

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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

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 prisoners or other detained or restricted persons whether or not they have used or advocated violence

(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))

COUNTRY	SECTION
DOSSIER	7

EXTERNAL (for
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HISTORICAL FILE

18 July 1980

Further information on UA 113/80 (AMR 52/11/80 10 June) - Disappearance

URUGUAY: Gabriela RIET
Maria de los Angeles MICHELENA
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AI has now learnt that Gabriela Riet was released from detention on 19 June 1980, just over three weeks after her arrest in Montevideo by security forces in May 1980. It appears that she was arrested in order to be interrogated about her brother, Gerardo Riet, who was arrested during the first week of May 1980.

Gerardo Riet, a twenty-four-year-old construction worker who is married with one child, was abducted from his home by the armed forces. Together with a work colleague, whose name is unknown, Gerardo Riet had asked for a salary increase on behalf of all the workers at the firm where he was employed. As a result, the two men were sacked. Their fellow workers then went on strike in protest against their dismissal and, according to reports, the armed forces were sent to the two men's home in order to detain them. Since their arrest there has been no news of their whereabouts and there are grave fears that they may be tortured while in incommunicado detention.

Maria de los Angeles Michelena is still in detention; her family have not been allowed to visit her and, according to reports, she has been badly tortured and is in a very poor state of health. The reason for her arrest is still not known.

AI has also heard of another arrest which appears to have been connected with the 1 May demonstrations in Montevideo. Manuel PRIEGUE was arrested at the beginning of May 1980 and there has since been no information about where he is being held. AI is concerned that Sr Priegue may be tortured while in detention. He is married and has 2 children.

Further recommended action: Please renew appeals on behalf of Maria de los Angeles Michelena, asking for clarification of her whereabouts and legal situation and for assurances regarding her physical safety.

Please also ask for information about where Gerardo Riet and Manuel Priegue are being held and for guarantees of their physical safety.

Please send appeals to the addresses given on the original Urgent Action.

FINAL DATE FOR ACTION: 29 August 1980

Y agregó que las detenciones incomunicado, los juicios injustos, la tortura y los arrestos por cargos vagamente definidos, como el de "asociación subversiva", se han convertido en algo corriente desde que las fuerzas armadas suspendieron la vida política normal del país.

Entre los arrestos más recientes se cuentan los de políticos que se han atrevido a sugerir la discusión pública de la futura Constitución. La organización informó que entre las víctimas de arrestos anteriores figuraban periodistas, abogados, sindicalistas y otros que intentaron criticar o discutir pacíficamente las directrices gubernamentales.

Amnistía Internacional posee listas con cientos de nombres de personas que han sido torturadas mientras se hallaban bajo custodia. Ex-integrantes del ejército uruguayo han testimoniado que la tortura es sistemática. Personas sospechosas de ser opositores políticos han sido secuestradas -- tanto en Uruguay como en países vecinos -- y encarceladas o "desaparecidas". Algunos presos políticos han sido mantenidos bajo custodia en condiciones inhumanas largo tiempo después de haber cumplido sus sentencias.

Las bases constitucionales, estructuradas por la COMASPO (Comisión de Asuntos Políticos de las Fuerzas Armadas) forman parte de un plan militar para lo que el gobierno ha dado en llamar el proceso institucional hacia un gobierno civil.

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