



UT INHABITET
IN ME VIRTUS
CHRISTI

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON CHANCERY OFFICE 700 KING ST. WEST HAMILTON, ONT. L8P 1C7 PHONE (416) 528-7988

This is the testimony of the ecclesiastical delegates to the internment of Monsignor Oscar Romero on the events that occurred during the funeral liturgy:

1. We, Bishops, Pastors of different Christian Churches, Superiors of Religious Orders, priests and lay people, feel impelled to rectify the statement made by the government on March 30 at 4:30 in the afternoon concerning the events that occurred on the occasion of the funeral of Msgr. Romero. In this statement there are major errors concerning the narration of the facts as well as the false interpretation of the same which can lead to grave error and confusion. In the same official statement the government asked us that we narrate what we saw. Here then, is what we saw:
 2. Our view of the facts is what for the most part we ourselves as immediate witnesses are able to verify the real truth of what actually occurred. Allow us to highlight the following to clarify this truth:
 - A) At no moment did anyone try to steal or take away the body of Msgr. Romero. On the contrary, all those present and all groups without any exception manifested

a great respect and devotion for his mortal remains.

- B) The group called "Co-ordinadora Revolucionaria de Masas" entered the Plaza Barrios, where the Cathedral is located, peacefully, with respect and with order, and their leaders carried a crown of flowers, and placed them upon the casket.
 - C) At no moment did "la Co-ordinadora" force us to remain inside the Cathedral. If we did so, even after the cessation of the aggression, it is due to our own Christian desire to accompany a people so terrified that they painfully welded themselves together in the interior of this sacred place of worship.
3. What we can verify from the steps of the Cathedral and from its tower, as well as through the testimonies gathered during our inquiries in the city are the following:
- A) Suddenly we heard the detonation of a high calibre bomb which several witnesses attested to have been thrown from the National Palace Building.
 - B) Then were heard rifle and gunshot noises which several priests present testified as coming from the second floor of the National Palace.
 - C) We ourselves have seen or have been able to verify the presence from the early hours of the day of the

Security Forces in the streets of San Salvador and at the different entrances into the city.

- D) We also testify that a number of the members of the "Co-ordinadora" showed themselves by certain actions, e.g., the burning and overturning of cars. They did this allegedly to insure the dispersing of the crowd.
4. Those who came to honor the life and death of Msgr. Romero have been able to experience the truth of his word when he was denouncing incessantly the oppression of the Salvadorian people. Today we feel more than ever united and ready to continue his prophetic mission, making ourselves equal to his last words when he begged and ordered in the name of God that oppression be brought to an end and that the order to kill be suspended.

We have been witnesses of the pain and anguish of the people of San Salvador and also of their courage and stability. And, on this occasion we are witnesses of the serious distortion of the facts and their false interpretation given by the government of El Salvador.

San Salvador, 30 March 1980

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SECRETARIA
DEL
ARZOBISPADO
DE SAN SALVADOR,
C. A.

† Sergio Mendiola
~~Obispo de Cuzco~~
~~Obispo de Cuzco~~
~~Obispo de Cuzco~~
Obispo de Piobamba

† Samuel Ruiz M.
Obispo de ~~S. Salvador de S. P.~~

Humano Mundu A. BRASIA

† Luis A. Pacheco - Perú

Jorge Lara-Braun, National Council of Churches, USA

† James O'Brien, Bishop in (Hertfordshire)

Pbro. Juan Vives Suria - Venezuela

Quinto Domingo - Perú

Pbro. Jesús García - México

Mrs. María Pineda - (MIEC-SECI) LIMA

Angel V. Peiró - Consejo Mundial de Iglesias

~~Charles Harper~~

CHARLES HARPER (CONSEJO MUNDIAL DE IGLESIAS)

~~CH~~

† Marcos Mc Brath - Arzobispo de Panamá

† FAMON CASEY BISHOP OF GALWAY.

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SECRETARIA
DEL
ARZOBISPADO
DE SAN SALVADOR,
C. A.

Sister Regina McEvoy - ^{Knas de:} maryknoll
Sister Josephine Callmer - maryknoll
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