

## A “LOST CASE OF GENOCIDE”: A NEW DATASET FOR MASSACRES IN EL SALVADOR DURING 1979–1991

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This article presents new data on the deliberate massacre of Salvadoran citizens targeted for their ideological beliefs during the civil war, 1979-1991. The contribution of quantitative research on violence against a specific group of civilians provides support for claims of malicious and systemic actions perpetrated by the State. This article includes estimates of civilians killed in 152 massacre events listed on the Monument to Truth and Memory in San Salvador, El Salvador and a table of 32 massacre events and estimated fatalities not listed on the memorial wall as evidence for the lost history of El Salvador. My hope is that future research and teaching in the field of genocide studies will give the El Salvador case greater attention so that additional prosecutions will occur for those responsible. And consequently, potential future perpetrators of atrocities will not view the El Salvador case as one in which the perpetrators circumvented justice.

*Keywords:* politicide, genocide, massacre, El Salvador

*JEL Code:* Y1, Z1

### 1. Introduction

El Salvador in the 1980's appears to be a lost case of genocide. While the killings were not on the same scale nor did they receive the same notoriety as genocides like the Nazi Holocaust or the Rwandan genocide in 1994, the Political Instability Task Force (PITF) still classifies the period as genocide/politicide. PITF is a United States government sponsored research project devoted to building a database on major political conflicts under the direction of Monty G. Marshall, Ted Robert Gurr, and Barbara Harff at the University of Maryland Center for International Development and Conflict Management (PITF Problem Set Codebook 2014). Empirical models based on the PITF dataset have gone a long way in identifying risk factors for genocide, considering how such atrocities might be prevented, and improving forecasting of genocide. As just one example, Harff's (2003) foundational empirical work identified six factors that predicted with 74 percent accuracy between state crises (i.e. intrastate wars and regime failures) that do and those that do not lead

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to genocide/politicide. Given the valuable and reputable source material available about genocide/politicide why then is El Salvador not one of the countries included in most recognized literature on the subject of genocide? In response to this lacuna, I introduce a new dataset of massacres to evidence the intentional and malicious killings perpetrated by the Salvadoran government and National Army against civilian members or perceived members of the left-wing political party from 1979-1991 during the civil war.

The target group of the genocide/politicide in El Salvador was the left-wing guerilla movement. Although generalized in many publications as simply “the Left,” in fact many organizations and political parties fall under this label. The civil war erupted when tensions between the guerilla movement and government rose over the inequality of social classes, poverty, and repressive military rule. Mere reformers were targeted as “the Left” as well, such as teachers, farmers, and the clergy (most notably Oscar Romero) who were asking for mild reform to improve the common good. Mark Danner notes that the “ideological overcharge” caused the deaths of many innocent victims suspected of guerilla activity because the National Army had internalized the mentality of “if you are not with me you are against me, and if you are against me then I have to destroy you” (Danner 1993, 42). The State “murder[ed] men, women, and children en masse, without trial or investigation, simply because of the political sympathies of some of their number” (Danner 1993, 53). Clearly, the many organizations and activists collected under the label “left-wing political party” were systematically targeted.

The 1948 United Nation’s Genocide Convention’s definition of genocide covers acts committed against national, ethnical, racial, or religious groups, but not political groups. In 1988, Barbara Harff and Ted Robert Gurr addressed this omission by proposing the concept of politicide. However, political groups are still not included as targets in the U.N. genocide definition. This article focuses on the case of El Salvador, in which governing authorities assisted in the deliberate and systematic elimination of members and suspected members of the left-wing political party targeted for their ideological beliefs. The case is lost to the world – overlooked by domestic and international authorities, international tribunals, and scholars alike. The story of El Salvador must be told.

One crucial component of this lost case of genocide/politicide is the lost history of El Salvador. This is clearly evident in the memorial wall erected in the capital of San Salvador, The Monument to Truth and Memory, which bears the names of just 30,011 victims etched in black stone. While it stands as a massive image symbolically illustrating the magnitude of violence, it captures only approximately one third of the estimated 75,000 victims killed in the time period (Danner 1993, 10). Sparse records of the civil war violence exist and, with the exception a few of notorious assassinations, El Salvador received little international press coverage during the war.

