

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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Further information on UA 15/85 (AMR 29/01/85 14 January) – “Disappearance”

**EL SALVADOR: Salvador ESCALANTE CHAVEZ  
Gilberto Vladimir FLORES ALEGRIA**

Amnesty International has received reports that the detention of Salvador Escalante has now been acknowledged by the National Police and that he is under investigation. The acknowledgement came after some of Sr. Escalante's fellow workers had followed the car in which he was driven away to the National Police headquarters.

Salvador Escalante's employer reportedly intends to bring charges of “destabilization” against him under Decree Law 50 of 24 February 1984. Decree 50 replaces Decree 507 of 3 December 1980 and establishes the legal framework for the conduct of criminal proceedings against persons suspected of crimes against the state. It defines “sabotage” as one such crime, but Amnesty International believes that Salvador Escalante's detention is the result of his legitimate trade union activities as Secretary General of the *Federación Sindical Revolucionaria* (FSR – Revolutionary Trade Union Federation).

Amnesty International is also concerned that Decree 50 permits the incommunicado detention of detainees for up to 15 days. It considers that this legal incommunicado detention period facilitates the use of torture in the interrogation of prisoners.

No further information has been received concerning Gilberto Vladimir Flores Alegria, who was seized by armed men in plain clothes on 9 January 1985 in Ciudad Delgado, San Salvador department. He is an employee of the *Universidad Nacional del Salvador*.

Further recommended action: Please send further appeals:

- requesting details of any charges against Salvador Escalante Chavez and urging that he be immediately released if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence. Seek reassurances that he is being humanely treated while in National Police custody.
- requesting clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of Gilberto Flores Alegria. Urge that, if detained, he is humanely treated.

Appeals to:

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

Sr. Director General de la Policía Nacional  
6a Calle Oriente  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(Director General of National Police)*

Copies to:

CDHES  
Dr Benjamin Cestoni  
2a Planta  
Edif. Fiscalía General de la República

Centro de Gobierno  
San Salvador, El Salvador

*(governmental human rights commission)*

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

*Please organize some appeals from TRADE UNIONISTS on behalf of Salvador Escalante and from ACADEMICS for Gilberto Flores.*

Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 February 1985.