

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 31/93 (AMR 29/04/93, 17 March 1993 and follow-ups AMR 29/05/93, 19 March 1993 and AMR 29/06/93, 22 March 1993) - Legal Concern

**EL SALVADOR: Amnesty law for human rights violators awaiting imminent ratification**

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The *Ley de Amnistía General para la Consolidación de la Paz*, (General Amnesty Law for the Consolidation of Peace), which grants "broad, absolute and unconditional amnesty" to those responsible for human rights abuses, was approved by the Salvadorian Legislative Assembly on Saturday 20 March and is expected to be ratified imminently by President Cristiani.

If ratified, the law will shield from prosecution those responsible for the extrajudicial execution, "disappearance" and torture of thousands of Salvadorians during the country's armed conflict, which ended in January 1992.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International believes the law shows a blatant disregard for the rights of the victims of human rights abuses and their relatives, and for well established principles of international law. Moreover, it would seriously undermine the work of the Truth Commission, a UN-appointed body set up to investigate human rights abuses by the government and FMLN during the war.

In its report published on 15 March, the Commission produced evidence of the Salvadorian army's responsibility for human rights abuses on massive scale and also held the FMLN responsible for a number of extrajudicial executions. The law has been condemned by opposition leaders, Salvadorian human rights groups and prominent church figures.

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

- expressing grave concern that the Legislative Assembly approved the *Ley de Amnistía General para la Consolidación de la Paz* on 20 March 1993;

- pointing out that the amnesty law, by granting impunity to human rights violators, not only contradicts the spirit of the Truth Commission's recommendations, but contravenes provisions in the Salvadorian Constitution and in international human rights standards to which El Salvador is party;

- urging the President to show his firm commitment to human rights by not ratifying this or any law which would block investigations into human rights abuses and which would prevent the prosecution of those responsible;

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of the Republic:

S.E. Lic Alfredo Cristiani Burkard

Presidente de la República de El Salvador

**Telegrams: Presidente Cristiani, San Salvador, El Salvador**

**Faxes: + 503 81 00 18**

**Telexes: 20245 RS SAL ; 20522 PRESS SAL**

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente**

**COPIES 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

Human Rights Organization:

Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador (CDHES)

Faxes: + 503 71 28 86

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

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY TO ARRIVE IN EL SALVADOR BY 6 May 1993.**