/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported detention of trade union leader, Fidel Angel Quintanilla apparently during a peaceful demonstration in support of fellow trade unionists;
- asking for guarantees that his physical integrity be respected while in detention;
- requesting details of the charges against him, and urging that he be released unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

S.E. Jose Napoleón Duarte
Presidente de la República de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Presidente Duarte
San Salvador, El Salvador
Telexes; 20245 RES SAL
20445 CGFA SAL; 20522

Gral. Jose Rafael Bustillo Valencia
Jefe de la Fuerza Aerea Salvadoreña
Ilopango
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Jefe Fuerza Aerea
Ilopango, San Salvador,
El Salvador

(Head of Air Force)

Dr. Lazaro Tadeo Lizama
Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión Social
Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social
Calle Arce 827
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión
Social, San Salvador, El Salvador

COPIES TO:

Monsenor Arturo Rivara y Damas
Arzobispo
Arzobispado de San Salvador
Apdo. 01-126
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Archbishop)

Señores
17 Calle Oriente No. 121
San Miguelito
San Salvador, El Salvador

(UNTS), National Union of Salvadorian Workers
(Labour coalition)

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 August 1988.