

ARENA to "Nazify" El Salvador Through New Criminal Code

Alfredo Cristiani, El Salvador's new president, is portrayed by the Bush Administration as a new moderate voice in the ruling ARENA Party, in spite of ARENA's connections to death squads and other forms of violent repression. The O'Connor and Hannan law firm is helping in the whitewash of ARENA's, and Cristiani's, criminal activities (see other side). Recent legislation proposed by the Salvadoran government shows this moderate image to be a public relations hoax.

The legislation would outlaw nearly all political opposition, defining it as "terrorism." Writing graffiti would be a terrorist act, punishable by up to 35 years in prison. Most forms of peaceful protest, such as marches, sit-ins, and lobbying in support of human rights, would be illegal. Anyone accused of "terrorism" would be presumed guilty, till proven innocent.

The proposed law, named "In Defense of the Democratic Process" in Orwellian fashion, is in fact the legalization of State terror against the civilian population. Former president Jose Napoleon Duarte, no stranger himself to the use of repression, has called the legislation a "fascist project" and "a serious attack against the most elementary human rights."

Other provisions of the law will:

- * limit press freedom by criminalizing production or distribution of material subverting public order, defending a "terrorist" act (e.g. a sit-in or strike), or publicizing the views of opposition groups;

- * punish any person who criticizes any branch of the Executive;

- * label as a terrorist anyone reporting on human rights in order to prompt intervention by outside governments or organizations.

A person making a call to Amnesty International might be thrown in jail. So might a person reading this leaflet.

This law does not represent a new voice of moderation in the government of El Salvador. It is an integral piece of a growing campaign of terror by the Salvadoran government against its own people.

Local connections - What you can do (continued)

2. Current legislation about El Salvador

Call or write Senators Durenberger and Boschwitz and demand that all funding for military aid to El Salvador be cut from the Senate Foreign Aid Bill. Minnesota's Congressional delegation must hear that U.S. aid to El Salvador is an issue of constituent concern.

Urge your Representative to co-sponsor Rep. Robert Kastenmeier's resolution cutting all military aid and withdrawing the 300 U.S. military advisors. Currently Rep. Gerry Sikorski is the only Minnesotan among the 50 Congresspeople now signed on.

Human Rights Abuses Under ARENA Rule

El Salvador's human rights situation, bad for many years, has deteriorated this year since ARENA won the presidency. Some examples include:

- * Frequent raids by the military on the offices of labor unions, and organizations of farmers, families of the disappeared, earthquake victims, Christian base communities, etc. Leaders and office staff are taken into custody. They are interrogated, often beaten or tortured, sometimes killed. Hundreds have been detained since the election.

- * The University of El Salvador (UES) was attacked by troops firing automatic weapons on July 17. Fifteen students were shot. This followed eight months of military encirclement of the UES. Many students and professors have been taken into custody.

- * Military air and ground attacks on villages including strafing, bombing, and occupation of communities. Many people have been killed or wounded and many

others taken into custody in these attacks against civilians.

- * According to the non-governmental Human Rights Commission of El Salvador (CDHES), in the first six-months of this year 1,320 people were killed by the Salvadoran armed forces or para-military death squads, 750 people have been captured, and 132 remain missing. For the month of June, the number of people captured was more than double June of 1988.

- * Since ARENA came to power, death squad bosses such as Hector Antonio Regalado, Nicolas Carranza, and Denis Moran have begun working openly.

- * In the U.S., ARENA is harassing and intimidating Salvadoran refugees by filming them in demonstrations and meetings. Refugees fear photographs taken of them at demonstrations will be used to carry out reprisals against their families still in El Salvador.

Yes! I want to help stop U.S. support for state terrorism in El Salvador and local complicity in it.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

☐ I want to work on the O'Connor & Hannan Campaign

☐ I want to know more about U.S. policy in El Salvador and Central America

Return to: Pledge of Resistance
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