

*Briefing Series on Accountability*

## **Forced Disappearances During El Salvador's Civil War and their Consequences Today**

*Hosted by the*  
**U.S. House of Representatives Central America Caucus**  
*and the*  
**Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission**

*In conjunction with the Mauricio Aquino Foundation, the Washington Office on Latin America, the Due Process of Law Foundation, and the Center for Human Rights, University of Washington*

**Thursday, April 14, 2016**  
**10:00 – 11:00 AM**  
**2456 Rayburn House Office Building**

### **Panelists**



**Alexandra Aquino-Fike**, along with her mother, Sylvia Rosales-Fike, serves as Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Mauricio Aquino Foundation which sponsors *Our Parents Bones* Campaign. Alexandra was only 21 months old when her father, Mauricio Aquino Chacón, was forcibly abducted by a group of armed soldiers from her home in the middle of the night. Neither Alexandra nor her mother Sylvia ever saw Mauricio again. Alexandra is the Vice President of Development at Hispanics in Philanthropy. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School.



**Sara Aguilar** is the daughter of a father who was forcibly disappeared in 1981, when she was only 15 months old. Born in El Salvador, Sara now lives in Los Angeles and works as a filmmaker. Through her work she seeks to challenge the representation of Latinas in film and highlights contributions made by underrepresented groups. She has worked with organizations including Echo Parenting & Education, Justice for My Sister, El Puente Hacia La Esperanza, and the Alliance for California Traditional Arts, among others. Sara has a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in World Arts and Cultures and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of California at Los Angeles.



**Jimmy Francisco Ortiz Rodriguez** is a human rights lawyer who is pursuing legal action related to the forced disappearances of his two uncles in El Salvador in 1981. Since 2007 he has been a member of CODEFAM, the Committee of Relatives of Victims of Human Rights Violations. In addition, he was an intern at the InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights in Washington DC in 2015. He currently works in FESPAD (the Foundation for the Study and the Application of Law) in San Salvador and is pursuing his Master's degree in transitional justice.



**David Morales** is the Human Rights Ombudsman of El Salvador. A human rights lawyer, Morales was appointed in 2013 to serve as director of the Human Rights Ombudsman's office, an entity created as part of the peace accords to investigate and address complaints of human rights violations throughout the country. David has a long history in human rights. He worked in the Archdiocese's human rights office, Tutela Legal, where he was responsible for bringing the case of Archbishop Oscar Romero's assassination by right-wing death squads before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. Prior to that, he worked at FESPAD, the Foundation for the Study and Application of Law, one of the country's leading human rights and criminal justice organizations., where he litigated several other cases of grave human rights violations.

### **Moderator**



**Leonor Arteaga** is Senior Program Officer with the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF). Leonor is a Salvadoran attorney with fifteen years of experience in the field of human rights, both within civil society and as a public servant in El Salvador. Before joining DPLF, Leonor worked as a litigator in criminal proceedings and in the inter-American human rights system in cases of disappeared individuals for the Association for the Search for Disappeared Children (Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos), a Salvadorean organization dedicated to seeking truth and justice for the victims of the internal armed conflict.