In addition to 30,011 victim names, the Monument to Truth and Memory also lists 183 massacre cases from 1979-1991, evidence of a sustained period of oppressive violence. However, of these 183 occurrences, only a handful of large-scale massacres are included in publications on the Salvadoran civil war. Although a majority of the massacres are small-scale, the intentional victimization of a specific political group classifies this period of systemic violence as genocide/politicide. Nevertheless, the El Salvador case does not

appear in major case reading books in the field of genocide studies such as *Centuries of Genocide* (2012), nor even in edited books on genocides in Latin America such as *State Violence and Genocide in Latin America: The Cold War Years* (2010). El Salvador is indeed a “lost case” overlooked by genocide scholars.

In this article I introduce a new dataset of massacres in El Salvador from 1979 to 1991. This dataset may help scholars understand the gravity of violence that took place during the Salvadoran civil war and provoke future studies. I located data on 152, or 83 percent, of the massacres listed on the Monument to Truth and Memory, in addition to 32 other massacre occurrences. This is an important issue of justice, memory, and prevention; the dataset contribution serves to prevent future politicides committed by a State, potentially even within El Salvador, and ultimately promote peace. The plan of the paper is as follows: section 2 presents the data, section 3 explains the move towards peace and justice and section 4 concludes.

## 2. Presenting the data

### *Criteria and definitions*

To my knowledge, a dataset of this size documenting this number of massacre deaths in El Salvador has never been compiled. Because the State perpetrated the violence, very few records exist. In an effort to support the PITF findings, I will use their definition of genocide/politicide in my study:

events involve[ing] the promotion, execution, and/or implied consent of sustained policies by governing elites or their agents or in the case of civil war, either of the contending authorities that result in the deaths of a substantial portion of a communal group or politicized non communal group...In politicides, groups are defined primarily in terms of their political opposition to the regime and dominant groups. Genocide and politicide are distinguished from state repression and terror. In cases of state terror authorities arrest, persecute or execute a few members of a group in ways designed to terrorize the majority of the group into passivity or acquiescence. In the case of genocide and politicide authorities physically exterminate enough (not necessarily all) members of a target group so that it can no longer pose any conceivable threat to their rule or interests. (PITF Problem Set Code Book 2014)

Additionally, four operational criteria are used to distinguish a case of genocide/politicide. First, the authorities’ complicity in mass murder must be established. Secondly, there must be evidence of a persistent, coherent pattern of action. Only sustained episodes of six months or more are included in PITF datasets in order to indicate a coherent pattern. The Salvadoran civil war violence lasted 1979-1991 and easily evidences a persistent pattern of action. Next, the victims counted are unarmed civilians, not combatants. And lastly, while PITF records fatalities, the body count is not a defining piece of a genocidal episode because “a ‘few hundred’ killed constitutes as much a genocide or politicide as the deaths of thousands if the victim group is small in number to begin with” (PITF Problem Set

Codebook 2014). Using this criterion, PITSF classifies the period of 1980-1989 as genocide/politicide in El Salvador and I follow the same guidelines in this study.

### *Data collection*

Locating details of massacre events proved to be quite difficult, likely due to the limited media exposure the civil war received. Over 25 journalists were killed during the civil war in attempts to mask the state sponsored violence, which discouraged many others from asking questions (*Press Reference* 2015). The government covered up a majority of episodes in El Salvador; journalists did not have access to or were even unaware of some massacre events. Additionally, very few records and interviews of victims exist, a result of the scorched earth war tactic, literally leaving nothing behind. Mark Danner, for instance, details the journey of journalists Raymond Bonner from the New York Times and Alma Guillermoprie to from the Washington Post to report on the El Mozote massacre:

They had come very close to El Mozote. In less than an hour, they could have seen for themselves the burned buildings, the ruined sacristy, and the bodies. But, with the soldiers’ refusal to go on, the Americans faced the choice of heading on across open country...without protection or turning back. (Danner 1993, 109)

Two months later four Dutch journalists included in this dataset would be killed while reporting in El Salvador. The threat of reporting the truth and the actions of the State was severe and authoritarian rule allowed for the covering up of some massacres.

