

The Speaker's Rooms
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 5, 1989

Dear Joe:


On November 20, the House adopted H. Con. Res. 236 condemning the recent violence in El Salvador and expressing its revulsion at the murder of six Jesuit priests and two women. In light of the critical importance the resolution places on a satisfactory prosecution of this case, and in an effort to ensure that any progress is carefully monitored, I am appointing a special committee composed of committee chairmen and members who closely follow Central American issues. It will be part of and report to the leadership's Central American Task Force, which has been chaired since 1985 by Chief Deputy Whip David Bonior. I invite you to chair this special committee.

The committee should employ the resources of the relevant House committees and of its members to gather all available information about the murders, those responsible and the process undertaken to apprehend and bring them to justice. Since the murders were preceded by other unsolved political killings and deteriorating human rights conditions, and by the failure of the Salvadoran judicial system to offer either remedy or redress, the committee should examine the way in which these factors contributed or are relevant to the murders. I would expect the chairman to keep me informed of all developments in the case and that the committee would make periodic reports to me as well as to the Task Force.

It is my sincere hope that the murderers of these innocent victims will be tried promptly and punished for their crime and that the committee's efforts will contribute toward this end.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Foley
The Speaker

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

Members of El Salvador Special Committee

- ✓ Joe Moakley -- Chair - MA
- ✓ David Bonior - MI
- ✓ George Crockett - MI
- ✓ Dan Glickman - KS
- ✓ Lee Hamilton - IN
- ✓ Steny Hoyer - MD
- ✓ Barbara Kennelly - CT
- ✓ H. Martin Lancaster - NC
- ✓ Frank McCloskey - IN
- ✓ Dave McCurdy - OK
- ✓ Jim McDermott - WA
- ✓ Matthew McHugh - NY
- ✓ George Miller - CA
- ✓ John Murtha - PA
- ✓ David Obey - WI
- ✓ Larry Smith - FL
- ✓ John Spratt - SC
- ✓ Gerry Studds - MA

NEWS RELEASE

From Congressman Joe Moakley, 9th District, Massachusetts

For Immediate Release
December 6, 1989
Contact: Jim McGovern
202-225-8273

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN JOE MOAKLEY ON SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON EL SALVADOR

"The casualties of war are high in El Salvador. Over 70,000 Salvadoran citizens have been killed since 1980. And in the last few weeks, an additional 1000 people have been added to the death toll.

"The senseless and savage murders of six priests, their cook and her 15 year old daughter have shocked us into realizing that the 10 year old war is far from over.

"Clearly, given the huge U.S. economic and military investment in El Salvador, it is vitally important for Congress to closely monitor progress or lack of progress in such areas as human rights, judicial reform, military accountability and efforts aimed at ending the war.

"I commend Speaker Foley for recognizing the serious nature of current events in El Salvador by appointing a special task force to investigate and monitor the situation. I feel honored to have been chosen to chair this committee and will do everything within my abilities to assure that a fair and balanced investigation goes forth."

News From

CONGRESSMAN TOM FOLEY

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

H-204, The Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515-6503 • 202 - 225-5604

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 6, 1989

CONTACT: JEFF BIGGS
225-5604

Speaker Thomas S. Foley today asked a group of House Democrats headed by Congressman Joe Moakley (D-Mass.) to monitor the efforts of the Government of El Salvador's investigation of the November 16 murders of six Jesuit priests and two women in San Salvador.

"The November 16 murder of Father Ellacuria and five other Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in San Salvador was a grave blow to peace and a disturbing sign that the conflict in El Salvador has reached an alarming level of inhumanity after ten years of brutal civil war. This outrage must be investigated thoroughly, those responsible apprehended and promptly brought to justice. Any other result would be unacceptable to the community of nations, and in particular to the American people.

"On November 20, the House adopted H. Con. Res. 236 condemning the recent violence in El Salvador and expressing its revulsion at the murder of the Jesuits and the two women. In light of the critical importance the resolution places on a satisfactory prosecution of this case, and in an effort to ensure that any progress is carefully monitored, I am appointing a special committee composed of committee chairmen and members who closely follow Central American issues. This special committee will be chaired by Congressman Joe Moakley (D-Mass). It will be part of and report to the Democratic leadership's Central American Task Force, which has been chaired since 1985 by Chief Deputy Majority Whip David Bonior (D-Mich.).

"The committee will employ the resources of the relevant House committees and of its members to gather all available information about the murders, those responsible and the process undertaken to apprehend and bring them to justice. Since the murders were preceded by other unsolved political killings and deteriorating human rights conditions, and by the failure of the Salvadoran judicial system to offer either remedy or redress, the committee will also examine the way in which these factors contributed or are relevant to the murders. I would expect the chairman to keep me informed of all developments in the case and that the committee would make periodic reports to me as well as to the Task Force.

"It is my sincere hope that the murderers of these innocent victims will be tried promptly and punished for their crime and that the committee's efforts will contribute toward this end."

BC-Glickman-El Salvador,220

Kansan Appointed To Task Force On El Salvador Killings

WASHINGTON (AP) Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Kan., has been named to a House task force to investigate the recent killings of six Jesuit priests and two women in El Salvador.

House Speaker Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., appointed the 12-member task force, selecting Glickman as one of the members from the Intelligence Committee.

The task force will be led by Rep. Joe Moakley, D-Mass.

In a letter inviting Glickman to serve on the panel, Foley said the task force was directed to ``gather all available information about the murders, those responsible and the process undertaken to apprehend and bring them to justice.

``Since the murders were preceded by other unsolved political killings and deteriorating human rights conditions, and by the failure of the Salvadoran judicial system to offer either remedy or redress, the committee should examine the way in which these factors contributed or are relevant to the murders,`` Foley wrote.

The special panel is to report its findings to a House Democratic leadership task force on Central America.

The priests were killed Nov. 16 along with a cook and her
PRESS RETURN TO CONTINUE OR ENTER A REQUEST.

teen-age daughter. The killers have not been publicly identified. However, a cleaning woman who witnessed the massacre is in protective FBI custody in the United States.

PLEASE ENTER A REQUEST.