

WOMAN: UNITY & STRUGGLE



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PRESS RELEASE

In accordance with the Geneva Agreement of 04 April 1990, the negotiating committees of the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional met at San José, Costa Rica, from 20 to 26 July 1990 with the participation of the Representative of the Secretary - General of the United Nations. As agreed at Caracas on 21 May 1990, they began with the first two items on the agenda - "Armed force" and "Human rights" - which, together with the remaining items, are to become the subject of political agreements for achieving the initial objective of the negotiation process.

The "Armed force" item, on which agreement was not reached, is pending and a matter of priority from now on and for the next round of direct contacts.

On the subject of human rights, I am pleased to announce that the first substantive agreement of the negotiation process has happened. This agreement starts with a wide commitment in the matter of human rights which are understood, in the context of this agreement, to be those recognized by the Salvadorian legal system, including the treaties to which El Salvador is a party, and by the declarations and principles concerning human rights and humanitarian law adopted by the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

The agreement includes the commitment to take immediate action to prevent any attack on the life, integrity, security and freedom of the person, and the commitment to eliminate every practice that involves missing persons, abduction or torture. Commitments have also been entered into on the deprivation of liberty, with a view to guaranteeing the rights of the detainee, to proscribing detentions carried out by anonymous agents and to preventing arrests as a means of intimidation, which implies that such arrests will not be carried out at night.

Furthermore, the fullest support has been pledged to ensure the effectiveness of the remedies of amparo and habeas corpus, the freedom of association, including the freedom to organize trade unions, and the freedom of the press and expression.

Pursuant to the Geneva Agreement, the Parties have decided on the terms under which the United Nations verification Mission would carry out its mandate in the matter of human rights which it has been agreed to establish in the context of the initial objective, starting from the cessation of the armed confrontation.

This Mission will have to devote special attention to observance of the right to life, to the integrity and security of the person, to the due process of law, to freedom of the person, to freedom of expression and to freedom of association. In that context, efforts will be made above all to clarify any situation that appears to reveal a systematic practice of violation of human rights and, in such a case, to recommend to the Party which the matter concerns the appropriate measures for eliminating that practice.

A Director appointed by the Secretary - General of the United Nations will be in charge of the Mission. The Director will work in close co-operation with organizations and entities on present human rights in El Salvador. It will also count on the support of specialized advisers. Moreover, the Mission will include as many verification personnel as many be necessary.

The Mission will be given wide powers to take whatever action it may deem appropriate for promoting and protecting human rights, as part of the intention to promote the respect and guarantee of such rights in El Salvador and to contribute towards improving those situations in which such respect and guarantee are not duly observed.

Included among the foregoing powers are the powers to receive accusations of violations of human rights; freely to visit any place; to interview any person freely and privately; to collect all relevant information by whatever means it may deem appropriate; to submit recommendations to the Parties; to consult the Attorney General of the Republic; and to publish its reports, conclusions and recommendations.

The Parties have pledged to give the Mission their full support and to provide all the facilities it may require in the fulfilment of its duties.

It should be pointed out that the agreement reached today does mean that the subject of human rights is exhausted; it is therefore a partial agreement.

I wish to express the deep gratitude of the Government and FMLN to the people and Government of Costa Rica for the generous and genuine hospitality which they have extended to them.

The Government and FMLN have agreed to hold a new round of direct meetings, with the participation of the Representative of the Secretary-General, from 17 to 22 August 1990, at San José, Costa Rica.

San José, Costa Rica
26 July 1990

COMMENTARY:

Ademusa considers the agreement ^{government} reached between the FMLN concerning a step forward in the struggle for Human Rights. However, we think that it will be impossible to enforce these agreements as long as re-structuring Armed Forces remain out of talks of the discussion.

The Armed Forces hold the real power in El Salvador, it is they who cause the suffering and the repression of the people of El Salvador. The military wields its mercilessly, and with complete impunity. The laws designed to protect the fundamental rights of the people are ignored by the military: the civilian government exists in name only.

Always, the military promises reform, still they continue their reign of terror. Assassinations, "disappearances", and massacres go unpunished; Romero, the American nuns, the sumpul river, Febe Elizabeth, the Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter, 70,000 of our brothers and sisters—students, campesinos, trade unionists, priests, teachers, human rights workers— all those who change their nation for the better: slaughtered. A more recent example is the capture, by members of the Armed Forces, of Mr. Manuel Reyes, Vice-President of the Governing Board of the Chintue Colony # 1, in Apopa.

Mr. Reyes was taken by force from his home, at 4:00 p.m. on 7/26 /90, the last day of the talks between the government and the FMLN this was not an isolated action: violations of human rights, by the military, are not isolated events, they are the policy of the military.

Continued abuses, such as this abduction on the last day of talks between the government and the FMLN, are designed to send a clear message; the military is neither willing nor interested in resolving Salvador's conflict.

Because of this obvious and total refusal of the military to look for a true and lasting solution to this conflict, and because of their escalating abuses, it is absolutely essential to end the predominance of the military. To permit the military to continue to wield power with impunity means much more of the same: increasing number of ilegal break-ins, repression, physical attacks, torture, captures, sexual abuse, assassinations, etc.

Under these conditions, no one is physically or mentally able to work for his human rights. Studies have shown the psychological effect of the military repression on people, particularly on women and children.

Therefore we demand:

- A stop to arbitrary captures
- The trial and punishment of those members of the military responsible for Human Rights violations.
- Demilitarization of society
- The end of military impunity!!

Ademusa calls upon the International Solidarity movement to demand of Mr. Cristiani that he allow the negotiations between the government and the FMLN to serve the interests of the majority of the Salvadoran people, and not those of a group of corrupt and criminals military officials. (who profit on the misery and suffering of their countrymen).

WOMAN

One who is not yet finished becoming.
Not the remote, angel-like, rose the
poets sing of.

Not the evil witch the members of the
inquisition burned.

Not the feared and desired prostitute,
Not the blessed mother.

Not the withered and ridiculed old maid.

Not she who is obligated to be good.

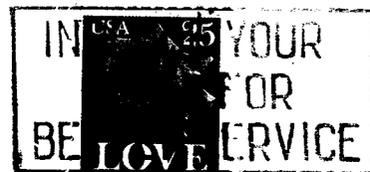
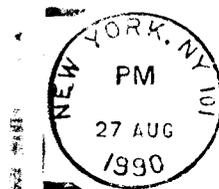
Not she who is obligated to be bad.

Not she who lives because she is allowed to live.

Not she who must always say: "yes".

One who tries to know who she is and who begins
to exist.

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