In light of the lack of Salvadoran sources detailing the history of these massacres, I used the LexisNexis Academic database, composed of over 17,000 business, legal, and news sources, to locate newspaper articles and wire posts to determine the date and reported death totals for each massacre. The LexisNexis database includes more than 3,000 newspapers from across the globe (including Latin America), over 2,000 magazine and journal articles, and numerous wire services such as The Associated Press. Another similar project, the Latin American Political Project based out of Midwestern State University, also used LexisNexis as their primary source. This similar data collection project seeks to create country specific data sets covering all domestic protests in the Latin American region and includes data on El Salvador 1979–1991 (Garrison 2001). Similarly, Professor Steve Garrison found the LexisNexis database of worldwide publications to be most reliable. And, as with Garrison’s dataset, if a death total was published as a range, I documented the lowest estimate. Additionally, I employed a number of other sources to supplement news articles such as documents published by the Center for Accountability and Justice and web sources. The body counts that could not be found are further evidence for the suggestion of the “lost” and under-researched case of El Salvador.

### *Patterns and trends*

Table 1 contains 152 massacres listed on The Monument to Truth and Memory in San Salvador from 1979–1991. According to my findings, a total of 7,941 Salvadoran citizens

**Table 1.** Massacres in El Salvador listed on the Monument to Truth and Memory, 1979-1991

Name	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
1979: Rio el Cumbo, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	120	2-Oct-79	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_10_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_10_01_archive.html</a>
1979: San Antonio Abad, San Salvador, San Salvador	5	20-Jan-79	Flores-M, Mario (1979)
1979: Gradass de Catedral, San Salvador, San Salvador	24	8-May-79	<a href="http://ixquic.blogspot.com/2009/05/masa.html">http://ixquic.blogspot.com/2009/05/masa.html</a>
Amatitan Abajo, San Esteban Catarina, San Vicente	7	15-Jun-80	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>
Amatitan Arriba, San Esteban Catarina, San Vicente	4	5-Jul-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Amayo, San Juan Nonualco, La Paz	7	29-Oct-80	Olaciregui, Demetrio (1980)
Analquito, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	23	3-Oct-80	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/10/masacre-hacienda-vieja-3-de-octubre.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/10/masacre-hacienda-vieja-3-de-octubre.html</a>
Cancha La Reubicacion 3, Chalatenango	3	23-Dec-80	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfm.ln.org/blog/?p=28016">http://www.simpatizantesfm.ln.org/blog/?p=28016</a>
Catedral Metropolitana (Entierro Monseñor Romero), San Salvador, San Salvador	30	30-Mar-80	Cornell, George W (1980)
Cerro Vivo, Zapotal, Chalatenango	15	13-Jun-80	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>
Cerros de San Pedro, San Esteban Catarina, San Vicente	8	8-Jun-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Colegio Externado San Jose, San Salvador, San Salvador	16	27-Nov-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Colima (Hacienda), Aguilares, San Salvador	28	17-Mar-80	Garrison, Steve R (2001)
El Campanario (Finca Soledad), Zacatecoluca, La Paz	9	16-Dec-80	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfm.ln.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/siglo16-12-2013.pdf">http://www.simpatizantesfm.ln.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/siglo16-12-2013.pdf</a>
El Chillillo, San Esteban Catarina, San Vicente	9	4-Jul-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
El Desvío de los Nitos, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	96	2-Jun-80	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_06_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_06_01_archive.html</a>
El Golfo, San Juan Nonualco, La Paz	70	3-Jun-80	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>
El Guayabo, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	28	13-Jun-80	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>

(Contd.)

