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## COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of  
Discrimination and Protection  
of Minorities  
Thirty-eighth session  
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS  
INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF  
APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL  
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written communication submitted by Pax Christi, a non-governmental  
organization in consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is  
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[9 August 1985]

### The situation in El Salvador

Since the dispatch of its first fact-finding mission to El Salvador in June 1981, PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL has followed with particular interest the trend in the human rights situation in that country. Members and correspondents of PAX CHRISTI in El Salvador have specialized in fact-finding operations concerning violations of human rights and action designed to protect the civil population.

The election of President DUARTE to the Presidency of the Republic of El Salvador, following years of dictatorship, has been an important feature of the trend in the political situation. President DUARTE has publically undertaken to put an end to violations of human rights in his country, and particularly to the kidnappings and assassinations committed by the armed forces and paramilitary groups.

Nevertheless, even though such cases are fewer than in previous years, kidnappings and arbitrary executions are still going on. The following figures received from our correspondents cover the period January to June 1985.

1. Right to life1.1 Arbitrary executions (assassinations) alleged to have been committed by the armed forces of the Government and paramilitary organs (Death Squads) between January and June 1985

Sector or occupation	Number of victims						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total
Peasants	41	29	37	27	43	29	206
Manual workers	19	18	11	9	6	9	72
Students	13	6	11	6	12	7	55
White collar workers	8	5	7	14	5	4	43
Schoolteachers	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Tradespeople	15	6	10	17	8	11	67
Professional workers	4	2	1	4	2	3	16
Domestic service	-	1	9	9	3	4	26
Not specified	127	78	42	82	37	28	394 <u>b/</u>
Total	227	146	128	168	116	95	880 <u>a/</u>

N.B. a/ Grand Total. According to direct information compiled, 880 members of the civil population who refrained from taking part in military action in different parts of the country between the government armed forces and insurgents (guerrillas) died violent deaths, being arbitrarily executed (in groups or separately) by members of the armed forces and military groups. The number does not include members of the government armed forces and insurgents who died in military combat. The figures simply reflect data brought to the notice of Legal Aid in San Salvador, El Salvador.

b/ Not specified. Generally speaking, the civil victims in this category have met violent death as a result of air bombings or infantry operations by the government armed forces.

## 2. Right to personal freedom

The legal defence of the citizen is one of the objectives of Christian Legal Aid. According to data compiled by officials of Legal Aid in their work of providing legal assistance to prisoners held in custody for political reasons, the following cases of detentions and releases at the "La Esperanza" Penal Centre at Mariona are recorded:

Detainment and release of prisoners for political reasons at  
"La Esperanza" Penal Centre, Mariona

Month	Detained	Released
January	38	22
February	-*	47
March	46	29
April	42	15
May	37	-*
Total	162	98

N.B. In February it was not possible to compile information on prisoners detained at the Penal Centre of Mariona, nor was it possible to obtain information on releases from that Centre in May. As of May 1985, Christian Legal Aid in El Salvador states that the Penal Centre at Mariona houses a total of 402 male political prisoners and the Penal Centre of Ilopango a total of 40 female political prisoners.