



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 311
Arlington MA 02174

September/October 1989

ARLINGTON CENTRAL AMERICA COMMITTEE ARLINGTON/TEOSINTE SISTER CITY PROJECT

Salvadoran to Speak

In 9 years of war, over 1,000,000 Salvadorans have been forcibly displaced from their homes, fleeing government bombing raids and army troop operations. While many took refuge in camps in neighboring Honduras and in church-run camps in the city, many others remained in the rural areas of conflict surviving as mobile communities.

Beginning in 1985, after years of living in fear of the next army incursion or in camps without adequate food and health care, thousands of courageous refugees began to return to their homes to reclaim their rights to live and work in their places of origin. Today, more than 30 communities have joined this "repopulation" movement, and are working together to rebuild their lives and to contribute to a negotiated solution to the 9 year old civil war.

In the U.S., special people-to-people relationships have been established with the repopulations. Arlington is one of eight U.S. cities which have passed official Sister City declarations, supporting local citizens' efforts to provide moral and economic support to the repopulations.

In the fall of 1989, Julio Tobar, a member of the community council of San Jose las Flores in Chalatenango province (Sister City of Cambridge), will come to the U.S. to speak about his experiences, the hopes and fears and the critical needs of the repopulated communities. The tour comes at a time when the repopulated communities are facing greater attacks from the newly-installed ARENA government. Despite these risks, more and more refugees are returning to rebuild their homes and to challenge the government's inhumane policies. International support will make a critical difference as the repopulations seek to grow and to help build a lasting peace in El Salvador.

Co-sponsored by Arlington and several other communities, Julio Tobar will be in our area during the second week in October. He will speak at the Unitarian Church on Concord Ave. in Belmont Center on Wednesday, October 11, at 7:30. There is no admission charge for this event, but donations will be requested to help support Julio's educational mission in the U.S.