Name	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
El Jobo, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	10	30-Jul-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
El Mangon, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	5	5-Jun-80	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfmh.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/siglo09-06-2014.pdf">http://www.simpatizantesfmh.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/siglo09-06-2014.pdf</a>
El Platanar, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	13	25-Jul-80	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_07_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_07_01_archive.html</a>
El Playon (Quebrada), Ojos de Agua, Chalatenango	5	1980	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2012/01/masacre-de-el-playon-rio-sumpul.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2012/01/masacre-de-el-playon-rio-sumpul.html</a>
El Socorro, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	[Grouped]	2-Jun-80	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_06_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_06_01_archive.html</a>
El Tamarindo, San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango	8	15-Apr-80	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_04_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_04_01_archive.html</a>
El Trapiche, San Esteban Catarina, San Vicente	16	17-Oct-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
El Yurique, Ojos de Agua, Chalatenango	7	17-Jan-80	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2012/01/masacre-de-yurique.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2012/01/masacre-de-yurique.html</a>
El Zarzal, Santo Domingo de Guzman, Sonsonate	3	25-Feb-80	<a href="http://valquiria-enbsequedadidignidad.blogspot.com/2014/02/memoria-historica-secretaria-nacional-1.html">http://valquiria-enbsequedadidignidad.blogspot.com/2014/02/memoria-historica-secretaria-nacional-1.html</a>
Guacamaya, Meanguera, Morazan	15	11-Oct-80	Karl, Terry (2012)
Hacienda Vieja, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	6	3-Oct-80	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/10/masacre-hacienda-vieja-3-de-octubre.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/10/masacre-hacienda-vieja-3-de-octubre.html</a>
La Ceiba, Las Vueltas, Chalatenango **	8	10-Aug-80	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
La Inversa (Hacienda), Zacatecoluca, La Paz	82	18-Dec-80	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfmh.org/blog/PDF/siglo17-12-2012.pdf">http://www.simpatizantesfmh.org/blog/PDF/siglo17-12-2012.pdf</a>
La Palma, San Rafael Obrajuelo, La Paz	64	3-Jun-80	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>
Las Aradillas, Santa Clara, San Vicente	47	18-Sep-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Las Canoas, Pinalito, Santa Ana	22	8-Sep-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Las Minas, Chalatenango **	6	3-May-80	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfmh.org/blog/?p=22805">http://www.simpatizantesfmh.org/blog/?p=22805</a>
Las Piedronas, San Juan Nonualco, La Paz	[Grouped]	3-Jun-80	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>

Name	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
Lievano, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	6	26-Oct-80	<a href="http://hunna.org/efemrides-de-octubre/">http://hunna.org/efemrides-de-octubre/</a>
Los Ayalitas, San Esteban Catarina, San Vicente	7	14-Sep-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Los Cañales, Verapaz, San Vicente	4	23-Mar-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Los Mogotes, San Francisco Tacachico, La Libertad	41	9-Jul-80	<a href="http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/2df3c0_lafiguradoelpadre.pdf">http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/2df3c0_lafiguradoelpadre.pdf</a>
Los Naranjos, Las Vueltas, Chalatenango	4	8-Dec-80	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/?p=28016">http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/?p=28016</a>
Los Platanares, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	13	25-Jul-80	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/?p=24197">http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/?p=24197</a>
Los Ramirez, Las Minas, Chalatenango	5	13-Apr-80	<a href="http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/9addf9_2223fe-stivalverdad.pdf">http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/9addf9_2223fe-stivalverdad.pdf</a>
Los Zacatillos, San Juan Nonualco, La Paz	[Grouped]	3-Jun-80	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pages45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pages45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>
Mata de Platano (Hacienda), Zacatecoluca, La Paz	32	12-Dec-80	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/siglo09-12-2013.pdf">http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/siglo09-12-2013.pdf</a>
Periodistas Holandeses, Santa Rita, Chalatenango	4	18-Mar-80	Salvador War Claims 4 Dutch Journalists (1982)
Pineda, Zacatecoluca, La Paz **	17	29-May-80	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/1980.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/1980.htm</a>
Religiosas MaryKnoll, Santiago Nonualco, La Paz	4	2-Dec-80	Morales, Vicente (1980)
Rincon del Cute, Nueva Trinidad, Chalatenango **	7	8-May-80	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
San Carlos, Villa Dolores, Cabañas	16	9-Sep-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
San Faustino (Hacienda), Zacatecoluca, La Paz	42	18-Dec-80	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/PDF/siglo17-12-2012.pdf">http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/PDF/siglo17-12-2012.pdf</a>
San Francisco Guajoyo, Metapan, Santa Ana	12	29-May-80	Dickey, Christopher (1980)
San Francisco, Mejicanos, San Salvador	3	2-Dec-80	Garrison, Steve R (2001)
San Jose, Tejuiltla, Chalatenango	10	4-Aug-80	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>

(Contd.)

