

Lawyers Committee for Human Rights

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September 16, 1990

Mr. Henry S. Rowen
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2400

Dear Mr. Rowen:

As you know, we have been closely monitoring the investigation of the November 1989 murders of two women and six Jesuit priests at El Salvador's Central American University. On several occasions we have written to you raising a series of questions concerning the nature of the contact between 13 U.S. Special Forces from Ft. Bragg, NC and those members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces now in custody for the killings. On June 13, we posed to you eight questions whose answers we believe could potentially shed light on how the decision was made to kill the Jesuits, when, and by whom. We hope that your response to our query is forthcoming.

Further, we wish to raise additional concerns about the role of U.S. military advisers in the days surrounding the Jesuit murders. On September 7, President Cristiani spent two hours giving oral testimony to Fourth Penal Judge Ricardo A. Zamora, who is investigating the case. The President told the judge that at 12:30 a.m. on November 16 he was given a military briefing on the situation in the San Salvador metropolitan area. President Cristiani received this briefing at the Center for Tactical Operations of the Armed Forces inside High Command Headquarters. Present in the Center at the time were two or three U.S. military advisers.

We urge the Pentagon to make these U.S. advisers available for questioning by El Salvador's judicial authorities. Further, we urge that other U.S. military personnel present at High Command Headquarters, El Salvador's Military Academy, and the National Intelligence Directorate be questioned by the appropriate U.S. and Salvadoran authorities.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Michael Posner

Michael Posner
Executive Director