

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 29/05/93

Distr: UA/SC

19 March 1993

Further information on EXTRA 31/93 (AMR 29/04/93) - Legal Concern

EL SALVADOR: Proposed Amnesty Law would block investigations into human rights violations

The Legislative Assembly has not yet voted on the draft amnesty law. Debate began yesterday, Thursday 18 March, in the plenary of the assembly and may continue today or next week. It seems that rather than voting immediately on the text of the draft law which was presented, the parties are trying to reach a text by consensus. Virtually all the parties are in favour of some kind of amnesty, but some are demanding that the amnesty only be passed under certain conditions.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes either in Spanish, English or in your own language:

- noting the unprecedented and important work of the Truth Commission as part of the process of national reconciliation;
- expressing serious concern at the subsequent presentation of a draft amnesty law which could seriously undermine the Commission's work;
- pointing out that an amnesty law granting immunity to human rights violators would not only contradict the spirit of the recommendations of the truth Commission but would contravene Salvadorian law and international human rights standards to which El Salvador is party;
- urging the government not to approve any law which would block investigations into human rights abuses and would prevent the prosecutions of those responsible.

APPEALS TO:

The following leaders of the main political parties:

1) Sr. **Ciro Cruz Zepeda**
Partido de Conciliación Nacional (PCN)
Faxes: + 503 71 3406

Salutation: Estimado Sr.

2) Sr. Fidel Chávez Mena
Partido Demócrata Cristiano (PDC)
Faxes: + 503 71 2748

Salutation: Estimado Sr.

3) Sr. Rubén Ignacio Zamora Rivas
Convergencia Democrática (CD)
Faxes: + 503 71 0517

Salutation: Estimado Sr.

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4) Sra. Mercedes Gloria Salguero Gross
Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA)
Faxes: + 503 71 2520

Salutation: Estimado Sra.

and the National Secretary for Communications:

Lic. Ernesto Altschul

Secretario Nacional de Comunicaciones

**Telegrams: Secretario Nacional de Comunicaciones Altschul, San Salvador
El Salvador**

Faxes: + 503 81 42 09

Telexes: 30344 RS SAL

Salutation: Sr. Secretario Nacional de Comunicaciones

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Newspapers:

Diario Latino

Faxes: + 503 71 09 71

Diario El Mundo

Faxes: + 503 71 43 42

Proceso

Faxes: + 503 73 35 56

Radio station:

Radio Cadena Sonora

Faxes: + 503 26 87 43

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 March 1993.