

WHIP AT LARGE

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

PARREN J. MITCHELL
7TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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MINORITY ENTERPRISE, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

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COMMITTEE

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House of Representatives

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BANKING, FINANCE AND
URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

September 2, 1982

SUBCOMMITTEES:
DOMESTIC MONETARY POLICY
HOUSING
GENERAL OVERSIGHT
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
INVESTMENT, JOBS AND PRICES
TRADE, PRODUCTIVITY AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH

Executive Registry
82-1631/8

Honorable William J. Casey
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

It has come to my attention that the Central Intelligence (CIA) has denied information to the families of the four American churchwomen murdered in El Salvador.

I strongly urge that your agency respond to the requests of these individuals for information regarding the deaths of their family members. For your clarification, I have enclosed a copy of a letter addressed to my office concerning this issue for your perusal.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my views.

Sincerely,

Parren J. Mitchell
Parren J. Mitchell
Member of Congress

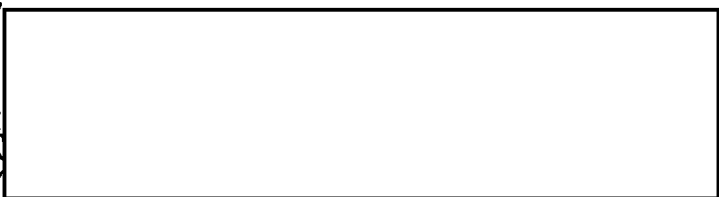
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Enclosure

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June 30, 1982

Honorable Parren J. Mitchell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Mitchell:

My sister, Ita Ford, was one of the four American churchwomen murdered in El Salvador on December 2, 1980. The families of these women have been largely ignored or rebuffed when they sought information from U.S. Government agencies about the death of their sisters. Permit me to summarize some of the difficulties faced by the families of the women, in their efforts to learn what happened, and who directed and carried out this terrible crime.

1. Secretary Haig and Ambassador Kirkpatrick have smeared the good names of the women with suggestions that they were political activists supporting the guerillas, and were killed for their actions. As recently as April 20, 1982, Ambassador Enders wrote to Mike Donovan, a brother of one of the murdered women that two of the women were killed upon their

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return from a meeting in Nicaragua with a Sandinista official. This is not so, and Ambassador Enders knew it was not so when he wrote the letter.

2. For over a year, no real investigation was conducted by the Salvadoran government, our government did nothing to push the Salvadorans, and so evidence has likely been lost and the recollections of witnesses grow faint.

3. For over a year the families have been repeatedly told by State and the F.B.I. that the Salvadorans had assembled and were forwarding to the F.B.I. the fingerprints and weapons of the approximately 85 National Guardsmen on duty the night of the murders. This material has never reached the F.B.I. The families have been given, by the F.B.I. and State, conflicting and confusing stories about the role of the F.B.I. in the investigations. It appears that the F.B.I. may be troubled by State's political rather than investigatory approach.

4. The F.B.I., C.I.A., State Department and Defense Intelligence Agency have delayed and evaded responding to requests for information made by the families. In fact, the C.I.A. demanded proof from the families that the women were dead, before it would consider the request. What should our government have to hide about the murders?

5. The State Department and the Salvadorans insist that only the five National Guardsmen now in custody in El

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Salvador were involved in the murders. There are clear and convincing facts that the crime was ordered by high ranking Salvadoran officials, yet the "investigation" has been conducted to limit the ranks of the accused to low level enlisted personnel.

6. Evidence linking the murders of the women to the same men accused of murdering the two American land reform advisers has not been pursued.

7. The families are not told the current status of the investigation, when and where the trial of the six will take place and what arrangements will be made to have the families represented at the proceeding, as provided by Salvadoran law.

The list of difficulties is longer, but that is a fair sample of the list. The difficulties the families have experienced seem to come from a basic cause: the decision of the United States government to support a government of gangsters in uniforms.

I ask for your help in two ways:

1. Will you help the families to arrange a meeting with the Director of the F.B.I. or his delegate, so the families can learn the facts about the "investigation"?

2. Will you request State, C.I.A, F.B.I. and Defense Intelligence Agency to cooperate with the families' requests for

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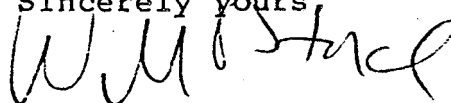
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documents relating to the death, and investigation of the deaths, of the four women?

I will give you any specific background information which I have and you want.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. P. Ford".

William P. Ford