

**URGENT  
ACTION**

**amnesty  
international**

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EXTERNAL (for  
general distribution)

International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England

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*Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition and infliction of death penalties and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons detained or restricted persons whether or not they have used or advocated violence.*

27 March 1981

UA 73/81

URUGUAY: Stela GONZALEZ VIDAL de FREGEIRO

(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))

COUNTRY	SECTION
DOSSIER	7

Stela Gonzalez Vidal de Fregeiro, a social worker aged 42, was arrested on 26 November 1980. The Uruguayan authorities gave no information about her detention until nearly a month later, on 20 December 1980, when she was named, with her photograph, in an official communique published in the Uruguayan press which alleged the discovery of "a vast subversive plot". Sra. Gonzalez's whereabouts have still not been made known, four months after her arrest. There are fears that she may have been tortured. Torture in incommunicado detention has been common in Uruguay under the present military government.

The alleged "plot" is purported to have been engineered by four named *Seisputistas*, alleged members of a sector of the MLN Tupamaro movement who are serving long sentences in Libertad prison. Those accused of being involved in the "plot" include relatives of detainees and three former prisoners who had recently been released but who were rearrested in the same period as Sra. Gonzalez. AI believes that the alleged "plot" is implausible, in particular because of the timing of the "revelations" which took place on the eve of the plebiscite on the revised Constitution, and also because of the disparate composition of the alleged "plotters", some of whom were under heavy surveillance in the high security section of Libertad prison.

AI believes that the real reason for the detention of Stela Gonzalez is because she had denounced the harassment of a number of prisoners, including her husband, Julio Fregeiro, a medical student, who has been held in Libertad prison since his arrest on political grounds in 1974, to international organizations. Relatives visiting prisoners in Libertad prison heard reports of increasingly brutal treatment of prisoners.

Stela and Julio Fregeiro have a son, aged 12, who is being cared for by his grandmother and who is reportedly under considerable emotional strain as a result of his parents' detention.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Telegrams/airmail letters expressing concern about the arrest and incommunicado detention of Stela Gonzalez Vidal de Fregeiro, requesting clarification of her whereabouts and assurances of her physical well-being, and urging her immediate release.

**APPEALS TO:** PLEASE ORGANIZE ONLY A FEW APPEALS PER UA GROUP.

Exmo. Sr. Ministro de Defensa Nacional  
Sr Walter Ravenna  
25 de Mayo 279  
Montevideo, Uruguay

Tte. General Luis Queirolo  
Comandante en Jefe del Ejército  
Soriano 1090  
Montevideo, Uruguay

.../...



General Julio César Rapela  
Comandante de la División de Ejército II  
18 de Julio 660  
San José, Uruguay

COPIES TO:

*El País* (newspaper)  
Cuareim 1287  
Montevideo, Uruguay

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 8 May 1981

☐ Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.

☐ Letters and telegrams should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to the 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 can be used unless stated otherwise; although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective.

☐ Information about the alleged connection of any person with an organization which is banned in their country is provided as background only and should not be included in appeals.

☐ In Urgent Action cases, where Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the possible ill-treatment of prisoners, appeals are issued when the circumstances of a person's arrest or disappearance make such treatment likely. Do not make direct accusations and, unless otherwise instructed, do not use the word "torture".

☐ Send at least one telegram or express letter immediately. Other letters can be sent afterwards to the addresses listed. Copies of letters should be sent to the relevant diplomatic representatives in your country. Copies of any replies received should be sent immediately to the International Secretariat, or to your national section or Urgent Action coordinator. Thank the official who has replied, requesting that you be kept informed about the case.