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El Salvador: violent attack against Asociación PRO- BÚSQUEDA must be urgently investigated

Amnesty International is seriously concerned at the news that in the early hours of 14 November, the Asociación PRO- BÚSQUEDA suffered a violent attack. Three armed men subjected the organization's driver, the security guard and the president of the Executive Committee – the latter of whom was at the office at the time of the attack - to various acts of violence. The armed men then proceeded to burn documents, steal files and set fire to the office, causing serious damage and losses. Several hours later, a PRO- BÚSQUEDA employee was followed on her way to work.

These incidents must be urgently investigated and those responsible brought to justice. The attack is an affront to the victims of enforced disappearance in El Salvador, their relatives and those who have supported them during their many years defending human rights and searching for justice. For decades PRO-BÚSQUEDA has been instrumental in the investigation of these cases and in bringing them before the courts. PRO-BÚSQUEDA has also worked to coordinate the efforts of relatives and to provide psycho-social support to family members searching for children disappeared during the armed conflict.