

COMADRES

NEW ENGLAND TOUR
MARCH 7-25, 1987



Jim Harney

COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS AND
RELATIVES OF THE DISAPPEARED,
ASSASSINATED AND POLITICAL
PRISONERS OF EL SALVADOR

THE NEW ENGLAND TOUR...

From March 7th through March 25th, 1987, two members of the CoMadres of El Salvador will tour five New England states. They'll share stories of their country's civil war, and their struggle to stop it, with women's, religious, civic, labor, student, and peace organizations. They'll even meet with Congressional representatives or their aides. To all, their message will be: "help our popular movement by stopping U.S. aid to El Salvador, and by helping get our leaders out of jail."

Audiences will be encouraged to sign up with the Rapid Response Network (see previous panel), to form a local committee to educate their community about the war in El Salvador, and to donate money to the CoMadres.

Itinerary:

March 7-11	Boston area
March 12-13	Cape Cod
March 14-15	Plymouth and Concord, NH
March 17	Springfield, Mass.
March 18	Amherst, Mass.
March 19	Brattleboro, VT
March 20	Middlebury and Burlington, VT
March 21	Montpelier, VT
March 22	Augusta, ME
March 23	Portland, ME
March 24-25	Connecticut

Partial List of Endorsers: John Roberts, director, Civil Liberties Union of Mass; Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School; Cape Cod National Organization of Women; Mass. Labor Committee in Support of Democracy, Human Rights, and Non Intervention in Central America; First Parish Church, Brewster (Mass); Mujeres Unidas en Accion (Dorchester, Mass.); Centro Presente; New England Central America Network; Central America Solidarity Association.

For more information, contact:

CoMadres Tour Project
21 Linwood Street
Arlington, MA 02174
617/648-7252

LOCAL CONTACT:

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There is a simple, effective way to help the CoMadres' work. Whenever a Salvadoran union official, or peace advocate, or religious leader is arrested, we can demand that person's immediate release. El Salvador's government has to listen to us. Our taxes pay half of their national budget. And it has worked before: last April, when the Salvadoran government kidnapped student leader Antonio Quezada, hundreds of telegrams won his release and his safety from torture—in just five days.

Join the hundreds of concerned Americans who have pledged to save the leadership of El Salvador's peace and justice movement. For roughly \$4.50 a month you can authorize us to send a telex in your name to President Duarte or the U.S. Embassy. You will receive a copy of each telex with the bill, and we will keep you informed of the circumstances and the outcome of each case.

YES! I want to help the CoMadres' work for justice in El Salvador.

☐ I authorize you to send a telex in my name every month to the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador or to President Duarte. I will be billed about \$4.50 per telex, and receive a copy of it, each month.

Name _____

Address/Zip _____

Telephone () _____ Signature _____

☐ Send me more information about the CoMadres Tour.
☐ Send me information about the 30-minute videotape on the CoMadres.
☐ Here's a donation for the Tour Project:
☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other

THE COMADRES ARE...

a powerful group of over 700 Salvadoran women, founded in 1977 at the suggestion of Monsignor Oscar Romero, the assassinated archbishop.

Their goals: the freedom of political prisoners, the safe return of the disappeared, and peace with justice in El Salvador. **Their methods:** nonviolent direct action, including demonstrations at prisons where justice leaders are held and tortured... marches in San Salvador... distributing food and clothing to those hardest hit by the war and the recent earthquake.

The CoMadres have won several prestigious international awards for their work, including the Robert Kennedy Award for Human Rights.

And the courageous women are victims of the very crimes they are trying to prevent: as recently as July of last year, four CoMadres leaders were imprisoned.

IN EL SALVADOR TODAY...

The Duarte government, promoted by the Reagan Administration as a moderating force advancing reforms, is carrying out the most extensive aerial bombardment in the history of the Americas. The civilian population is the main target. The legacy of this brutality has been over one million refugees from El Salvador—over one-fifth of their population fleeing inside or outside the country. Often those who return to their homes are murdered or disappeared.

The problem of death squad killings has decreased since the early '80s... But murders, disappearances, torture, and unjustified arrests have, in the words of America's Watch, "settled into routine." And the violence is far from random: human rights workers, labor leaders, Christian Democrat politicians, and even church leaders are being targeted by government security forces.

Our Tax Dollars at Work In El Salvador U.S. Aid 1980-1985

Purpose	Examples of Projects	Amount (\$ mil)
Indirectly War Related	Cash Transfers, Infra-Structure, Rebuilding	767
Directly War Related	Arms & Ammunition, General Supplies, Aircraft, U.S. Training Personnel, Ground Transport & Communications	523
Reform & Development	Agrarian Reform, Other Pacification Program Components	267
Commercial Food Aid	Pacification Projects, Displaced Persons, Miscellaneous	182
	TOTAL U.S. AID	\$1739 million

SOURCE: Arms Control & Foreign Policy Caucus U.S. Aid to El Salvador, Feb. 1985



Jim Hamme

THE UNITED STATES' INVOLVEMENT...

has kept the country from political and economic collapse. Since 1981 the U.S. has sent \$1.82 billion in aid—a budget equivalent to almost \$1 million per day. In short, the bombings, the death squad activity, the disappearances and the arrests would not be occurring if it weren't for our tax dollars being sent to Salvador's military government.





City of Cambridge

COUNCILLOR WOLF
COUNCILLOR GRAHAM
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

5.

IN CITY COUNCIL
February 23, 1987

- WHEREAS: International Women's Day, celebrated on or near March 8 all over the world, honors the immigrant and native born women who took to the streets in 1909 to demand an end to child labor, the right to vote and decent wages and working conditions; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has, for three years, proclaimed International Women's Day as a special time to cherish and rededicate itself to economic and social justice for women in our city and around the world; and
- WHEREAS: Cambridge is a "Sanctuary City", a home especially to many people of El Salvador hoping to form a sister city relationship with a community of Salvadorans who share our city's visions of peace with justice; and
- WHEREAS: The Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women and nine community organizations have decided to honor the women of CoMadres, an organization of Salvadoran women, during a City Hall reception and local celebration of International Women's Day; and
- WHEREAS: The CoMadres, the Committee of Mothers and Relatives of the Disappeared, Assassinated and Political Prisoners of El Salvador, represent the highest values of International Women's Day as women who demand the safe return of their loved ones while struggling against war and injustice in El Salvador in the face of death and imprisonment; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council declare March 9, 1987 International Women's Day in Cambridge; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council welcomes the representatives of CoMadres, praises their courage and supports their unfaltering commitment to justice, peace and human rights in El Salvador; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be prepared to be presented to the CoMadres.

In City Council February 23, 1987.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of 7 members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton
Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

Order # 5 *S-110*

Councillors Wolf, Graham & Russell re:
resolutions declaring March 9, 1987 as
International Women's Day.

In City Council
February 23, 1987

C. Wolf
C. Graham
C. Russell

A

VJ