

# URGENT ACTION

## RELEASE 'THE 17' WOMEN IN EL SALVADOR

**A series of pardon requests for a group of 17 Salvadoran women jailed with extremely long sentences for pregnancy-related offences after flawed and unfair trials is now coming up for decision in the Legislative Assembly. "Guadalupe", the first of such cases, is due to be voted on again on 21 January. The members of the Assembly have the power to set her and other women free.**

In April 2014, 17 women jailed for pregnancy-related offences after flawed prosecutions and trials with prison terms ranging from 12 to 40 years, submitted a pardon request (*indulto*). Their requests have been going through a complex process which includes a judicial review by the Supreme Court of Justice and subsequently requires a majority plenary vote in the Legislative Assembly.

All 17 women come from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds and were unjustly imprisoned after unfair trials, which included unreliable and weak evidence, and poor legal defence. All suffered pregnancy-related complications outside a hospital setting, and were initially charged with abortion. They were subsequently sentenced to up to 40 years' imprisonment for aggravated homicide.

The case of "Guadalupe", a young 18-year-old woman who was imprisoned in 2007 and has already served seven years of her 30-year sentence, is the first case to be voted on in the Assembly. Members already voted on 16 January and "Guadalupe" lost her plea by just one vote. A re-vote is due on 21 January and Assembly members have a chance to rectify the wrongs she has been suffering and reunite her with her young son and family.

### Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging Assembly members to release "Guadalupe" and the rest of 'the 17' women jailed for pregnancy-related offences after unfair trials [for suggested tweets in Spanish see below];
- Calling on them to release all Salvadoran women who have been imprisoned for having abortions or miscarriages immediately and unconditionally.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS ON 20 AND 21 JANUARY 2015 TO:

This is a selection of Assembly members from different parties (for more members see below)

#### Ana Vilma de Escobar (ARENA)

Twitter: @defiende\_tuvoto

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/anavilma.deescobar.1>

#### Francisco José Zablah Safie

Twitter: @franciscozablah

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/franciscozablah.diputado>

#### Main Twitter handles for all parties:

@PCN\_Oficial  
@FMLNOficial  
@GANAOFICIAL  
@CD\_ESA  
@PDC\_OFICIAL  
@ARENAOFICIAL

#### Douglas Leonardo Mejía Avilés (CD)

Twitter: @douglasavilesd

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DiputadoDouglasAviles>

#### José Francisco Merino López (PCN)

Twitter: @merino\_chico

#### Jackeline Rivera (FMLN)

Twitter: @JRiveraAvalos

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



# URGENT ACTION

## RELEASE 'THE 17' WOMEN IN EL SALVADOR

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As outlined in the Amnesty International report, *On the Brink of Death: Violence against Women and the Abortion Ban in El Salvador* (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR29/003/2014/en>), women and girls in El Salvador have been suffering from discriminatory laws and practices. This ranges from the poor implementation of legislation that could enable women and girls to live a life free from violence through to the total ban on abortion, which results in criminalization and a denial of the right to physical and mental health, particularly for women from poor disadvantaged backgrounds.

Amnesty International is calling on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all women and girls who have been imprisoned for having abortions or miscarriages. This includes the 17 women prisoners for whom pardons have been requested as an extraordinary measure. These women suffered obstetric emergencies outside of a hospital setting but, instead of receiving appropriate medical care, they were prosecuted and sentenced to up to 40 years in prison for crimes as serious as aggravated homicide, a result of deeply discriminatory processes that violated their right to due legal process.

In the case of "Guadalupe", she was sentenced to 30 years in prison after suffering a miscarriage in 2007. She was 18 at the time and has a five-year-old son. She was accused of having an abortion, outlawed in any circumstance in El Salvador, and later charged with aggravated homicide. The forensic examination after the miscarriage concluded that the cause of death was "undetermined", and that there was no evidence of her having provoked its death - this alone would make the conviction unfair. In addition, when she was taken to a public hospital after the miscarriage, hospital staff reported her to the police who questioned her without a lawyer while she was still receiving medical care

As the pardon requests come through the Legislative Assembly, members have a chance to rectify the wrongs committed against these women. The most direct way to contact these politicians is to write to them via their social networking sites. The following are suggested tweets in Spanish:

