

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "Disappearance"

30 June 1989

EL SALVADOR:

Rafael ASCENCIO GIRON, teacher, aged 40
Héctor Andrés CARILLO ABARCA, aged 32
Juan CHAVEZ, aged 32
Juan José BENITEZ, aged 25

Amnesty International has received reports of the abduction on 26 June 1989 of the above-mentioned people, and fears that they may be subsequently "disappeared".

Rafael Ascencio Girón, a teacher in the Instituto Cultural Oxford in San Salvador, was reportedly abducted at around 8pm by armed men in plainclothes, as he was leaving the school. According to witnesses, he was taken away in a grey car with tinted windows and without license number plates. Rafael Ascencio Girón is also a professor at the Faculty of Science and Humanities of the University of El Salvador, a leader of the *Sindicato Gremial de Educadores de Empresas Privadas de El Salvador* (SGEEPES), Private Sector Teacher's Union, and a member of the *Asociación Nacional de Educadores de El Salvador* (ANDES 21 de Junio), National Union of Teachers of El Salvador.

Héctor Andrés Carrillo Abarca, Juan Chavez, and Juan José Benitez were reportedly abducted at around 9pm by armed men in plainclothes. According to reports, shots were fired at Héctor Andrés Carrillo Abarca and Juan Chavez as they were trying to escape, injuring them in the legs. Héctor Andrés Carrillo Abarca and Juan Chavez are members of the *Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores Agropecuarios* (ANTA), National Association of Agricultural Workers.

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of the people named above.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received numerous reports in recent months of human rights violations including arbitrary arrest, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions, directed against students, teachers and workers in academic institutions, carried out by so-called "death squads" (see El Salvador: Repression of students, teachers and university staff – AI Index AMR 29/13/89).

The organization is also concerned about frequent reports of abuses committed against leaders and members of popular organizations in El Salvador, including organized agrarian workers and peasant cooperatives, whose members have been frequent victims of detention without warrant, periods of investigative detention beyond the constitutional maximum, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance", and extrajudicial executions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- asking for guarantees that the physical integrity of Rafael Ascencio Girón, Héctor Andrés Carrillo Abarca, Juan Chavez and Juan José Benitez be respected while in detention;
- requesting details of the charges against them, and urging that they be release unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- seeking assurance that Héctor Andrés Carrillo Abarca and Juan Chavez are being adequately treated for any wounds they may have suffered.

APPEALS TO:

S.E. Alfredo Cristiani
Presidente de la República de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Presidente Cristiani
San Salvador, El Salvador
Telexes: 20245 RS SAL; 20522

Sr. Antonio Cabrales
Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Boulevard Los Héroes
y 21a Calle Poniente
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
San Salvador, El Salvador
Telexes: 20228 MAG SAL

General Rafael Humberto Larios
Ministro de Defensa y de Seguridad
Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y de Seguridad
Pública
Doble Via a Santa Tecla
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Ministro Defensa y de
Seguridad Pública, San Salvador, El
Salvador
Telexes: 20446 MINDEF; 20624
COPREFA

Sr. René Hernández Valiente
Ministro de Educación
Ministerio de Educación
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Ministro Educación
San Salvador, El Salvador

COPIES TO:

Lic. Benjamin Cestoni
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador,
gubernamental (CDH),
Paseo Gral Escalón
87 Av. Sur, Block 2 No. 226
Col. Escalón, San Salvador, El Salvador
(governmental human rights commission)

Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador,
no-gubernamental (CDHES),
Urbanización La Esperanza
Pasaje 1, No 117
San Salvador, El Salvador
(non-governmental human rights commission)

Sres.
Asociación de Educadores de El Salvador
(ANDES 21 de Junio)
c/o Casa del Maestro
4a Calle oriente No. 620
San Salvador, El Salvador

Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores
Agropecuarios (ANTA)
Colonia Santa Eugenia
Pasaje No. 2, Casa No. 118
San Salvador, El Salvador

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 August 1989.