



Embassy of the United States of America

REVIEWED BY W. B. [unclear] DATE 3-30-84

San Salvador, El Salvador

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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS \_\_\_\_\_  
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PA OF FOI EXEMPTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

April 12, 1984

**EXCISE**

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*[Handwritten signature]*

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

I am writing in response to your March 7 letter to President Alvaro Magaña, a copy of which we received on March 22, requesting information on the whereabouts of several members of the Salvadoran academic community. Following is the information we have at the present time on each case.

**CLAUDINA CALDERON:** According to the non-governmental Human Rights Commission, Ms. Calderon, a student at the University of Central America Jose Simeon Canas, disappeared along with two other women on June 29, 1983. In December, the Embassy contacted the government's Human Rights Commission, the National Police, the Treasury Police, and Ilopango Women's Prison, none of whom had any information on Ms. Calderon's whereabouts. Last week we again contacted Ilopango Prison and also Socorro Juridico, another private human rights organization and were told Ms. Calderon is still missing.

**JUAN FRANCISCO AGUIRRE:** According to Tutela Legal, Prof. Aguirre, a teacher at the Law School of the National University, was kidnapped the night of November 23, 1983 by armed men in civilian dress. A member of his family told Tutela Legal, the Church's human rights office, that he was seen at the National Guard headquarters. However, the governmental Human Rights Commission contacted the National Guard, the Treasury Police, the National Police, the Air Force and the Army, all of which reported having no knowledge of Prof. Aguirre's whereabouts. Mariona Prison informed us last week that Prof. Aguirre was not being held at the prison.

**JOSE ALONSO ENELSON ESCOBAR AGUILAR:** According to Tutela Legal, Prof. Escobar Aguilar was taken from his home the night of November 30, 1983 by armed men in civilian clothes who forced him into a car and drove him away.

All three Security Forces informed Tutela Legal that they had no information on Prof. Escobar Aguilar's whereabouts. Some time later, the family identified the Professor's body, which had been found in Sacacoyo, La Libertad Department.

~~SECRET~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~NO LABEL~~: Professor Cardona, a professor of biology at the National University, had been reported missing since witnesses informed Tutela Legal that he was abducted on November 10, 1983. Professor Cardona's mother also reported that later that afternoon, uniformed men thought to be from the Treasury Police, searched her son's house. On November 21, Prof. Cardona reappeared at a press conference held at the National Guard headquarters, in which he stated that he had never been kidnapped but instead had renounced his association with the FPL (one of the guerrilla groups) and sought the protection of the Armed Forces. We checked with Mariona Prison last week in an attempt to locate Prof. Cardona and were told that he is not being detained there. The National Guard informs us that on November 23, Prof. Cardona left their headquarters in the company of his mother, telling the National Guard that he intended to leave for Europe. The Guard has no further information. We are attempting to contact the mother to learn her son's whereabouts.

Your final inquiry related to the alleged detention of staff members of the Central de Apuntes of the Facultad de Economia. We contacted the National University and were told that during 1983 several of their students had disappeared and that on January 19, 1984 another Economics student was arrested. The only staff members from the School currently under detention are six office workers who were among eight employees arrested by the National Police during a raid on November 11, 1983 on the School's print shop. According to the Armed Forces Press Committee release, the National Police confiscated a number of subversive documents, and government authorities claimed that the print shop was publishing a subversive newspaper. The eight employees were sent to Mariona Prison. Two have recently been released.

I hope this information is useful to you.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Butenis  
Staff Aide