

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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Fear of Torture

15 June 1989

**EL SALVADOR:** José Tomás MAZARIEGO  
Gregorio OSORIO DURAN

Amnesty International has received reports of the detention of José Tomás Mazariego, the international affairs officer of the *Asociación Salvadoreña de Trabajadores de Telecomunicaciones (ASTTEL)*, Salvadorian Union of Telecommunications Workers, and member of the international relations committee of the *Unión Nacional de los Trabajadores Salvadoreños (UNTS)*, National Union of Salvadorian Workers, by members of the *Policía de Hacienda*, Treasury Police, in San Salvador.

He was reportedly captured at around 6.30 pm on 12 June 1989 by armed men in plainclothes who were following him in two vehicles, after he had left the USA Embassy where he was applying for a visa to travel to the United States in order to visit US labour leaders and members of Congress. He was held at gunpoint and driven away in a blue van with license number plates B-161781. According to reports, shots were fired at José Basilio Chavez, Secretary of ASTTEL, who was walking with José Tomás Mazariego at the time of his capture. He was not injured and managed to escape. Both union leaders had been previously detained. José Basilio Chavez was arrested on 25 May 1989 outside the UNTS's office and held at the Treasury Police where he was reportedly ill-treated before being released on 30 May 1989. José Tomás Mazariego had been detained on 9 April 1989 and was released next day. He was also allegedly ill-treated while detained.

Amnesty International has also learned of the arrest of Gregorio Osorio Duran, secretary general of the *Federación de Asociaciones Sindicales Independientes de El Salvador (FEASIES)*, Association of Independent Trade Unions Federation of El Salvador. He was arrested at his home in Soyapango at about 6am on 13 January 1989 by members of the Guardia Nacional (National Guard) after they had raided the house.

Both detentions have been acknowledged. José Tomás Mazariego is being held at the headquarters of the Treasury Police and Gregorio Osorio Duran at the headquarters of the National Guard. Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of José Tomás Mazariego and Gregorio Osorio Duran and fears they may be subjected to torture and ill-treatment while in detention.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned about human rights violations committed against leaders and members of trade unions in El Salvador who are, according to reports, frequent victims of detention without warrant, periods of investigative detention beyond the constitutional maximum, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. (See Human rights violations directed against trade unionists, 1 June 1989, AI Index: AMR 29/14/89). Trade union offices have been frequent targets of attacks, and trade unionists have also been victims of apparent extrajudicial executions by the security forces or "death squads". Amnesty International has appealed for investigations into the fate of alleged "disappearances" of trade unionists, with no response, and continues to ask for independent investigations to be carried out into all killings which circumstances suggest may have been extrajudicial executions.

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

- asking for guarantees that the physical integrity of trade unionist leaders José Tomás Mazariego and Gregorio Osorio Duran be respected while in detention;

- requesting details of the charges against them, and urging that they be released unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

S.E. Alfredo Cristiani  
Presidente de la República de El Salvador  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Presidente Cristiani,  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
Telexes; 20245 RS SAL; 20522

Sr. Mauricio González Dubon  
Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión Social  
Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social  
2a Av. Norte 428  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión Social  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
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COPIES TO:

Lic. Benjamin Cestoni  
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador, gubernamental (CDH)  
Paseo Gral Escalon  
87 Av. Sur, Block 2 No. 226  
Col. Escalón  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
(governmental human rights commission)

Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador, no-gubernamental (CDHES)  
Urbanización La Esperanza  
Pasaje 1, No 117  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
(non-governmental human rights commission)

Unión Nacional de Trabajadores Salvadoreños (UNTS)  
17 Calle Oriente No. 121  
San Miguelito  
San Salvador, El Salvador

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 July 1989