

**URGENT
ACTION**

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ACTION**

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Legal Concern

2 November 1982

URUGUAY: Carlos RODRIGUEZ LABRUNA
Dr Alberto ZUMARAN

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Amnesty International has received reports that Carlos Rodríguez Labruna and Dr Alberto Zumarán, both members of the *Partido Nacional*, the National Party (known traditionally as the *Blancos*), were arrested by police in their homes on the night of 27 October 1982. They are currently being held incommunicado in the *Jefatura de Policía*, Canelones. It is believed that they are to face legal proceedings before a military court.

Both Carlos Rodríguez Labruna and Dr Alberto Zumarán were standing as candidates for the *Blancos* in the internal party elections scheduled for 28 November 1982. Dr Alberto Zumarán is editor of the newspaper *La Democracia* which was closed down by the government for six months on 1 July 1982 for having published articles critical of the government. Dr Zumarán was arrested around 2 September 1982 and held in the *Cárcel Central* until he was released provisionally on 9 September. He, together with another journalist, Rubén Martínez Huelmo, still face charges for *desacato* (disrespect).

It is believed that the decision to try Carlos Rodríguez Labruna and Dr Alberto Zumarán before a military court indicates that the alleged offences for which they have now been arrested are being treated as offences under the Military Penal Code rather than as infractions of the electoral law, which would be heard by a civil court.

It is believed that Carlos Rodríguez Labruna and Dr Alberto Zumarán have been accused of breaking the rules governing the electoral process. The government has recently issued public warnings against politicians who publicly criticize or fail to observe these rules and voice open criticism of the armed forces during the electoral campaign.

On 25 October 1982 Amnesty International issued Urgent Action appeals on behalf of four other Blanco Party candidates - Horacio Terra Gallinal, Rodolfo Sadaín, Tomás Larregui and Carlos Pita - who were arrested on 20 October 1982 following a political rally held by the Blanco Party. Carlos Pita and Tomás Larregui were subsequently released but Horacio Terra Gallinal and Rodolfo Sadaín are reported to be still in detention and facing charges, together with Carlos Pita, under article 58 (1) of the Military Penal Code, "*ataque a la fuerza moral de las fuerzas armadas*" (attacking the morale of the armed forces).

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Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation.

On 28 November 1982 each of the three political parties permitted under the recent *Ley Orgánica de los Partidos Políticos* (that is, the Colorado Party, the Blancos and the *Unión Cívica*) will elect 500 delegates to a convention at which party leaders will be elected at a second stage of voting. The *Ley Orgánica* also lays down rules for the holding of political rallies, including article 51 (c) which provides prison sentences of 3 to 6 months for those found responsible for mentioning in political publicity or speeches the names of politicians whose political rights have been suspended by Institutional Act No 4 of September 1976. This ban prohibits the mention of thousands of people, including prominent leaders of the Blancos and Colorado parties.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the reported arrest of Carlos Rodríguez Labruna and Dr Alberto Zumarán, asking for the reasons for their arrest and requesting that they be granted immediate access to a lawyer and to their families
- urging their immediate release if, as the available evidence suggests, they have been arrested for the non-violent expression of their political opinions

APPEALS TO:

Exmo. Sr. Presidente de la República
Tte. General (R) Gregorio Alvarez
Casa de Gobierno
Plaza Independencia
Montevideo, Uruguay

Telegrams to: Presidente Alvarez,
Montevideo, Uruguay

Jefe de Policía
Coronel Oscar Macía
Jefatura de Policía
Canelones
Uruguay

Telegrams to: Cor. Macía, Jefe
Policía, Canelones, Uruguay

Presidente del Supremo Tribunal Militar
Coronel Dr Federico Silva Ledesma
Canelones 2335
Montevideo, Uruguay

Telegrams to: Cor. Silva Ledesma, Presidente
Supremo Tribunal Militar, Montevideo,
Uruguay

COPIES TO:

Colegio de Abogados del Uruguay
Colonia 909, Piso 4º Apto. 402
Montevideo, Uruguay

(Bar Association of Uruguay)

Opínar
Paraguay 1255, Apto. 202
Montevideo, Uruguay

(weekly newspaper)

and Uruguayan diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 2 December 1982.

- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

- Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 -- "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 -- "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 -- "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

- The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity are often more effective.

- Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new information.

Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your national section. Urgent Action coordinators or direct to the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.