

People and Events Of the World and Nation

San Salvador Bishop Says Junta Is Lax Pursuing Murders

San Salvador (RNS) — Bishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, the acting archbishop of San Salvador, has accused the military-civilian junta of laxity in its inquiry into the murders of three American nuns and a lay religious worker.

Speaking of the Dec. 2, 1980 slayings of the four women, the prelate said: "I have always insisted that justice be done and therefore believe that murders so cruel as these deserve more vigor."

Under prodding by the United States to investigate the killings of the four women, the junta announced in May it had arrested six members of the Salvadorean armed forces as suspects in the slayings.

According to reports, unconfirmed by the junta, the six suspects have been released from jail to enjoy "provisional freedom."

Moral Laxity Blamed By Reformer Colson For High Crime Rate

Kansas City (RNS) — In his call for prison reforms, former Nixon administration official Charles Colson blamed spiraling crime rates on society's moral laxity rather than on poverty.

Colson told an evangelism conference audience here that the federal budget cuts and general economic hard times provided a "perfect moment" for evangelical Christians to recover their heritage as social reformers.

One way to get involved in prison reform, he suggested, was to visit Christian inmates and examine debilitating prison conditions.

However, he disputed the contemporary theory that poverty and social disadvantages in themselves lead people to crime. Rather, it is young people growing up without moral guidance who become the high crime risks, the convicted felon said.



O'CONNOR

Bishop Questions O'Connor's Fitness For Supreme Court

St. Cloud, Minn. (RNS) — Bishop George H. Speltz says he applauds President Reagan's desire to appoint a woman to the U.S. Supreme Court, but he has "serious reservations" about the nomination of Sandra O'Connor to the high court.

Writing in the St. Cloud Visitor, the head of the St. Cloud diocese said he hopes those reservations, which involve Mrs. O'Connor's position on abortion, would be addressed during the confirmation hearings.

Noting that Mrs. O'Connor has been described as "a literalist with acute respect for statutes," Bishop Speltz asked:

"Which statutes? The statutes of human legislators only and legal precedent in the interpretation of these statutes, or in the statutes of God also? Do we as a nation founded on God wish to have perpetuated the unfortunate 1973 decision of our Supreme Court that in fact placed the alleged 'right to privacy' of a woman bearing a child over God's absolute right of human life itself?"

USED UNIFORMS

Cardinal Mooney High School's Women's Guild will hold a used uniform sale from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, August 14; and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the following day in the school cafeteria. Further information obtained by calling 225-1045.

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