

DECLARATION OF DESMOND MPILO TUTU, ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR JUDGEMENT BY DEFAULT

My name is **Desmond Mpilo Tutu**, and I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this declaration. If called upon to do so, I could and would testify competently thereto.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Desmond Mpilo Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town
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Born: 07.10.1931 at Klerksdorp near Johannesburg

Occupation: Retired. Formerly Archbishop of Cape Town, Church of the Province of Southern Africa
Nobel Peace laureate

AWARENESS OF OSCAR ROMERO

I never had the privilege of meeting Archbishop Oscar Romero but I certainly knew of him and his efforts to speak out against the human rights abuses committed by the then Government of El Salvador. I felt we were partners together in similar situations, speaking the word of God to encourage our people who were battered, beaten and oppressed by governments whose role should have been to nurture, protect and uplift their citizens.

I became aware of Archbishop Romero through his theology and human rights work. I believe he felt compelled by the tenets of the Christian gospel to speak out against injustice and oppression and to give a voice to the voiceless. As a former Archbishop myself I can understand the heavy burden of responsibility he must have felt. An Archbishop is given the charge of caring for the spiritual and material well-being of his clergy and adherents of the faith. It is a solemn responsibility and one which Oscar Romero did not shirk. He was bold and courageous in the face of violence and repression.

Within the churches in the 1980s there was much discussion of liberation theology. The struggle in El Salvador and Oscar Romero's contribution to liberation theology was a great encouragement to us. His was a prophetic voice, speaking out in spite of threats and intimidation. He was an example to his people and especially to Christian communities throughout the world that were experiencing harassment and repression.

ASSASSINATION OF OSCAR ROMERO

In 1980, when Oscar Romero was assassinated I was General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches. It was a great shock to us even though we knew that many of his clergy had been attacked, killed or had disappeared. We never believed that a man with such passion and compassion would be attacked and shot. His assassination in public, with his people, was reminiscent of the assassination of another great man, Mahatma Gandhi. Such a brutal act demonstrated the arrogance of the perpetrators, their total disrespect for life and

confidence in their impunity. This confidence stemmed from the support they enjoyed from a foreign nation – the most powerful nation in the world. It is this collaboration that enabled those in power in El Salvador to ignore their people and seek their own political ends. Such powerful alliances serve the interests of the few and have led to the misery and suffering of millions in many developing countries, tragically El Salvador has been such a victim.

We heard of the tragic event via the media. In South Africa we were engaged in our own struggle for freedom. I had had my passport confiscated by the apartheid government of the time and was not able to travel freely. I did not attend Oscar Romero's funeral.

IMPACT OF ASSASSINATION OF OSCAR ROMERO

The assassination of Oscar Romero had a profound affect upon the churches involved in the struggle in South Africa. The news of his untimely death was met with shock and disbelief. We were devastated for his clergy and his people. His assassination only increased our resolve to overcome apartheid and to do so by non-violent means.

Oscar Romero's death also gave a renewed impetus to the role of liberation theology. Our own Kairos Document, containing the spiritual response of the churches to apartheid and oppression was influenced by his thinking. There was much debate and division in some churches over this document and its implications for Christians living in a repressive society.

OSCAR ROMERO'S LEGACY

Oscar Romero was a true martyr. He died for his faith and for what that says about caring, sharing, love and freedom. He is a role model and an example of what it means to live out ones faith at whatever cost. He is one of those great men to be remembered and revered for his defence of human rights and belief that this is a moral universe. Evil and oppression do not have the last word, they will be overcome by their glorious opposites, love and freedom. This case is evidence that this is so. The purpose is not retribution but to seek the truth and to restore the moral balance. This case is a message to those who would hold on to power and profit and who turn the military might of their country on their own people to crush them. The voice of the people cannot be silenced for ever. Righteousness will prevail.

It is the truth that will ultimately make us free.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on the *Second* day of *September*, 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desmond Mpilo Tutu', followed by several horizontal scribbles.

+Desmond Mpilo Tutu Archbishop emeritus