Name	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
San Josecito, Zacatecoluca, La Paz **	28	20-Jan-80	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html</a>
San Pablo Tacachico, La Libertad	50	18-Mar-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
San Rafael Los Lotes, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	6	17-Sep-80	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
Santa Anita, San Antonio de La Cruz, Chalatenango	4	14-Oct-80	<a href="http://hunna.org/efemrides-de-octubre/">http://hunna.org/efemrides-de-octubre/</a>
Santa Rosa Guachiplín, Santa Ana	31	14-Jul-80	Associated Press
Santa Rosita, Santa Clara, San Vicente	17	11-Sep-80	Mendez, Diego (2000)
Sumpul (Rio), Las Aradas, Chalatenango	300	14-May-80	68 Found Slain in Political Violence (1980)
Tehuicho, San Juan Opico, La Libertad	13	23-Jul-80	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
Armenia, Sonsonate	42	30-Jul-81	Newhagen, John E (1981)
Buena Vista, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	9	5-Jan-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/01/masacres-5-enero-en-el-salvador-la.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/01/masacres-5-enero-en-el-salvador-la.html</a>
Catedral de Zacatecoluca, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	10	1981	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Cerro Pando, Meanguera, Morazan	112	11-Dec-81	Gedda, George (1992)
El Jicaro, Las Minas, Chalatenango	7	Oct-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_10_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_10_01_archive.html</a>
El Aceituno, San Buena Ventura, Usulután	150	9-Sep-81	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
El Carrizal, Santa Maria Ostuma, La Paz	12	31-May-81	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
El Corozo, San Miguel de Mercedes, Chalatenango	8	6-Mar-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2012_03_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2012_03_01_archive.html</a>
“El Masacron,” San Agustín, Jiquilisco, Berlín, Hacienda San Juan Letran, Usulután	111	October 22-28, 1981	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
El Mozote, Meanguera, Morazan	767	11-Dec-81	<a href="http://soaw.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=43">http://soaw.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=43</a>



Name	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
El Pimiento, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	11	29-Aug-81	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
El Potrero, Las Vueltas, Chalatenango	10	5-Jul-81	Salvadoran Toll in Political Struggle Increased (1981)
Girones, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	16	13-Apr-81	<a href="http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/%addf9_2223fe-stivalverdad.pdf">http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/%addf9_2223fe-stivalverdad.pdf</a>
Guazapa, San Salvador	96	5-Aug-81	Ramirez, Oldemar (1981)
Hacienda Quemada, Reubicaciones, Chalatenango	11	1-Jul-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/07/masacre-hacienda-quemada.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/07/masacre-hacienda-quemada.html</a>
Jocote Amarillo, Meanguera, Morazan	16	11-Dec-81	Gedda, George (1992)
Junquillo, Cacaopera, Morazan	52	3-Mar-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
La Angostura, Chalatenango	5	7-Jan-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html</a>
La Clinica, La Reubicacion 2, Chalatenango	7	11-Jan-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html</a>
La Florida, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	34	8-Jun-81	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>
La Joya (Puente), Zacatecoluca, La Paz	138	11-Dec-81	Gedda, George (1992)
“La Masacrita”, San Agustín, Jiquilisco, Berlin, Usulután	75	September 11-29 1981	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
La Quesera, Usulután	500	October 21-30 1981	Karl, Terry (2012)
La Rancheria, Meanguera, Morazan	53	11-Dec-81	Gedda, George (1992)
Las Delicias, Ciudad Delgado, San Salvador	10	17-Jan-81	Garrison, Steve R (2001)
Las Delicias, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	[Grouped]	8-Jun-81	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>
Las Mesitas, Jiquilisco, Usulután	8	23-Jul-81	(1981) 30 More Bodies Found
Lomas de Angulo, Tecoluca, San Vicente	30	31-Oct-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)

(Contd.)

Name	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
Los Ayala, Las Minas, Chalatenango	6	14-Jan-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html</a>
Los Toriles, Meanguera, Morazan	62	11-Dec-81	Gedda, George (1992)
Palo Grande, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	37	8-Apr-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Penas Arriba (Hacienda Penas), Tecoluca San Vicente	10	Jun-81	Karl, Terry (2012)
Pineda, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	17	10-Jul-81	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
Plazas Negras, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	31	7-Aug-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2012_08_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2012_08_01_archive.html</a>
Reubicaciones 2 y 3, Chalatenango	25	8-Jan-81	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html</a>
Rio el Jute, El Higueral, San Francisco Morazan, Chalatenango	120	February 14-20 1981	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/02/masacre-del-higueral-17-de-febrero-1981.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011/02/masacre-del-higueral-17-de-febrero-1981.html</a>
Rio Metayate, Nueva Concepcion, Chalatenango	28	10-Jul-81	Beltrhan, Raul (1981)
San Benito, Tecoluca, San Vicente	25	1981	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
San Francisco Angulo, Tecoluca, San Vicente	30	25-Jul-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
San Rafael Los Lotes, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	4	Nov-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Santa Cruz, Ilobasco, Cabañas	15	30-Jun-81	Newhagen, John E. (1981)
Santo Domingo de Guzman, Santo Domingo de Guzman, Sonsonate	8	24-Jun-81	<a href="http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf">http://uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/7a4a93_pags.45justiciavrs.impunidadysuca.pdf</a>
Sicahuite, Las Vueltas, Chalatenango **	4	1981	<a href="http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html">http://retazosdememoria.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html</a>
Zacamil, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	200	18-Jul-81	Karl, Terry (2012)
Campanario, Laguna de Apastepeque, San Vicente	110	1/23/1982-1/25/1982	Newhagen, John E. (1982)
Cerros de San Pedro, San Vicente	300	28-Aug-82	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
Cuyas Cumbres, San Isidro Labrador, Chalatenango	40	12-Nov-82	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>

