

EXTERNAL (for
general distribution)

AI Index: ACT 61/02/81

Distr: UA

18 May 1981

FURTHER INFORMATION ON URGENT ACTION CASES

7

UA 130/80 URUGUAY: Claudio Benech (AMR 52/15/80 23 June) - "Disappearance"/Fear of Torture

Claudio Benech, the author of various books on physics, was abducted from his home in Montevideo in early June 1980. AI feared that he may have been abducted by government agents and may have been tortured during the first period of detention. Initial attempts by his family to find out where he was being held proved unsuccessful.

Claudio Benech's detention was subsequently acknowledged by the authorities. At the end of 1980 he was granted provisional liberty to spend the New Year with his family. He then escaped by car to Brazil with his wife and two youngest children and was granted refugee status by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He has now been joined by his other children.

UA 205/80 URUGUAY: Dr Héctor Clavijo Fernandez, Luis Jorge Martinez Perez, Germán d'Elia (AMR 52/23/80 9 September, AMR 52/33/80 22 September) - Legal Concern/Fear of ill-treatment

Dr Héctor Clavijo Fernandez and Luis Jorge Martinez Perez, both Uruguayan lawyers were arrested in Montevideo in August 1980. Dr Clavijo is a leader of the *Partido Nacional* or *Blanco* Party which has been "in recess" since the armed forces came to power in Uruguay in 1973. Sr. Martinez Perez was believed to have been a supporter of the now-banned Socialist Party. AI later received news that both men had been released shortly after their arrest.

Also among several supporters of the Paraguayan Socialist Party arrested in August 1980 was a former Socialist member of parliament, Germán d'Elia. He too was subsequently released.

AI received the following letter from the International Department of the Uruguayan Socialist Party, based in Spain:

"Dear Friends

The representatives of the Socialist Party of Uruguay abroad wish to convey to you, through this letter, the recognition of our Party for the intensive solidarity campaign that your organization has carried out on the occasion of the repression suffered by our Party in Uruguay, during August and September of this year.

This fraternal solidarity has made it possible for our colleague and President, Dr José Pedro Cardoso, to recover his freedom, as well as a large number of socialist colleagues who were detained during August and September....

...The freedom of our colleagues shows the importance of international solidarity. Solidarity is essential also to maintain and increase the international isolation of the fascist dictatorship of Uruguay."