



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Promoting Accountability in El Salvador: The Case of El Mozote

Panel I



Leonor Arteaga is the Senior Program Officer for the Transitional Justice Program at 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. At DPLF, she is in charge of monitoring and undertaking legal analyses of high-profile criminal cases on grave human rights violations as well as truth and reparation initiatives across the region, based on international standards and

best practices. She also oversees project planning and applied research on the obstacles and challenges in the fight against impunity in Latin America. In this capacity, she provides assistance and support to civil society groups. Before joining DPLF in 2012, she worked as the Deputy Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child and Youth at the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, PDDH) in El Salvador.



Dorila Márquez is a Salvadoran human rights advocate, and the president of the El Mozote Association for the Promotion of Human Rights. At age 25, she lost ten family members in the 1981 El Mozote massacre. She worked closely with the Office of Legal Aid of the Archdiocese of San Salvador for many years to document the massacre and help prepare legal action against those responsible. When the Inter-American Court of Human Rights held a hearing on the case in April of 2012, she was one of three witnesses who traveled to Ecuador to testify before the Court. When El Salvador's Constitutional Court, responding to an order from the Inter-American Court, overturned the amnesty law that had stymied prosecution

in the case, Dorila worked to help re-open it. She testified before a judge in the opening phase of the El Mozote trial on October 13th, 2017. She continues to be closely involved with the El Mozote community, not only in the legal case but in community projects.



David Morales is the chief prosecutor in the El Mozote case. Morales has 25 years of experience as a human rights lawyer. Last fall, he helped expand Cristosal's Observatory on Forced Displacement by Violence into Guatemala and Honduras. Previously, Morales was the Ombudsman for Human Rights in El Salvador from 2013 to 2016. Under his leadership, the Ombudsman's office released the first government report recognizing forced displacement by violence. He continues to encourage the Salvadoran government to establish policies and procedures for victims of violence through his work with Cristosal, an organization working to advance human rights in Central America through research, learning, and programming.



Kate Doyle is a Senior Analyst of U.S. policy in Latin America at the National Security Archive. She directs several research projects, including the Guatemala Project, which collects declassified U.S. and Guatemalan government documents on the countries' shared history from 1954, and the Evidence Project, connecting the right to truth and access to information with human rights and justice struggles in Latin America. Since 1992, Doyle has worked with Latin American human rights groups, truth commissions, prosecutors and judges to obtain government files from secret archives that shed light on state violence. She has testified as an expert witness in numerous human rights legal proceedings, including the 2008 trial of former President Alberto Fujimori of Peru for his role in overseeing military death squads; the case before the Spanish National Court on the 1989 assassination of the Jesuit priests in El Salvador; and the 2010 trial of two former policemen in Guatemala for the 1984 forced disappearance of labor leader Edgar Fernando García.

Moderator



Geoff Thale is the Vice President of Programs at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), a leading research and advocacy organization advancing human rights in the Americas. He follows hemispheric trends as well as U.S. policy toward the region, and works with senior staff across WOLA's multiple program areas. Thale specifically oversees WOLA's work on human rights, citizen security, and economic opportunity in Central America, with a particular emphasis on El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. He has followed U.S.-Central America policy since the mid-1980s, and travels to the region several times a year. He has testified before Congress on a variety of issues and has published on citizen security, U.S.-Cuba relations, and Central America. Before coming to WOLA in 1995, Mr. Thale was the founder and Executive Director of the El Salvador Policy Project in Washington, D.C., which tracked the negotiations to end El Salvador's civil war and the construction of post-war war institutions. In this capacity, Thale led delegations to examine human rights and refugee issues during El Salvador's civil war, and also led election observation teams in El Salvador and Nicaragua in the 1990s.