

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AMR 29/03/83
Distr: UA**

15 February 1983

Further information on - UA 243/82 (AMR 29/87/82 21 October, AMR 29/90/82 28 October)
EL SALVADOR: Mauricio DOMENECH

- UA 250/82 (AMR 29/88/82 22 October, AMR 29/91/82 28 October)
EL SALVADOR: Professor Carlos MOLINA

- UA 252/82 (AMR 29/89/82 26 October)
EL SALVADOR:

Luis Antonio MENJIVAR	Jorge HERRERA
David Elias GUADRON VALENCIA	Carlos MENJIVAR
Pedro RAMIREZ ESQUIVEL	Hector FERNANDEZ
Pablo RAMIREZ CORNEJO	Daniel AVALOS
Berta Alicia CASTRO	Vicente ORTIZ
Raúl Antonio CASTRO PALOMARES	

Between 8 and 21 October 1982 several leaders of trade unions and the Frente Democrático Revolucionario (FDR – Democratic Revolutionary Front) were abducted by groups of armed men in civilian clothes. On 25 October 1982 the Salvadorian army confirmed that eight were being held in military jails for “conspiracy against state security and destroying the national economy”. Those acknowledged to be in prison are:

Mauricio Domenech	Jorge Herrera
Luis Antonio Menjivar Rivera	Professor Carlos Molina
David Elis Guadron Valencia	Berta Alicia
Victor Jovel	Julio Cesar Saravia Martinez

(Victor Jovel and Julio Cesar Saravia Martinez were not included in the original Urgent Actions.)

All eight were charged with conspiracy and sabotage against the State under the State of Siege Decree 507. They are at present believed to be held in La Esperanza prison, Mariona.

Five others later re-appeared in La Esperanza prison, Mariona, also charged under Decree 507:

Pedro Ramirez Esquivel	David Elias Guadron Valencia
Pedro Ramirez Cornejo	Daniel Avalos
Raúl Antonio Castro Palomares	

Amnesty International is unable to confirm whether Hector Fernandez and Victor Ortiz (possibly Silvestre Ortiz Hernandez) are still in detention. Their arrests have never been acknowledged by the Salvadorian security forces and there is considerable concern for their safety.

A representative of the Americas Watch Committee, a US body set up to monitor human rights particularly with regard to US foreign policy, was able to interview two of the prisoners, Mauricio Domenech and Carlos Alberto Molina, in Mariona prison. During the interview, the two men are reported to have made the following statements:

“- that their abductors were armed men in civilian dress
- that they were forced into waiting vehicles, blindfolded, and tied with their thumbs behind their backs

- that they were interrogated constantly without sleeping, and later forced to sign confessions they had not read
- that the focus of the questions was to establish that they were members of the FDR-FMLN and responsible for everything that was happening in El Salvador
- that they had not been informed of the charges against them, knew only what had been printed in local newspapers, and had no access to counsel.”

According to the Second Supplement to the Report on Human Rights in El Salvador published by the Americas Watch Committee and the American Civil Liberties Union, a US Embassy official in El Salvador stated in an interview on 10 January 1983 that the abductions of the FDR leaders were carried out by the *Policia de Hacienda (Treasury Police)*.

Further recommended action:

For those held in La Esperanza prison, Mariona, please send letters requesting details of the charges against them and urging that they be given a fair trial in accordance with internationally recognized legal standards and that they be given access to lawyers of their choice. Request that their physical safety be guaranteed while in detention.

For Hector Fernandez and Victor Ortiz, send letters expressing concern about their reported detention and urging that they be humanely treated while in detention. Request clarification of their whereabouts and legal situation, including details of charges, if any, and urge that they be immediately released unless charged and brought before a court of law.

Letters should be sent to:

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

Sr. Manuel Sermeno
Ministro del Interior
Ministeria del Interior
San Salvador, El Salvador

Sr. Director
Centro Penitenciario La Esperanza
Calle A, Canton Mariona
Mejicanos, San Salvador, El Salvador
(*Director of La Esperanza prison*)

Copies may be sent to:

Oficina de Tutela Legal del Arzobispado
Comisión Arquidiocesano de Justicia y Paz
Apdo. 2253
San Salvador, El Salvador

(*a new group working with the archbishopric of San Salvador on human rights-related questions*)
And to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives.

Please check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 29 March 1983.