

14

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

82-1631/1

SUBJECT: (Optional) Letters to Representatives Ottinger, Peyser and Oakar Who Wrote on Behalf of the Relatives of the American Slain Churchwomen in El Salvador

FROM: Director, Office of External Affairs
7D43 Hqs.

EXTENSION NO. OEXA 82-1498/A
DATE 2 JUL 1982 **STAT**

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

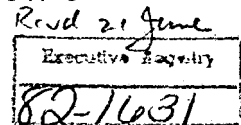
DATE
RECEIVED FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS: (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

25X1

1. <i>ww</i> Executive Director		7/6/82	<i>ODJ</i>	<p>1-385: Am discussing with DDA means for spotting and acting on potentially sensitive requests when first received. <i>ODJ</i></p>
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 18, 1982

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

Dear Director Casey:

We are writing in behalf of the relatives of American churchwomen slain in El Salvador in 1980, and their attorneys, the Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights.

In December, 1980, four American churchwomen were brutally murdered in El Salvador. What followed was an extremely dubious investigation plagued with uncertainties and delays. Five suspects are now awaiting trial in El Salvador, but a reasonable critique of the investigation suggests that responsibility for this heinous crime goes well beyond the five individuals who have been charged.

The relatives of the slain churchwomen have attempted to ascertain what has delayed the investigation and whether it has indeed been complete and accurate. Their requests for cooperation from U.S. agencies in this matter have been met with incredible delays and unresponsiveness.

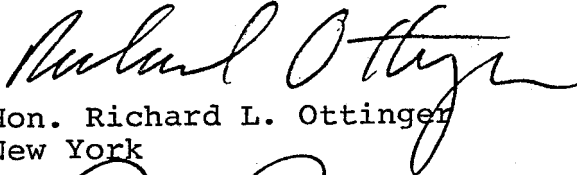
We urgently request that you do everything in your power to expedite the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request that has been filed with your agency in behalf of the families of the slain churchwomen by the Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights. Specifically, we urge you to immediately release all cables, memoranda, reports, letters, or other records which relate either to the deaths of Jean Donovan and Sisters Ita Ford, Maura Clarke and Dorothy Kazel in El Salvador on December 2, 1980, or to any investigations into those deaths which have taken place since December 2, 1980.


The families of these gallant women have already experienced the trauma of having their loved ones brutally murdered in El Salvador. For U.S. agencies to be dragging their feet in complying with the law is not only a remarkably inhumane way to conduct their business but is also a violation of the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act.

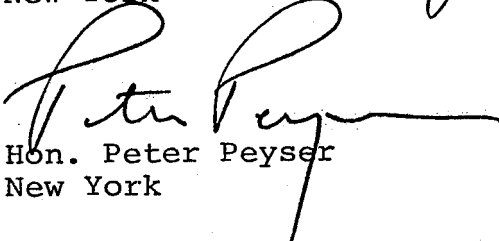
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Given the urgency of this matter, we request your
compliance with this request by July 2, 1982.

Sincerely,


Hon. Richard L. Ottinger
New York


Hon. Mary Rose Oakar
Ohio


Hon. Peter Peyser
New York

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