

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 15/84 (AMR 29/06/84 23 January) - Fear of Torture/Legal concern

EL SALVADOR: Fourteen trade unionists

A delegation of women from the USA who recently visited El Salvador was able to visit eight of the trade unionists arrested in San Salvador on January 19 1984. On 20 January 1984 the Salvadorian Armed Forces confirmed that 15 of the people who had attended the trade union meeting held at the "Loyola Centre", a Jesuit retreat, had been held for investigation because "individuals from the *Movimiento Obrero Revolucionario* (Revolutionary Workers' Movement)" were at the meeting. The Armed Forces also claimed that "documents had been removed from the place which revealed unusual and suspicious reasons for calling a meeting of this kind". On 23 January 1984 one of the 15, Raquel Gutiérrez, a Mexican citizen, was released and handed over to the Mexican Chargé d'Affaires. She has now left El Salvador. Amnesty International has received reports that six more of the 15 originally detained were also subsequently released. The names of the eight who were still in detention as of 31 January 1984 when the USA women's delegation visited them were:

José Jeremías PEREIRA
Salvador CHAVEZ
Oscar Armando BENAVIDES
Juan José VARGAS LEMUS

Dinora RAMIREZ DE PEREIRA
César Alvaro ESCALANTE
Estéban GONZALEZ
Amanda RAMOS DE VILLEGAS

Amnesty International has so far not received details of where the eight are being detained. Detainees are usually held for a period of 15 days in incommunicado detention at a police station or military barracks. They are then brought before a military judge and either released or remanded in custody for further investigation. At this point they are usually transferred to *La Nueva Esperanza* prison at Mariona, in the case of men, or to Ilopango Women's Prison, in the case of women.

In the original Urgent Action, Amnesty International stated that it had received unconfirmed reports that a Salvadorian journalist working for YSKL radio, Raúl Beltrán, had been shot dead during the raid. It has now become clear that Raúl Beltrán was not present at the time of the raid and is still alive. Amnesty International has received conflicting information as to what may have happened to Raúl Beltrán and is at present attempting to clarify this.

Further recommended action:

Please no longer mention Raúl Beltrán in appeals.

In the case of the eight trade unionists still in detention, please:

- continue to express concern about their detention and seek clarification of the reasons for their arrest
- continue to urge that they be humanely treated while in detention
- urge that they be released unless formally charged and brought before a court

Appeals should be sent to:

S.E. Dr Alvaro A. Magaña Borja
Presidente de la República de El Salvador

Coronel Carlos Reynaldo López Nuila
Director General de la Policía Nacional

Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

6a Calle Oriente
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Director of National Police)

Don Manuel Isidoro López Sermeno
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Palacio Nacional
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Minister of the Interior)

Copies of appeals may be sent to:

CDHES
Dr Benjamin Cestoni
2a Planta
Edif. Fiscalía General de la República
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador

(governmental human rights commission)

Socorro Jurídico Cristiano
Apartado Postal 06-294
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Christian legal aid organization)

Diario El Mundo
2A Av. Norte No. 211
San Salvador, El Salvador

(newspaper)

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 23 March 1984.