Name	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
El Alto, Chalatenango	57	2-Feb-82	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
El Barrio, El Divisadero, Morazan	48	18-Apr-82	Smith, Geri (1982)
El Calabozo, San Esteban Catarina, San Vicente	200	22-Aug-82	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altigracia (2007)
“Guinda de Mayo”, Nueva Trinidad, Arcatao San Antonio de la Cruz, San Isidro Labrador, Chalatenango	236	May 27 - Jun 9 1982	Karl, Terry (2012)
La Conacastada, Tecoluca, San Vicente	8	24-Aug-82	Sentencia del Cuarto Tribunal Internacional (2012) [Sentence of the 4th International Tribunal]
La Esperanza, San Pedro Perulapan, Cuscatlan	23	27-May-82	Newhagen, John E. (1982)
La Peña, Arcatao, Chalatenango	600	29-May-82	Dillon, Sam (1982)
La Pita, Tecoluca, San Vicente	22	25-Jan-82	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altigracia (2007)
La Pita, Zacatecoluca, la Paz	50	26-Jan-82	Newhagen, John E. (1982)
Llano la Raya, Tecoluca, San Vicente	600	19-Jun-82	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altigracia (2007)
Los Guardado, San Jose las Flores, Chalatenango	22	16-Nov-82	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
Los Rauda, San Antonio Los Ranchos, Chalatenango	15	9-Nov-82	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
Managuara, Sesori, San Miguel	10	1-Sep-82	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altigracia (2007)
Peñas Negras, Tecoluca, San Vicente	300	January 18- 20, 1982	The Associated Press (1982)
Santa Eduvigis, Zacatecoluca, La Paz	22	26-Jan-82	Newhagen, John E. (1982)
Sisiguayo, Salinas de Sisiguayo, Usulután	37	5-Oct-82	Newhagen, John E. (1982)
Valle de la Laguna, Las Vueltas, Chalatenango	35	1982	Beltrhan, Raul (1982)
Bermuda, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	20	15-Mar-83	Beltrhan, Raul (1983)

(Contd.)

Name	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
Copapayo, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	123	4-Nov-83	Beltrhan, Raul (1983)
El Roble, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	23	1983	Beltrhan, Raul (1984)
Guadalupe, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	44	February 27-28, 1983	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altigracia (2007)
Las Hojas, San Antonio del Monte, Sonsonate	74	22-Feb-83	Ross, Oakland (1984)
Tenango, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	124	February 22-25, 1983	Beltrhan, Raul (1983)
Copapayo, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan	60	4-Apr-84	Beltrhan, Raul (1983)
Cueva la Tigra, Tejutepique, Cabañas	[Grouped]	18-Jul-84	<a href="http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/2df3c0_lafigu-radelpadre.pdf">http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/2df3c0_lafigu-radelpadre.pdf</a>
Las Piletas, Apastepeque, San Vicente	25	9-Apr-84	<a href="http://www.lapagina.com.sv/ampliar.php?id=54608">http://www.lapagina.com.sv/ampliar.php?id=54608</a>
Rio Gualsinga, Nueva Trinidad, Chalatenango	37	30-Aug-84	Drudge, Michael (1984)
San Felipe, San Pedro Masahuat, La Paz	16	4-May-84	Garrison, Steve R (2001)
San Francisco Echeverria, Tejutepique, Cabañas	72	18-Jul-84	Beltrhan, Raul (1984)
Los Miranda, San Antonio de la Cruz, Chalatenango	4	6-Nov-85	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/?p=27319">http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/?p=27319</a>
Arcatao, Chalatenango	5	8-Apr-86	<a href="http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/9addf9_2223fe-stivalverdad.pdf">http://www.uca.edu.sv/publica/cartas/media/archivo/9addf9_2223fe-stivalverdad.pdf</a>
Chupamiel, Arcatao, Chalatenango	12	12-Jun-86	<a href="http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/siglo09-06-2014.pdf">http://www.simpatizantesfmln.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/siglo09-06-2014.pdf</a>
Operación "Fenix", Volcan Guazapa, San Salvador	56	January - February 1986	Frazier, Joseph (1986)
San Sebastian, San Vicente	10	21-Sep-88	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altigracia (2007)
Santa Cruz Paraiso, Tecoluca, San Vicente	11	24-Feb-86	19 Guerrillas Reported Killed or Wounded (1986)
Veragua, San Antonio Los Ranchos, Chalatenango	9	19-Jun-86	<a href="http://www.scribd.com/doc/149100113/EL-SIGLO-17-06-2013">http://www.scribd.com/doc/149100113/EL-SIGLO-17-06-2013</a>

