



U.S.-El Salvador  
Sister Cities



SACRAMENTO STATE  
Multi-Cultural Center



CRISJ

TASKFORCE FOR THE  
CENTER ON RACE,  
IMMIGRATION  
& SOCIAL JUSTICE

Tuesday, March 24, 2020, marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero in San Salvador, El Salvador. Romero was shot by a sniper while saying mass after calling for the Salvadoran police and armed forces to cease the repression of the masses of Salvadoran people, who for years organized to end a brutal military dictatorship. The Salvadoran dictatorship killed thousands of civilians each year and secured unjustified structural inequalities that left the great majority of Salvadorans in extreme poverty.

For many years prior to his death, Romero's calls for peace and justice had threatened the rich and powerful in El Salvador and their allies in the Salvadoran army and U.S. government. He continued denouncing human rights abuses (killings, tortures, disappearances) even after receiving many death threats and calling on the U.S government to end all aid it was providing to the Salvadoran regime. For his refusal to remain silent in the face of the injustice and repression, he was killed.

The Sacramento State Committee to Remember Oscar Romero had planned to host an educational panel and community art project on Monday March 23 on the Sacramento State campus to honor Romero, all those who gave their lives in the Salvadoran struggle for justice, and other people who fought against injustices. Unfortunately, because of the current health crisis, we have postponed the event. However, we still want to share some words from Romero that we believe are appropriate at this time, when social solidarity with those most vulnerable and marginalized is badly needed.

Romero called on all of us to stand with those most in need,

I am content that our church is persecuted precisely because of its preference for the poor and for trying to act in the interests of the poor and to say to the people, to the government, to the rich and the powerful: if you don't take an interest in the poverty of our people as if they were your own family, you will not be able to save our society (Romero, July 15, 1979).

Y me alegro de que nuestra iglesia sea perseguida precisamente por su opción preferencial por los pobres y por tratar de encarnarse en el interés de los pobres y decir a todo el pueblo, gobernantes, ricos y poderosos: si no se interesan por la pobreza de nuestro pueblo como si fuera su propia familia, no podrán salvar a la sociedad (Romero, 15 July 1979).

Romero's words and example call on all of us to stand in solidarity with those most at risk during the COVID 19 crisis: the sick, the elderly, the economically and socially marginalized, communities of color, immigrants, people in prison and so many others. We must stand together

and remember that all of us deserve love, respect and our basic rights to food, shelter, education, medical care and the right to have our voices heard. Human life has no price.

We hope San Romero's words inspire all of us to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable communities around the world as we face this pandemic. As he said, we have the moral obligation and right to organize for a better world,

...(people) are not prohibited from organizing themselves; it is a right and in certain moments, such as today, it is a duty, because the fight for social and political justice can't be done in isolation, but rather through the force of the people united clamoring for their rights (Romero, Sept 16, 1979).

Yo quisiera hacer un llamamiento a los queridos cristianos; no les está prohibido organizarse; es un derecho y en ciertos momentos, como hoy, es también un deber, porque las reivindicaciones sociales y políticas tienen que ser no de hombres aislados, sino la fuerza de un pueblo que clama unido por sus derechos (Romero, 16 sept 1979)

If you are interested in our efforts and would like to work with our committee, please contact us:

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Thank you.

In solidarity,  
Sacramento State Committee to Remember Oscar Romero

US-El Salvador Sister Cities  
Taskforce for the Center on Race, Immigration, and Social (CRISJ)  
Central Americans for Empowerment (CAFE)  
Sac State Latin American Studies program  
Sac State Multi-Cultural Center