



**URGENT
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture/Legal Concern

25 July 1986

EL SALVADOR: Joaquin RODRIGUEZ

Amnesty International is concerned at the reported abduction and shooting of Joaquin Rodriguez, a 34-year-old refugee worker with the Catholic Archdiocese. He was abducted on 24 July 1986 as he was leaving the church-run Domos Maria Refugee Camp, in the Colonia Mexicanos, on the outskirts of San Salvador, El Salvador.

Joaquin Rodriguez was leaving the camp, having assisted with the transfer there of a number of displaced persons, when two large vans with polarized windows drew up alongside him and three armed men in civilian clothes attempted to force him into one of the vans. Joaquin Rodriguez managed to break free from his captors and while attempting to make his escape, was shot and subsequently wounded. Witnesses to the shooting reportedly stated that his abductors then bundled him into the van and made off towards an unknown destination. There are fears for his safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned that church workers, including relief and refugee workers, social workers, working with the Archdiocese and human rights workers have been specific targets of harassment and human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearances", arbitrary arrests and torture over a period of several years.

On 9 July 1986 Amnesty International launched appeals on behalf of five social workers, including the leader of the Social Secretariat of the Archdiocese of San Salvador, who had received death threats on 28 June 1986 from anonymous telephone callers, stating that they had eight days in which to leave the country or they would be killed. During that weekend, several doctors and medical workers working with displaced people housed by the Catholic Church were also reported to have received death threats.

Included in the appeal also were sisters Gloria aged 22 and Elizabet GALAN GARCIA aged 20, detained on 6 July by members of the Treasury Police. Gloria Galan is a member of the Comité de Madres y Familiares de Presos Políticos, Desaparecidos y Asesinados de El Salvador "Monsenor Oscar Arnulfo Romero" (Co-Madres), Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express letters/airmail letters:

- urging that an immediate investigation be launched into the reported shooting and abduction of Joaquin Rodriguez;
- asking that, if held by security forces, his detention be acknowledged, his whereabouts be made known and legal situation clarified;
- asking that, if detained, he be treated humanely and that he receive adequate medical treatment for the injuries sustained during his abduction.

☎ 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for all *political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners*.

APPEALS TO:

Exmo. Sr. José Napoleón Duarte
Presidente de la República
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams to: Presidente Duarte,
San Salvador, El Salvador
Telexes: 20445 cgfa sal; 20245 rs sal

Dr Benjamin Valdez
Ministro de Salud Pública
Ministerio de Salud Pública
Calle Arce 827
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams to: Ministro Salud Publica,
San Salvador, El Salvador

Gral. Carlos Vides Casanova
Ministro de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y de Seguridad Pública
Doble Via a Santa Tecla
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams to: Ministro Defensa,
San Salvador, El Salvador

COPIES TO:

Dr José Francisco Guerrero
Procurador General
1a Av. Norte y 5a Calle Poniente
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Attorney General)

Mons. Arturo Rivera y Damas
Arzobispo
Arzobispado de San Salvador
1 Calle Poniente 3412, Apdo. 01-126
San Salvador, El Salvador

(Archbishop)

Dr Mauricio Ernesto Ponce
Presidente
Colegio Médico de El Salvador
Final Pasaje No. 10
Colonia Miramonte
San Salvador, El Salvador

(President of Medical Association)

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 September 1986.

- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

- The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.