*#Indultoya para Guadalupe de #LAS17 - su futuro está en tus manos #MiCuerpoMisDerechos <http://bit.ly/1wgIRyL>*

*#Las17 #Indultoya para Guadalupe - No más criminalización de mujeres pobres <http://bit.ly/1wgIRyL>*

*#ElSalvador debe liberar a las mujeres encarceladas tras sufrir complicaciones derivadas del embarazo #Las17 <http://bit.ly/1wgIRyL>*

This is the full list of available social network accounts:

#### Main Twitter handles for all parties:

@PCN\_Oficial (Partido de Concertación nacional)  
@FMLNOficial (Frente Farabundo Martí de Liberación Nacional)  
@GANAOFICIAL (Gran Alianza Por La Unidad Nacional)  
@CD\_ESA (Cambio Democrático)  
@PDC\_OFICIAL (Partido Demócrata Cristiano)  
@ARENAOFICIAL (Alianza Republicana Nacionalista)  
@asambleaSV

#### Individual parliamentarians:

Ana Vilma de Escobar (ARENA)  
Twitter: @defiende\_tuvoto  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/anavilma.deescobar.1>

Lucía Ayala de León ARENA)  
Twitter: @LucydeLeon7

Eduardo Enrique Barrientos Zepeda (ARENA)  
Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000584055810>

Alejandrina Castro (ARENA)

Twitter: @AlejandrinaCF

Roberto José d'Aubuisson Munguía (ARENA)

Twitter: @rdaubuisson

Margarita Escobar (ARENA)

Twitter: @Escobarmarga

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/margaritaescobardiputada>

Mariella Peña Pinto (ARENA)

Twitter: @mariellapenap

David Ernesto Reyes Molina (ARENA)

Twitter: @\_davidreyes

Edwin Zamora (ARENA)

Twitter: @EdwinVZamora

Enrique Alberto Valdés Soto (ARENA)

Twitter: @doctorvaldes

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/enrique.valdes.soto>

Mario Eduardo Valiente Ortiz (ARENA)

Twitter: @Mario\_Valiente\_

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/mariovalientediputadoarena>

Donato Eugenio Vaquerano Rivas (ARENA)

Twitter: @DonatoVaquerano

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/donatoeugenio.vaqueranorivas>

Guillermo Antonio Gallegos Navarrete (GANA)

Twitter: @GGallegos24 / @TuDiputadoAmigo

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GuillermoGallegosES>

Sandra Marlene Salgado García (GANA)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Sandrasalgadodiputada>

Mario Alberto Tenorio Guerrero (GANA)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Diputado.Mario.Tenorio>

Francisco José Zablah Safie (GANA)

Twitter: @franciscozablah

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/franciscozablah.diputado>

Nidia Diaz (FMLN)

Twitter: @NdiazNidia

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/?q=#/nidiadiazdiputada2015>

Norma Guevara (FMLN)

Twitter: @guevara\_tuiter

Karina Sosa (FMLN)

Twitter: @KarinalSosa

Guillermo Francisco Mata Bennett (FMLN)

Twitter: @DrMata1

Lordes Palacios (FMLN)

Twitter: @PalaciosLour

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lourdes-Palacios/188776934592480>

Lorena Peña (FMLN)

Twitter: @lorenapeam

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lorena.pena.522>

Sigfrido Reyes (FMLN)

Twitter: @sigfridoreyes

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sigfridoreyes.net>

Jackeline Rivera (FMLN)

Twitter: @JRiveraAvalos

Reynaldo Antonio López Cardoza (PCN)

Twitter: @rey\_cardoza

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Reynaldo-Cardoza/359292247517756>

José Francisco Merino López (PCN)

Twitter: @merino\_chico

Douglas Leonardo Mejía Avilés (CD)

Twitter: @douglasavilesd

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DiputadoDouglasAviles>

Claudia Ramírez (Democracia Salvadoreña)

Twitter: @ClaudiaLRamirez

Sigfrido Ochoa (Diputado independiente)

Twitter: @Ochoa\_Diputado

Name: "Guadalupe" and the rest of 'the 17' women jailed on pregnancy-related charges

Gender m/f: f

UA: 14/15 Index: AMR 29/001/2015 Issue Date: 20 January 2015