

*but subsequent events indicate that the American Government should share some responsibility*

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Mr. Speaker, December 5 marked the first anniversary of the murder of three nuns and a lay missionary in El Salvador. At the time, the Salvadoran government claimed no knowledge of the complot in the act. However, as we all found out last April, two National Guard soldiers, along with four others who were on parole with them, were responsible for the murders.

Since that time, a special Investigatory Commission ~~was~~ headed by an army colonel, was formed---and apparently has now been disbanded. The President of El Salvador Jose Napoleon Duarte-- claims that prosecution is unlikely. In other words, nothing will happen. *due to lack of evidence*

And what of the actions on the part of the United States Government in regard to this matter? The sad thing---is that we have done relatively little save for a few symbolic--politically expedient--acts. The Reagan Administration has--instead--chose to ignore the murder of these women and the murder of countless civilians in El Salvador. In fact, the Administration has stepped up military aid to defend the oppressive Duarte regime in order to preserve "self-determination and freedom" in El Salvador. What a tragic deception this is. Duarte's brand of freedom means jail for anyone who has the audacity to tell the truth about what is going on in El Salvador. According to a recent report of the United Nations Human Rights Commission---an estimated 9,250 political murders were committed in the first six months of 1981.

The four women who were <sup>raped &</sup> murdered in El Salvador were ~~murdered~~ for carrying out acts of justice and mercy... let us remember them for their courage and determination in carrying the banner for social justice. And let us have the foresight and common sense to not let their murders be in vein.

*→ were simply carrying out their religious convictions of aiding the poor and helpless.*

*Approved - by J.W.*