

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 1991

President Alfredo Cristiani  
Casa Presidencial  
San Salvador, El Salvador

Dear President Cristiani:

On January 14, 1991, members of the United States House of Representatives wrote to you concerning efforts to facilitate the voluntary return to El Salvador of 600 refugees from the Ciudad Romero community in Panama. In your response, you indicated that it was Salvadoran government policy to do everything possible to facilitate the refugees' orderly return, a policy which deserves international praise when successfully implemented in any nation.

We understand that, after some initial difficulties, the refugees from Ciudad Romero eventually settled on the Nancuchiname cooperative farm in the department of Usulután. We understand that the refugees resettled there with the permission of the members of the twelve year-old Nancuchiname cooperative. We also understand that the refugees have the potential to sustain themselves economically at Nancuchiname.

Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that the president of the Salvadoran Institute for Agrarian Transformation, Mr. Ramon Aparicio Guerrero, using units of the Armed Forces of El Salvador, has recently ordered the residents of the Nancuchiname cooperative to stop cultivating their fields so that Project New Dawn, an organization of former military members, may move on to the property and use it. Reportedly, Marine units under the command of a Captain Joel Burgos and 6th Brigade army units under the command of a Colonel Julio Grijalva have surrounded the cooperative, have torn up fences, and have physically harassed and threatened cooperative members. We understand that the situation has become so tense and potentially explosive that United Nations human rights representatives regularly visit the area now.

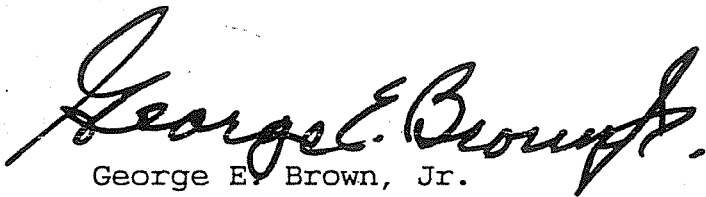
We can appreciate your government's desire to find land for former military members. However, it seems counterproductive to take land from one group of landless people to give to another. It would seem more productive and equitable to fully implement your country's existing agrarian reform laws and give lands from absentee and large landowners to landless people, including the former military members.

As the Congress of the United States prepares to again determine how to best support equitable and conclusive

negotiations in El Salvador, the reports of official harassment against the Nancuchiname cooperative are troubling. These reports have been circulated widely in Congress and, no doubt, many members of Congress will be interested in the Salvadoran government's response.

We respectfully request that you take action to peacefully de-escalate the tensions at the Nancuchiname cooperative. Also, we would appreciate any information or status report that you can provide us on the situation at Nancuchiname.

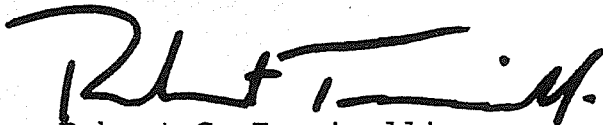
Sincerely,



George E. Brown, Jr.  
Member of Congress



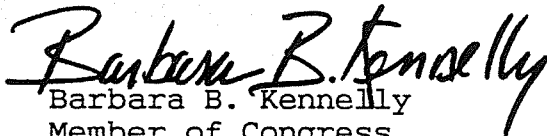
David E. Bonior  
Member of Congress



Robert G. Torricelli  
Member of Congress



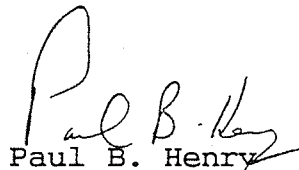
Howard L. Berman  
Member of Congress



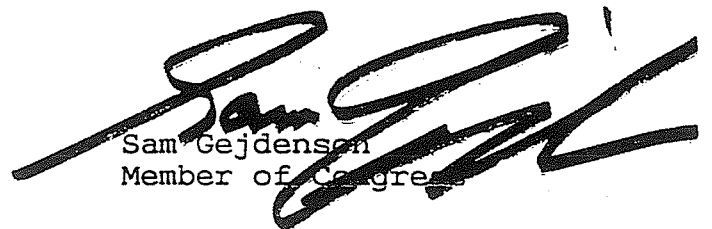
Barbara B. Kennelly  
Member of Congress



