

via fax 011 503 2243 9947 <b>Presidente Mauricio Funes</b> President of the Republic of El Salvador	via fax 011 503 2281 9812 <b>Sr. Sigfrido Reyes</b> President of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador
via fax 011 503 2523-7170 or 2523 7409 <b>Sr. Romeo Benjamin Barahona Melendez</b> Attorney General of El Salvador	

January 1, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are asking that you take decisive action to guarantee redress to the **victims of a series of massacres by the armed forces in December 1981 in El Mozote and nearby villages of La Joya, Cerro Pando, La Rancheria, Jocote Amarillo and Los Toriles**. At least 767 men, women and children were massacred; many were subjected to unspeakable horrors before being executed. The survivors and relatives of those killed still do not know the truth about what happened to their loved ones or where they are buried! The suffering this causes has been called torture by both the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the UN Committee Against Torture. The massacre was documented in the 1993 report of the UN Truth Commission for El Salvador, which also named some of the perpetrators. In spite of this, there has been no redress, justice or reparations because El Salvador's General Amnesty Law, which was enacted only one week after the release of the UN report, remains in effect, despite public commitments by the government to take steps towards its repeal.

We believe it is time to repeal the Amnesty Law in accordance with the December 2010 recommendations by the IACHR to the government of El Salvador, which would ensure reparations, identify the victims, investigate and prosecute those responsible for the abuses and those who have obstructed justice ever since. Other international bodies, including the UN Committee Against Torture, the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, have also called on El Salvador to abolish its amnesty law.

Based on these facts we **strongly urge** that you

- guarantee redress—through access to justice, truth and reparations—to the survivors and the relatives of those massacred in December 1981 in El Mozote and nearby villages;
- repeal the Amnesty Law with immediate effect;
- comply with all the recommendations made by the IACHR in December 2010.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

Copies: Sean Murphy, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy in El Salvador ~ via fax: 011-503-2501-2154  
Francisco Altshul Charge d'Affaires, El Salvador Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 1-202-234-3834  
Melanie Bonner, El Salvador Desk at U.S. State Dept. ~ via fax: 202-647-2597  
Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email  
Dinah Shelton, Chair, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202-458-3992  
US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email  
US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

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**The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter:**