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El Salvador: Union Leader Detained, Tortured During Interrogation

by Deborah Tyroler

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On July 8, Jorge Lopez, president of the Treasury Ministry Workers Union (AGEMHA), was abducted by members of the air force in civilian dress near the Ilopango air base. For two days, he was detained by the air force and subjected to physical and psychological abuse. On July 10, Lopez was transferred to the custody of Treasury Poliec headquarters, where the same treatment was applied until his release July 13. Lopez underwent interrogation on his work with the union, and future plans. He was also questioned on the activities and residences of union leadership colleagues. According to his interrogators, the union leaders are "guerrillas." Treasury Police spokespersons responded to calls from the US demand Lopez's immediate release by asserting that he had been arrested for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. (Basic data from 07/13/90 report by CISPES national office)

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