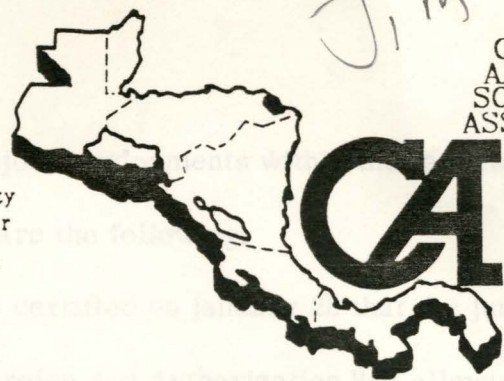


Jim

CENTRAL  
AMERICAN  
SOLIDARITY  
ASSOCIATION



**CASA**

MEMBER GROUPS:

- CISPES - Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador
- Nicaragua Solidarity Committee
- Guatemala Solidarity Committee
- Honduras Task Force

February 9, 1982

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\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

EMERGENCY MARCH AND RALLY PLANNED FOR SATURDAY IN RESPONSE TO INCREASED GOVERNMENT AID TO EL SALVADOR

In response to recent decisions by the Reagan administration to continue military support of the junta in El Salvador numerous local and national groups have called for an emergency protest march and rally on Saturday February 13. The march will begin at noon on the Boston Common and proceed to Faneuil Hall where a rally will be held. Speakers will include Representative Barney Frank (D. -Mass.); Julio Torres, a Salvadorean and recent Harvard Divinity School graduate; John McAward, international programs director of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee who has been on numerous fact finding trips to Central America including El Salvador; and a representative from the Central American Solidarity Association (C.A.S.A.).

Organizations sponsoring the march include C.A.S.A.; OXFAM America, the relief and development group; Maryknoll Center for Justice Concern; the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; the Massachusetts based Citizens for Participation in Political Action (CPPAX); along with dozens of other peace, human rights, religious, social action and academic groups.

-MORE-

The four major developments within the last two weeks that have prompted this demonstration are the following:

- President Reagan certified on January 28 that the junta in El Salvador had met the conditions of the Foreign Aid Authorization Bill allowing \$26 million in military aid approved by Congress to be sent;
- It was announced on January 31 that an additional \$55 million in emergency military aid would be sent to El Salvador without Congressional approval and another \$100 million in economic aid was proposed;
- During January 1600 Salvadorean troops arrived in this country for special training by U.S. military personnel;
- And, in recent weeks members of the Reagan administration have made bold assertions that the U.S. will "do whatever is necessary to contain the threat" in El Salvador.

In the face of President Reagan's certification that human rights violations have diminished accounts are accumulating rapidly from a variety of sources that close to 1000 unarmed civilians have been killed in raids by the El Salvadorean army since December. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Executive Director Richard S. Scobie in a statement released February 1 said, "The President's certification that the Salvadorean government has made a concerted and significant effort to respect human rights approaches obscenity in its disregard of the facts." A special report just released by the American Civil Liberties Union concluded that the "Governing Junta of El Salvador is responsible for widespread and systematic human rights violations", that the situation is worsening and that elections "offer little hope for an end to the tragedy."



OK

STATEMENT BY CO... RALLY FOR EL SALVADOR RALLY

I regret that I am unable to be with you today due to prior commitments.

John:

however, I do want you to know that I am with you in spirit and I

This is a possible draft of the 1 minute statement that will be read on Moakley's behalf at the El Salvador rally....

I think that the present Reagan policy toward El Salvador. I believe

JIM

the extensive involvement in that country represents the most tragic, political and moral failure since Vietnam. The people of El Salvador have already been dealt death, destruction and brutality

beyond anything we can imagine. By sending sophisticated arms to the present Salvadoran government--a government that lacks respect for the most basic civil and human rights of its people--the Reagan Administration is ~~only~~ contributing to the oppression <sup>of violence</sup> that already exists in that distraught country. Let us end now military aid to El Salvador and <sup>enough</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>a negotiated settle</sup> let us ~~not~~ <sup>make</sup> a commitment to bring to the Salvadoran people food, medicine and healing.

I praise you all for your participation in today's rally---and urge you to stick to your convictions and ideals and repudiate the Reagan Administration's policy for El Salvador before we all find ourselves in an unnecessary and interminable ~~war~~ war in Central America.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN MOAKLEY FOR EL SALVADOR RALLY

I regret that I am unable to be with you today due to prior commitments.

However, I do want you to know that I am with you in spirit and I fully endorse the aims of this rally.

I firmly reject the present Reagan policy toward El Salvador. I believe that our deepening involvement in that country represents the most tragic diplomatic and moral failure since Vietnam. The people of El Salvador have already been dealt death, destruction and brutality beyond anything we can imagine. By sending sophisticated arms to the present Salvadoran government--a government that lacks respect for the most basic civil and human rights ~~of~~ of its people--the Reagan Administration is ~~only~~ contributing to the oppression <sup>and violence</sup> that already exists in that distraught country. Let us end now military aid to El Salvador and <sup>encourage</sup> ~~and~~ a <sup>negotiated</sup> ~~negotiated~~ settlement. Let us ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> make a commitment to bring to the Salvadoran people food, medicine and healing.

I praise you all for your participation in today's rally---and urge you to stick to your convictions and ideals and repudiate the Reagan Administration's policy for El Salvador before we all find ourselves in an unnecessary and interminable ~~war~~ war in Central America.



over 8,000 were killed by government forces, and of them over 3,700 were peasants, 400 industrial workers, 100 teachers, and 10 were priests.

-- Since the October 15, 1979 coup, 602 cases of prisoners disappearing after detention have been documented by Socorro Juridico.

-- Torture of the most brutal kind is common in El Salvador. Statistics are difficult to compile partly because relatively few victims survive to give testimony, but a high proportion of the corpses of individuals arrested by security forces or abducted by paramilitary groups show signs of barbaric torture. As a commission investigating attacks on health workers noted in 1980:

"The brutality involved in the killings of health workers and patients and the accompanying torture suggest that this is a deliberate tactic aimed at striking terror into the hearts of others. Victims have been decapitated, emasculated or found with the initials "EM" which stands for Esquadron de la Muerte (Death Squad), in their flesh." (See Chapter 4)

-- Arbitrary arrests by Salvadoran authorities are widespread, and are clearly used against the political opposition.

-- Rights to due process of law and a fair trial have been abrogated and the independence of the judiciary eliminated.

-- Priests and nuns have been marked as targets of repression. The best known cases involved the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero on March 24, 1980, and of three American nuns and a lay worker on December 2, 1980.

-- Constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression have been suspended, and opposition newspapers no longer publish. Since January 1980, 17 news offices and radio stations have been bombed or machine-gunned, twelve journalists have been killed by the security forces, and three have disappeared.

-- Union leaders and organizers have been special targets for the government's security forces. Unions have been dissolved and guarantees of workers' rights abolished.

-- Elections are planned for March 1982 but guarantees of safety and freedom for opposition leaders do not exist. The armed forces in mid-1981 published a list of 128 people it accuses of being terrorists, among them the top leaders of the opposition.

-- At least 350,000 refugees, mainly peasant families, have abandoned their homes and fled to other areas of El Salvador, or to countries.