

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture/extrajudicial killing

15 April 1981

**EL SALVADOR: (1) Manuel de Jesus RODRIGUEZ RUIZ
(2) 20 trade union leaders**

(1) AI has received reports that Manuel de Jesus Rodriguez Ruiz, aged 21, was abducted by agents of the National Guard (*Guardia Nacional*) in San Salvador on 4 April 1981. According to reports, he was blindfolded and taken away in a car. There has since been no news of his whereabouts and there is very serious concern about his safety.

(2) On 9 April 1981 20 trade union leaders in the textile industry who were meeting in a factory in San Salvador were arrested by agents of the National Guard. So far, the names of three of those arrested are known:

Miguel Angel AZUCENA

Alejandro Antonio CARRANZA

Alfonso REIME MELENDEZ (Secretary General of the union)

The present whereabouts of the 20 trade unionists are not known. There are fears that they may "disappear" and be killed if their detention is not officially acknowledged.

Background information

Thousands of Salvadorians have been killed over the past year. The government attributes the deaths to murder by unofficial groups or to fighting between government and guerrilla forces. However, Amnesty International has accumulated unequivocal evidence that there is a consistent pattern of killing by the security forces of peasants, young people and other victims who have not been involved in guerrilla activities.

On 9 April 1981 Amnesty International sent a telegram to the Salvadorian authorities urging them to investigate the reported massacre on 7 April 1981 of more than 20 people in a suburb of San Salvador. Witnesses told reporters that the killings were carried out by the National Guard and the police. At the same time Amnesty International called on the government of El Salvador to guarantee the safety of 138 people named on an apparent death list published by the Salvadorian army in early April 1981. The list includes the names of priests, human rights activists, university rectors and former members of the government.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: *A limited number of appeals only is required;
please organize only a few appeals per UA group.*

- (1) Telegrams/express letters requesting clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of Manuel de Jesus Rodriguez Ruiz, and urging the government to do everything possible to ensure his physical safety.
- (2) Telegrams/express letters asking for clarification of the whereabouts and legal situation of the 20 trade unionists arrested on 9 April, including Miguel Angel Azucena, Alejandro Antonio Carranza and Alfonso Reime Melendez, and urging the government to guarantee their physical safety.

APPEALS TO:

Col. Dem. Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova
Director de la Guardia Nacional

Colonia Atlactl
San Salvador, El Salvador.

COPIES TO:

Uno más Uno (Mexican newspaper)
Miguel Angel 94
Mexico 19 DF
Mexico

and to Salvadorian diplomatic representatives in your own country.

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 16 May 1981