

It is important to recognize that the murder of the Jesuits was not some sudden, isolated outburst of human rights abuse in El Salvador. Over 40,000 civilians and non-combatants have been murdered for politically-related reasons since 1980, and the killings and violations of civil and human rights have continued even since the Jesuit slayings.

The documentation and quantification of human rights abuses has become much more difficult in El Salvador since the November offensive because the military now prohibits human rights monitors from visiting many sites of alleged abuse. In spite of these restrictions, the Catholic Church human rights office, Tutela Legal, reports that 9 non-combatants were murdered by Salvadoran security forces during the first two months of 1990. This report is assumed by both Tutela Legal and American human rights analysts to underestimate the true number of political killings given the current difficulties in fully monitoring the situation, but still confirms the suspicion that human rights abuses continue in El Salvador despite the grisly events of November 1989 and despite the investigation being conducted into the Jesuit murders.

In an effort to remind all in the El Salvador debate of the actual human costs involved in the human rights statistics and official reports, the Task Force feels it important to relay to Members the story of just one of the civilians killed since the Jesuit murders, as documented by Tutela Legal and published by Americas Watch.

"Julian Rosales Lopez, National Police, February 1990.

At about 9 a.m. one morning in early February, 1990, Rosales, 42, went to a parcel of land near canton San Jose Cortez, Ciudad Delgado, San Salvador. Soldiers of the Atlacatl Battalion stopped him, tied his thumbs behind him, and covered his face with his shirt. They took him to San Jose Cortez church, where another 30 persons were being held. When a relative of Rosales came for him, soldiers refused to turn him over. They said they would not torture him, and added that they would free him if he were not involved with any political organizations. At 11 p.m. two trucks with soldiers arrived; soldiers put Rosales in one of the trucks and left for an unknown destination.

Relatives looked in many different military and security force posts, but could not locate Rosales. On February 8, they were informed he was dead and his body was in the Isidro Mendenez Judicial Center in San Salvador. When they arrived there, officials told them Rosales had died in the National Police.

An autopsy determined that Rosales had been bruised in the left temple and lower lip, the right chest, the left part of the rib cage, both wrists, both thumbs, the left lower arm, the left leg, and the intestines and head. His death had been caused by torture. Tutela Legal held the National Police responsible."

El Salvador has many orphans, many poor, and many war injured. Some of these people receive their only assistance from religious workers from foreign countries, including citizens from the United States. During the November offensive and its aftermath, many Salvadoran and foreign church groups and members were the focus of arrests, property damage, and threats of violence. According to Church World Service/Lutheran World Relief, over 50 foreign and Salvadoran religious workers were arrested by the Salvadoran military between November 13 and December 15, 1989.

Prior to November 1989, there were approximately 88 foreign religious workers in El Salvador. Eleven religious workers were expelled by the government after the offensive, several left the country after arrested and released, and others voluntarily left in the climate of violence and uncertainty. Now, only 44 foreign religious workers remain in El Salvador. This loss will no doubt affect the care given to the poor in El Salvador, and it will also reduce the number of foreigners in El Salvador that can report to the world on the human rights abuses committed by the security forces, death squads, and FMLN.

The reason given by the Salvadoran security forces for the arrests and interrogations of church workers is that the religious personnel are suspected of being agents for the FMLN. However, of the many searches and arrests of foreign religious workers after the November offensive, only in the case of one foreigner did the Salvadoran government even attempt to present any evidence of collusion with the FMLN. And, the case against the one foreigner, Jennifer Casolo, is alleged by many to have been a set-up. In fact, in several Salvadoran cities, troops circulated flyers denouncing religious workers as communists. Of great concern is the fact that branding someone a communist in El Salvador is often a prelude to future violent action from the military or a death squad, as was seen in the cases of Archbishop Romero, the Jesuits, and many others.

Summary

Mark Murray

→ Higher orders *

→ Cover-up *

→ Constitutional

~~John Doe~~

Judicial phase

→ After

Honor Bd.

Judicial

arrest

90 days.

10 cases
the three
ministers

Maybe
some Jan 18.
had our for
trial

our visit

News of hope

News of
hope and
unity

afterwards.

quite intelligent

"added"
"trip to airport"
security

Provan's - which seems highly unlikely
I understand part of the
arrangement.

Provan's comments