

El Salvador—cont'd

(continued from page 1) of trouble and he asked the unionists who had given them the document. He added that he was surprised the incident had caused so much concern. He didn't think the two were that important—he thought they were simply union members and workers.

REPRESSION AGAINST ASTTEL

Ramirez and Cabezas were lucky. Other Salvadoran unionists, especially members of the Salvadoran Association of Telecommunications Workers (ASTTEL), have not been as fortunate.

ASTTEL is the union at the government-owned telephone company ANTEL. ANTEL is controlled by the Salvadoran military. All of the ANTEL worksites have been militarized and the union's leaders have been locked out. ANTEL management has thrown out the contract and slashed wages and benefits, and for the last few months has been sponsoring a reign of terror against the union.

On March 17, ASTTEL member Alberto Luis Alfaro disappeared in San Salvador on his way to work. His current whereabouts are unknown. On April 13, Manuel de Jesus Rodas Barahona, another member of the union, was shot and killed in death squad style by two men who had been waiting outside his home in San Salvador. These are the fourth and fifth members of ASTTEL disappeared or assassinated since December.

On March 10, ASTTEL leader Humberto Centeno was arrested by the military and beaten. He was released a day and a half later, after a campaign which included protest marches in El Salvador and telegrams to the Salvadoran government from U.S. trade unionists. Since Centeno's release, three members of the union's executive board have been abducted, interrogated, beaten and then released. Two were warned to

Jamaica — cont'd

(continued from page 13) courts, the UAWU has tapped some of the country's top legal talent. This has been expensive. But now that it must cross the Atlantic to do battle at the Privy Council, the financial question takes on much more importance.

Solidarity messages and contributions can be sent to: Hampden Workers Support, c/o Social Action Centre, 9 Central Avenue, Kingston 10, Jamaica.

[Carl Feuer is vice president of AFT Local 2190 in Cortland, NY. He has been assisting the union effort at Hampden since September.]

sever their ties to ASTTEL or "face the consequences."

The New York Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador is urging unionists to write the president of ANTEL demanding that he stop the repression, end the lockout of the union leaders, de-militarize the worksites, and negotiate in good faith with ASTTEL.

'Proceed against them, using whatever means necessary to disappear them...to stop these individuals from distorting the image of the government.'

Write: Colonel Mauricio Daniel Vides Casanova, Gerente ANTEL, Centro de Gobierno, San Salvador, El Salvador. The Committee is also urging unionists to call their Congressional representatives and demand that they investigate the repression of -ASTTEL.

AFL-CIO: 'GOOD RECORD'

In a related development, the human rights group Americas Watch has petitioned the Reagan Administration to end El Salvador's preferential trade status because the Salvadoran government engages in "extensive, systematic, and often brutal" repression of labor. In theory, countries in which workers'

rights are abused are not supposed to be eligible for preferential treatment.

Americas Watch based its petition on a report the group released on March 2, which lists abuses against Salvadoran workers which occurred in 1987 and January 1988. These abuses included nine assassinations, five disappearances, military occupation of farms and worksites, and dozens of arrests and detentions of unions and peasant leaders.

This is the second time that Americas Watch has made such a request. Last August, the U.S. Trade Representative, acting on recommendations from the State Department, rejected the group's petition for a review of the Salvadoran labor situation.

The Trade Representative cited the AFL-CIO's positive evaluation of worker rights in El Salvador to justify the decision. In 1987, the AFL-CIO filed petitions to deny preferential trade status to 11 countries; El Salvador was not one of them.

—Phill Kwik

[Copies of the Americas Watch report, *Labor Rights in El Salvador*, are available for \$8 from: Americas Watch, 36 W. 44 St., New York, NY 10036. Phone: 212/840-9460.]



SUBSCRIBE NOW!

- Please enter my subscription to Labor Notes. Enclosed is:
 - Individuals: \$10—One year \$18—Two years
 - Supporting subscriptions: \$20—One year \$36—Two years
 - Institutions: \$20—One year \$36—Two years
- First Class Mail: Add \$10.00 per year.
- Outside the United States: One year—\$15.00; Two years—\$25.00. Write for institution or airmail rates.
- Send me a copy of *Choosing Sides: Unions and the Team Concept*. Enclosed is \$15.00, plus postage.
- Send me a copy of *Spying on Your Employer*. Enclosed is 50¢ (postage included). Specify industrial corporation edition or trucking company edition: _____
- Postage: \$2.00 for first book; \$1.00 for each additional book.
- Outside the United States: \$3.00 for first book; \$2.00 for each additional book.
- Attached are names of friends who should receive a free sample copy of *Labor Notes*.
- Please send me a free bundle of _____ sample copies of *Labor Notes*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Union affiliation, if any _____

Mail to: Labor Notes, 7435 Michigan Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48210