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**Climbing a Bridge**

Pedestrians pull themselves along railings of the Urbina Bridge that was destroyed by rebels in a major attack on San Miguel, El Salvador's third largest city. The destruction of the bridge cut the main highway between San Miguel and the Honduran border. (NC Photo)

**El Salvador**

**Report: Guerrillas Vatican Aide Meet**

Archbishop Achille Silvestrini, head of the Vatican's Council for the Public Affairs of the Church, met Sept. 30 with representatives of the El Salvador guerrilla alliance, according to an Associated Press report.

The Vatican would neither confirm nor deny the AP report. A spokesman at the Salvadoran embassy in Rome said Oct. 3 that the meeting had taken place, but he did not give details.

Guillermo Ungo and Salvador Samayoa, who represent the FDR-FMLN alliance opposed to the U.S.-backed government, refused to comment on their reported meeting with Archbishop Silvestrini. They were in Rome for talks with Italian officials.

At a press conference, Ungo and Samayoa accused anti-guerrilla "death squads" of blocking peace in El Salvador and claimed the squads were increasing their activities against peace advocates.

A recent report by the human rights agency of the Archdiocese of San Salvador said that more than 2,500 Salvadoran civilians had been killed by security forces and death squads in the first six months of 1983.

**U.S. Said Impeding Probe of Murders**

The U.S. government is impeding the investigation of the deaths of four women missionaries killed in El Salvador in December 1980, the parents of one of the missionaries said Sept. 28 in Los Angeles.

"It goes beyond non-cooperation," said Raymond Donovan, father of slain lay missionary Jean Donovan. "Evidence has been mislaid, testimony lost, ballistics reports have disappeared. There is a can of worms of leads that aren't followed. It's frustrating."

Mr. and Mrs. Donovan were in California to address a number of interfaith gatherings.

More than two years ago, under the Freedom of Information Act, Raymond and Pat Donovan requested documents that they believed could lead to the killers of their daughter, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and Maryknoll Sisters Ida Ford and Maura Clarke.

The women's bodies were found after they left together in a van from the international airport near San Salvador, El Salvador, Dec. 2, 1980. Five low-ranking members of the Salvadoran security forces have been charged with the murders but no trial date has been set.

"We have been denied access to the documents," said Donovan, despite efforts by Rep. Michael Barnes (D-Md.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.). "The best they could get was a poorly mimeographed four-page sheet that had little relevant information." A full investigation, he said, "would implicate people far up in (the Salvadoran) government; that is why there will be no trial. It goes right to the top."

"I voted for Ronald Reagan. My wife and I are life-long Republicans. Jean was a registered Republican when she was killed," said Donovan, a retired helicopter designer.

"We have the finest system of government in the world and it is self-correcting. It may not correct itself tomorrow," he said. "I hope we get there with justice for Jean and the others and for the people of Latin America."

**Human Rights Link Approved in House**

Legislation extending for at least another year the requirement that President Reagan periodically certify human rights progress in El Salvador was approved by the House Sept. 30.

The measure, introduced three days earlier by Rep. Michael Barnes (D-Md.), was intended to serve as interim legislation until Congress enacts a new foreign aid bill, which would include new certification requirements. That bill was still pending in committee.

The 1981 foreign aid bill, which enacted the original certification measures, expired this year. It required the periodic certification as a condition for continuation of U.S. military aid to El Salvador.

House approval of the certification extension came on a voice vote.

If approved by the Senate the interim measure would require Reagan to submit at least two more certification reports, one next January and the other in July. The Reagan administration sent its last certification report to Congress last July.

The recently expired law, which the new legislation would renew, required certification of progress in a variety of areas, including:

- Continued good faith efforts to investigate the murders of U.S. citizens in El Salvador, including four Catholic churchwomen killed in 1980, and to bring those responsible to trial.
- "Concerted and significant" efforts to comply with "internationally recognized human rights."
- "Substantial control" by the Salvadoran government of its armed forces aimed at ending indiscriminate torture and murder, and
- Continued progress in implementing economic and political reforms, including land reform.

**Catholic Church Seen Only Refuge**

Joyce Horman, the woman whose effort to find her husband was portrayed in the 1981 film "Missing," said that in many Latin American countries the Catholic Church has become the only place of refuge from dictatorship.

"It is the church that has realized that suffering and poverty have to be fought," Ms. Horman said. "The church is the base of change, the base of resistance in Latin America."

Ms. Horman is the widow of Charles Horman, a young American journalist who allegedly had evidence of covert United States involvement in the overthrow of Chilean President Salvador Allende, a Marxist, in 1973. Mr. and Mrs. Horman were living in Chile at the time.

Ms. Horman said that five days after he discovered the evidence, Chilean soldiers dragged her husband from his home. His family never saw him alive again.

Joyce Horman, who was in Whitefish Bay, Wis., to participate in events marking the 10th anniversary of the Chilean coup, said that 90 percent of the people in Latin America are Catholic.

She said that while the Catholic Church in Latin America includes many people with varying points of view, she sees more and more church leaders taking strong stands against the oppression in their nations.

The church should get involved in politics because the church is "made up of people -- people who are suffering," she said. "How can the church stand by while they are treated brutally? How can the church refuse to offer refuge to people who are literally bleeding from torture?"

Ms. Horman said she and her husband moved to Chile in 1972 because "we had decided we wanted to see something of the world and Chile was undergoing a kind of political experiment with the election of Allende, a Socialist. It was intellectual curiosity."

Ms. Horman, now 38, said that she has not returned to Chile since the coup and does not want to return.



Joyce Horman

**Nicaragua**

**Sandinista Opponents Assailed as Brutal**

Mrs. Hynds, a widow with four children in their 20s, is completing her first three-year term as a Maryknoll lay missionary.

She plans to return to Nicaragua in January for another term of service.

She has worked in the Nicaraguan capital, Managua, as English-language editor of Envio (mailing), a monthly publication of the Jesuit-operated Central American Historical Institute.

Mrs. Hynds cited a report brought to Envio by a U.S. priest, Blessed Sacrament Father James Feltz, who is pastor in Bocana de Palwas, in a central mountainous area.

She said he reported raids Aug. 31-Sept. 2 on four hamlets of the parish, with the guerrillas killing 20 civilians, raping three women, kidnapping 25 people and burning 18 homes.

Father Feltz also reported, she said, that the raiders cut off the head of a 14-year-old girl and displayed it publicly.

Guerrilla opponents of Nicaragua's Sandinista government are perpetrating acts of brutality against civilians and causing economic damage to the entire country, said Maryknoll lay missionary Pat Hynds at a conference opposed to Reagan administration policy on Central America.

Speaking Oct. 3, one day after her return from Nicaragua, she cited reports from Nicaragua indicating that the U.S.-backed guerrillas were killing, mutilating, raping and kidnapping civilians.

She said damage to the country's economic life, combined with diversion of resources for self-defense and loss of aid from the United States, made it impossible to start building any more new schools or hospitals.

Mrs. Hynds spoke to 150 people attending a two-day conference sponsored by the Riverside Church on "Nicaragua and Central America: Saying 'No' to Reagan's Wars."

The other speakers included Maryknoll Father Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaraguan foreign minister.

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