



El Salvador: The Jesuits Massacre Case

Quotes on the Significance of the Jesuits Massacre Case

I. Pamela Merchant, Executive Director, the Center for Justice and Accountability

“Coming on the heels of the International Criminal Court indictment of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for genocide and the U.S. conviction of Charles “Chuckie” Taylor, Jr. for torture committed in Liberia, the Jesuits case is yet another sign that the movement for international justice movement is gaining momentum. We hope that the filing of this important case on behalf of Sister Martin Baró will jumpstart justice efforts in El Salvador on a grander scale. Like al-Bashir, Fujimori, Pinochet and others, the architects of the Jesuits massacre and other abuses committed during the 12 year Salvadoran civil war cannot escape justice.”

II. U.S. Representative Jim McGovern (D-MA)

"In 1989 I was chosen by Congressman Moakley to lead a congressional investigation into the murders of six Jesuit priests and two lay women in El Salvador. Words cannot express the sorrow and outrage I felt when we uncovered evidence that members of the Salvadoran High Command were involved in the murders and the cover-up. Nineteen years later, I applaud Sister Martin Baró and the Center for Justice & Accountability for their pursuit of truth and accountability. The world awaits a transparent and open investigation into the killings of these peaceful men of God, their housekeeper and her daughter."

III. Fr. Stephen Privett, S.J., President, University of San Francisco

“Obviously I was shocked by the massacre. I worked with refugees in El Salvador in 1988 and knew the Jesuits personally. At the same time, there was something almost inevitable about the crime. It was the culmination of decades of repression and abuse of the Salvadoran poor and of those who stood in solidarity with them. After all, Archbishop Romero himself said that it was fitting that priests experience the suffering and persecution that was the plight of poor Salvadorans. The Jesuits and two women joined the ranks of the 75,000 other Salvadoran victims. Members of the Jesuit order, the Salvadoran people and the world do not seek revenge for the massacre. What they seek is truth and accountability. The Center for Justice and Accountability’s pursuit of this case will give them that.”

"Like the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Archbishop Oscar Romero and Bishop Juan Gerardi, the 1989 massacre of the Jesuit priests was an attack against the poor and marginalized and those who had dedicated their lives to serving them and to alleviating their suffering. Many of us in the Catholic and academic communities stand in solidarity

with Sister Martín-Baró and the Center for Justice and Accountability in their pursuit of justice for the crime."

IV. Robert White, Former U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador & Paraguay

"By giving uncritical support to the counter revolutionary forces in Central America, the United States moved away from its long-established respect for international legal norms of state behavior. By prosecuting those former Salvador military leaders guilty of atrocities, such as the murder of the six Jesuits, the Center for Justice & Accountability reminds our elected leaders of their obligation to restore to United States foreign policy "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind" urged on us by founding fathers."