

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

9 February 1982

EL SALVADOR: Manuel DE PAZ
Walter Giovanni CALDERON IRASTA
José Francisco ZAMBRANO BENITEZ
José Francisco MELGARA
Rigoberto CALDERON ALVARADO
Ana Elizabeth MOYA FRANCO

Manuel de Paz, secretary general of the Salvadorian Social Security Institute (*Sindicato de Trabajadores de Instituto Salvadoreño de Seguro Social*), was abducted at 9.00 am on 28 January 1982 in the Boulevard de los Heroes in San Salvador. He was abducted by armed men in civilian clothes who, according to eyewitnesses, are believed to have been members of the security forces. Aged 46, Sr. de Paz is married and had three children

José Francisco Melgara, a small farmer aged 66, was seized by army troops at 9.30 pm on 15 January 1982 at his home in Avenida Ruana in San Salvador.

Rigoberto Calderon Alvarado, a shoemaker aged 52, was detained on 20 January 1982 at his home/shop in calle Francisco Menendez, Barrio Candalaria, San Salvador, together with two of his assistants, Walter Giovanni Calderon Irasta, aged 19, and José Francisco Zambrano Benitez, also aged 19. They were all taken away by army troops.

Ana Elizabeth Moya Franco, aged 18, was detained on the morning of 2 February 1982 by army troops at her home in Colonia Joya de Sereno, San Juan, San Salvador.

There are grave fears for the safety of all these people. Of the thousands of people abducted by Salvadorian security services, very many have been subsequently tortured, murdered or have "disappeared".

Background information

Amnesty International continues to receive persistent reports of human rights violations on a massive scale in El Salvador. Although these violations of human rights are occurring at a time of continuing civil conflict between guerrilla groups and the Salvadorian authorities, torture, "disappearances" and cold-blooded murder are being carried out by the Salvadorian security services against people not involved in guerrilla activities. Testimonies received by Amnesty International implicate all branches of the Salvadorian security services in gross abuses of human rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters/letters expressing concern about the detention of these people and urging that their physical safety be guaranteed. Request clarification of their whereabouts and legal situation.

Appeals to:

Coronel Rafael Flores Lima
Jefe de Estado Mayor del Ejército
Calle Concepción, Final Pasaje Merazo

Coronel Jaime Abdul Gutierrez
Vice-presidente de la Junta de El
Salvador

San Salvador, El Salvador

(Army Chief-of-Staff)

Casa Presidencial

San Salvador, El Salvador

(Vice-President)

COPIES TO:

Orientación (newspaper of Archbishopric)

Arzobispado de San Salvador

Seminario San José de la Montaña

San Salvador, El Salvador

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Appeals may continue until 9 March 1982.