

JAMAICA PLAIN COMMITTEE ON CENTRAL AMERICA

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March 30, 1983

Representative John Joseph Moakley
221 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Congressman Moakley:

On behalf of our entire group, let me express how much it meant to us for Jim McGovern to fly to Boston last week to speak at our community forum: "Invisible Neighbors, the Plight of Salvadoran Refugees in Boston." He did an excellent job explaining to the community about your "Dear Colleague" letter requesting extended voluntary departure status and how it has been received thus far by Congress. We were pleased but not surprised that he spoke so well, as we have been quite impressed with him as we have worked together in the last month. I now see what you meant about the quality of your staff that you raved about at our meeting with you!

Jim has kept us posted on the number of co-signators on your letter to Secretary of State Shultz and Attorney General Smith. I am enclosing some PR that you may not have seen, newsletter items that urge people to contact their Congressmen to sign on. We are also hopeful that a column dealing with the letter will be placed on the Op-Ed page of the Boston Globe soon.

We have also been in touch with a number of national groups, who have assured us that they would contact their membership about the "Dear Colleague" letter. These groups include: Church World Services, American Friends Service Committee, Lutheran Council, Catholic Connection, Washington Office on Latin America, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, National Immigration/ Citizenship Forum, Interreligious Task Force, Chicago Religious Task Force, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Church of the Brethren, Maryknoll Justice and Peace Office, and Religious Task Force. All of the people with whom we have spoken have been most supportive of your efforts. I hope that their representatives in Congress will be as well.

Let me add how much our group has appreciated your concern. Whether or not the letter gets the 100 signatures that you had hoped for, it has definitely succeeded in raising public awareness about Salvadoran refugees who are caught between a rock and a hard place. And that is an important first step.

Sincerely,

Virginia Zangew

cc: Jim McGovern