

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"/ Fear of torture

16 June 1983

EL SALVADOR: Isaac Nelson RENDEROS SILIEZAR
Arelly RENDEROS SILIEZAR, wife of the above
Carmen AQUINADA (also reported as Sonia AGUINADA)
Adelina CHICAS and her daughter, Elizabeth
Alfredo ACOSTA, his wife, three children and three other unidentified people
Dr. Vincente AREVALO. Former dean of the San Salvador Medical School

Isaac Nelson Renderos Siliezar was reportedly detained by the National Guard at 7.30 p.m. on 1 June 1983 while waiting for his wife in his care in a shopping centre in San Salvador. Later that same night, police went to his home and arrested his wife and three children, aged four to seven. Carmen Aquinada, Adelina Chicas and her daughter, Elizabeth, were also arrested on 1 June. The children were later released but the others were reported to be held at the National Police Headquarters in San Salvador.

A report in the national newspaper *El Mundo* subsequently quoted a police communique stating that Isaac Renderos had committed suicide while in detention, despite previous denials by the authorities that he was being held. His death was also reported by the Archbishop of San Salvador in his weekly homily on 5 June. Isaac Renderos is alleged to have died by from hanging in the basement of the National Police Headquarters. The authorities continue to deny that they are holding the three women.

Alfredo Acosta, former deputy in the Salvadorian National Assembly in 1974 and member of the *Unión Democrática Nacionalista* (UDN), National Democratic Union, was reportedly taken from his home in San Salvador, together with his wife and three children and three other unidentified people, at 8 p.m. on 8 June 1983. (The UDN currently forms part of the *Frente Democrático Revolucionario* (FDR), Revolutionary Democratic Front, a coalition of forces in opposition to the present Salvadorian Government, made up of political parties, trades unions and mass organizations.)

Dr. Vincente Arévalo, a former dean of San Salvador Medical School, was reportedly taken from his home in Santa Ana on 9 June 1983 by uniformed men.

So far as Amnesty International is aware, the detentions of Alfredo Acosta, those arrested with him, and Dr. Vincente Arévalo have not been acknowledged.

Amnesty International has been following the human rights situation in El Salvador closely for a number of years and has concluded that the security forces have been regularly involved in a systematic and widespread program of torture, "disappearance", and individual and mass killings of men, women and children. Under a recent amnesty law passed by the Salvadorian Constituent Assembly on 4 May 1983, as many as 500 political prisoners have been released. However, the law does not benefit the several thousand people who have "disappeared" in El Salvador over the last few years, who are believed to be held in secret detention centres. Many others are believed to have been killed by the security forces or paramilitary groups. Despite the recent releases, Amnesty International continues to receive regular reports of arbitrary detention, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial executions of non-combatant civilians in El Salvador.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters/letters :

- expressing concern at the reported detentions of these people and urging that they be humanely treated while in detention;

- requesting clarification of their whereabouts and legal status and urging that they be immediately released unless formally charged and brought before a court;

- expressing concern at reports that Isaac Nelson Renderos Siliezar committed suicide while in detention and urging that an independent investigation be carried out to determine the cause of his death.

APPEALS TO:

S.E. don Alvaro Magaña
Presidente de la República de El Salvador
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

*Telegrams to: Presidente Magaña,
San Salvador, El Salvador*

Coronel Carlos López Nuila
Director de la Policía Nacional
6ª Calle Oriente
San Salvador, El Salvador
(*Director of National Police*)

*Telegrams to : Sr. López Nuila,
Director, Policía Nacional,
San Salvador, El Salvador*

General Carlos Eugenio Vides
Casanova
Ministro de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad
Pública
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

(*Minister of Defence*)

*Telegrams to: Ministro Defensa Vides
Casanova, San Salvador, El Salvador*

COPIES TO:

Dr. Benjamin Custoni
CDHES (gubernamental)
2ª Planta, Fiscalía General de la República
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador

(*human rights commission*)

Diario El Mundo
2ª Av. Norte 211
San Salvador, El Salvador
(*newspaper*)

Oficina de Tutela Legal del Arzobispado
Comisión Arquidiocesano de Justicia y Paz
Apartado 2253
San Salvador, El Salvador
(*Commission for Justice and Peace*)

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

For Alfredo Acosta; appeals from PARLIAMENTARIANS are urged.

For Dr. Vincente Arévalo: appeals from MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS/ACADEMICS are urged

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 28 July 1983