

# NEWS

from  
**Paul  
Tsongas**

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## U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS

### TSONGAS CRITICIZES REAGAN FOR VETOING EL SALVADOR HUMAN RIGHTS CERTIFICATION

Senator Paul E. Tsongas said today that President Reagan "inexplicably, blindly and recklessly ended the El Salvador human rights certification process on the slimmest of Constitutional pretexts," and that he would not support any further military aid to that country unless it is firmly tied to "real human rights progress."

"The human rights certification procedure for El Salvador was passed with bipartisan support in Congress," Tsongas stated. "Even Administration officials have reluctantly praised the legislation as effective leverage on the Salvadoran government to bring under control the right wing murder squads."

"In the four months since the last certification, the awful terror of the fanatical right has increased dramatically in El Salvador," he continued. "Faced now with the choice of clamping down or overlooking the death squads, the Administration seems prepared to look the other way."

"To the forces of rightest mayhem and violence in El Salvador, this decision will give a bright green light. To those of us in Congress who have anguished over the growing U.S. military aid to the Salvadoran military, this decision will mean a red light, a complete halt to further U.S. involvement."

"On this issue there is broad consensus" Tsongas concluded "The United States will no longer support regimes indulging in gross violations of human rights. Any policy which even suggests the contrary is doomed to rejection and defeat."