

EXCISE



Department of State

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4704

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, ELAB, ES
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRY - MASSIN

REF: ✓ STATE 331850

TO: THE HONORABLE CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON D.C. 20515

ATTN: PAUL COLLISON

DEAR SENATOR GRASSLEY:

I AM WRITING IN RESPONSE TO YOUR INQUIRY TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGARDING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
SALVADORAN CITIZEN JUAN FRANCIS MASSI. MR.
YOUR CONSTITUENT, INQUIRED ABOUT THE CASE.

MR. MASSI AND A FRIEND, SARA CRISTIANI CHAN CHAN,
WERE LAST SEEN ON AUGUST 19. FRIENDS AND RELATIVES
OF THE PAIR ALLEGE THAT THE TWO WERE ARRESTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE AIR FORCE. THE AIR FORCE HAS
CONSISTENTLY DENIED THAT CHARGE, HOWEVER, AND ALL
OTHER SECURITY FORCES HAVE DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF
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THE WHEREABOUTS OF EITHER MR. MASSI OR MS CHAN CHAN.

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EMBASSY OFFICIALS MET WITH MEMBERS OF BOTH FAMILIES IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE CHAN CHAN FAMILY SEVERAL TIMES IN OCTOBER. AT THEIR REQUEST, THE EMBASSY RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE TWO DISAPPEARANCES WITH MILITARY AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER. AGAIN, MILITARY OFFICIALS DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE. IN OCTOBER, MEMBERS OF THE CHAN CHAN FAMILY ALLEGED THAT SARA CRISTINA CHAN CHAN WAS BEING HELD BY THE NATIONAL POLICE. THE EMBASSY WAS UNABLE, HOWEVER, TO CONFIRM THIS. TO DATE, NEITHER MS CHAN CHAN NOR MR. MASSI HAVE REAPPEARED. WE REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH BOTH FAMILIES, AND ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST THEM WITH ANY FUTURE REQUESTS THEY MIGHT HAVE.

I WISH TO UNDERSCORE THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS IN FURTHERING RESPECT FOR AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EL SALVADOR. THE EVENTS OF THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, INCLUDING THE UNPROVOKED FMLN ASSAULT ON THE CAPITAL AND THE EXECUTIONS OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS AND TWO OTHERS AT A LOCAL UNIVERSITY, UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR GREATER RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON ALL SIDES. THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO PRESS THE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND, MORE RECENTLY, TO ENSURE A FULL AND FAIR INVESTIGATION OF THE JESUIT KILLINGS. RECRIMINATIONS NEED TO BE MADE AGAINST THE FMLN AS WELL, WHICH HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ASSASSINATIONS OF LOCAL POLITICAL FIGURES, AND VIA ITS RECENT OFFENSIVE CAUSED HUNDREDS OF DEATHS AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.

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WILLIAM J. DIETERICH
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I.

DIETERICH