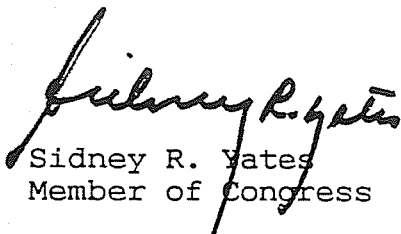
Constance A. Morella  
Member of Congress



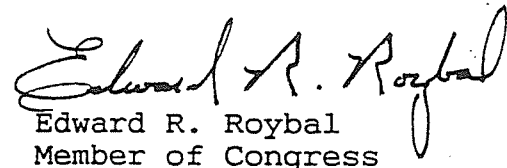
Paul B. Henry  
Member of Congress



Sam Gejdenson  
Member of Congress



Sidney R. Yates  
Member of Congress



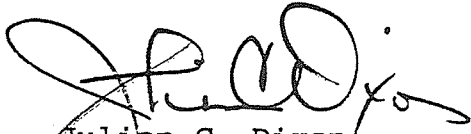
Edward R. Roybal  
Member of Congress



Richard J. Durbin  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Mrazek  
Member of Congress



Julian C. Dixon  
Member of Congress



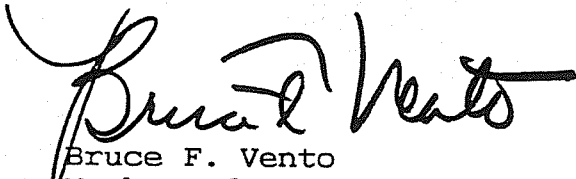
Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



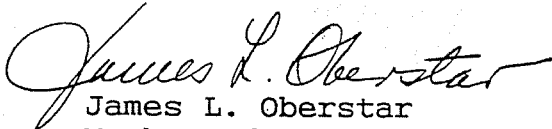
Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress



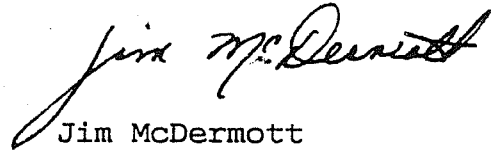
Bruce F. Vento  
Member of Congress



Lane Evans  
Member of Congress



James L. Oberstar  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



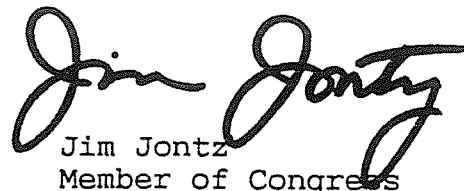
Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress



Ronald V. Dellums  
Member of Congress



Pat Williams  
Member of Congress



Jim Jontz  
Member of Congress

*Mary Rose Oaker*  
Mary Rose Oaker  
Member of Congress

*Bill Hughes*  
William J. Hughes  
Member of Congress

*Eleanor H. Norton*  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

*Rick Boucher*  
Rick Boucher  
Member of Congress

*Pete Stark*  
Fortney Pete Stark  
Member of Congress

*Peter A. DeFazio*  
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

*George Hochbrueckner*  
George J. Hochbrueckner  
Member of Congress

*Frank Annunzio*  
Frank Annunzio  
Member of Congress

*Bill Lehman*  
William Lehman  
Member of Congress

*Edward F. Feighan*  
Edward F. Feighan  
Member of Congress

*Martin Olav Sabo*  
Martin Olav Sabo  
Member of Congress

*Neil Abercrombie*  
Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress

*Thomas J. Manton*  
Thomas J. Manton  
Member of Congress

*Rosa L. DeLauro*  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress