



Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional
El Salvador, Centro América

In regards to the case of the Jesuit Priests, the FMLN states:

1- That the FMLN and different sectors, including young officers of the Salvadoran armed forces, were correct to point out the army as guilty of this horrendous crime. The responsibility that the armed institution has in this case, in those of FENASTRAS, Monsignor Romero, the American religious women and technicians, and in the bombardments in the cities as well as the massacres in the countryside are the basis for the demands to cleanse the army and to reform the judicial system, contained in our last peace proposal.

2- That in order to advance in the democratization of the country, it is not enough to simply resolve the case of the Jesuits but also the other cases that wait to be investigated and punished. The conviction can not remain at the level of junior officers and troops that only carry out orders. It is more important to look into the higher echelons of the armed forces given that the high command can not escape responsibility in a decision of this nature.

3- That it is equally necessary to fulfill the Esquipulas II agreements on democratization, and to reform the judicial system, lift the state of siege, reestablish freedom of expression, mobilization and organization, release the more than 3,000 political prisoners and stop the repression against the church and other sectors.

4- That Mr. Cristiani's announcement regarding the case of the Jesuits and the involvement of the Armed Forces in it seeks to create a specific incident in order to resolve the complications of the debate about the U.S. aid to El Salvador in Congress and in that manner, continue receiving the aid in order to maintain the war. It would be a mistake if the solving of this case encourages giving aid to the army, which would leave open the possibility for another case similar to that of the Jesuit priests to be repeated in the future. The best way to support a negotiated solution in El Salvador is by cutting the aid. That is the reason that we call upon the U.S. Congress to make this decision and as a response, the FMLN would also make an effort to establish an immediate end to the hostilities.

5- The creation of favorable conditions for a negotiation is dependent on the advancement of justice. In this way, if one makes a real effort to cleanse the army, starting from this case, it could accelerate the achievement of peace.

6- That with the purpose of advancing the process of achieving peace, we will resort to the mediation of the General Secretary

of the United Nations, and call to the government of El Salvador to agree to a joint meeting with us and with Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar within the next 30 days so that we can continue the process of dialogue and negotiation.

7- That the FMLN continues to observe the development of events and makes a call to the national and international forces to exert pressure so that this process does not stay as just a declaration of intentions and conclude in the blaming of soldiers and officers of lower rank, covering up those who have the maximum responsibility, which would lessen the possibilities of a political solution to the conflict in El Salvador.

GENERAL COMMAND OF THE FMLN

Cdte. Salvador Sanchez Ceren

Cdte. Eduardo Sancho

Cdte. Shafick Jorge Handal

Cdte. Joaquin Villalobos

Cdte. Francisco Jovel

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