

Our government is funding increased repression in El Salvador.

You can help stop it. Here's how.

There are two direct local connections:

1. The O'Connor and Hannan Law Firm

O'Connor and Hannan, a Minneapolis-based law firm, represents Alfredo Cristiani, the ARENA party President of El Salvador. They have represented him for several years and ARENA itself in 1988 and 1989. They are considering becoming sole representative for the Salvadoran government now that ARENA is in power.

Former U.S. Ambassador Robert White described ARENA as "a fascist party modeled after the Nazis." The infamous Death Squads - responsible for murdering scores of thousands of civilians in this decade - are organized from within ARENA.

O'Connor and Hannan's role is primarily public relations - selling a "new image" for ARENA, whitewashing the blood stains on this openly fascist party. The object is to convince Congress and the public to continue the flood of aid - \$1.5 million per day; \$3.3 billion so far - which keeps the Salvadoran government in power despite widespread opposition.

During the Salvadoran election campaign, O'Connor and Hannan arranged two Washington visits by Cristiani, handling press work and meetings with U.S. officials for him. They got him on Nightline and in the New York Times.

They portray Cristiani as a symbol of a new, more moderate ARENA. But the death-squads are still controlled from within ARENA. Roberto D'Aubuisson, death squad godfather and founder of ARENA, is still the real power in the party. The terror continues.

Indicative of ARENA's true colors is the repressive new criminal code which the party is now enacting as law (see other side). It is as or more severe than South Africa's Emergency Law. O'Connor and Hannan have chosen to be front-men for the death squads and police-state repression.

O'Connor and Hannan also represents the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County

Despite public protests of their role in legitimizing repression and terror in El Salvador, the firm says it intends to continue. Such activity is badly out of step with the sentiments of most Minnesotans. Because Minneapolis and Hennepin County taxpayers are contributing to the income of this firm, a campaign has been organized to sever City and County ties to O'Connor and Hannan so long as they represent ARENA or any ARENA figures.

What you can do...

- * Contact your Minneapolis City Council member (348-3000) and Mayer Fraser (348-2100) and demand that the City sever its ties to O'Connor and Hannan as long as they remain agents for ARENA.
- * Contact your Hennepin County Commissioner (348-3081) with the same message.
- * Contact O'Connor and Hannan (341-3800) and demand that they sever all ties with ARENA.

Background: El Salvador

This past March 19, in an election boycotted by the majority of El Salvador's eligible voters, the ARENA party won the presidency. They now control all branches of the government.

ARENA is the death-squad party. It organized the infamous clandestine groups of police and military personnel which murdered 60,000 Salvadoran civilians in this decade. The killings were intended to stop El Salvador's mass movement for social change. Archbishop Romero and the four U.S. church women were among the victims of this terror.

The killings badly hurt the popular movement in the early and middle 1980s. But the poverty, oppression and lack of basic freedoms which gave rise to the movement did not go away - in fact they grew worse. Because of this, the popular movement has been reborn, stronger than before. It includes hundreds of thousands of ordinary Salvadorans.

Salvadoran society is more polarized than it has ever been. U.S. government policy had been built on the illusion of a moderate center in the person of Napoleon Duarte (even while giving covert support to the death squads). Duarte was supposed to reconcile the country, but without changing the grotesque disparities of extreme wealth and grinding poverty enforced by military and paramilitary violence.

Duarte's party, the Christian Democrats, collapsed in the face of this reality and ARENA came to power. The Bush Administration, opposed to any form of popular government in El Salvador, has thrown its support behind the openly fascist ARENA party. The Administration and ARENA are in agreement not to accept a negotiated end to the civil war which has been proposed by the FMLN, the armed guerrilla opposition.

The Administration and Congress have agreed to give the ARENA government at least \$770 million, no strings attached, over the next two years. At least \$170 million of this will be direct military aid and much of the rest is war related. This money is being sent despite an upsurge in repression and death-squad activity this year and a savage new political "criminal code" (see other side) more severe than South Africa's emergency laws.

(Over)