Name	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
El Calero, Dulce Nombre de Maria, Chalatenango	4	8-Jun-87	<a href="http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm">http://www.marxists.org/espanol/tematica/elsalvador/cronologia/index.htm</a>
Laguna Seca, San Antonio del Mosco, San Miguel	7	22-Jan-87	LeMoyné, James (1987)
San Sebastian, San Vicente	10	21-Sep-88	Mine, Douglas Grant (1988)
Centro Pastoral UCA (Jesuitas), San Salvador, San Salvador	8	16-Nov-89	Jesuit Apostolates Commemorate 20th Anniversary of Six Jesuits Murdered in El Salvador (2009)
Chupadero, Dulce Nombre de Maria, Chalatenango	10	13-Feb-89	Chavez, Eda (1989)
Fenstras, San Salvador, San Salvador	10	31-Oct-89	(1989) Salvadoran Explosion Kills 10
El Zapote, Ayutuxtepeque, San Salvador	15	3-Feb-91	Alder, Daniel (1991)

died in the 152 massacres found. 31 of the massacres listed on the Monument to Truth and Memory could not be found in LexisNexis (or on other web sources). 83 percent of the massacres listed on the memorial wall have documentation. The 17 percent of unaccounted for massacres provides an incentive for authorities to continue the pursuit of justice and truth.

**Table 2.** Additional massacres not listed on the Monument to Truth and Memory, 1979-1991

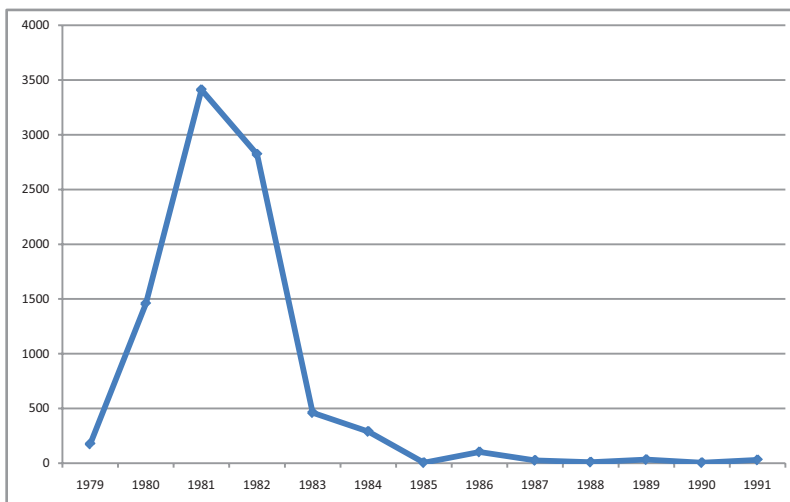
Name	Department	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
Azacualpa	Santa Ana	17	1979	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Chalchuapa	Santa Ana	10	Apr-79	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
La Vega	San Vicente	4	1980	Karl, Terry L (2012)
Cton. Ulapa	La Paz	4	16-Mar-80	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Hacienda Colina	Cuscatlan	20	17-Mar-80	Karl, Terry L (2012)
Tacachico	La Libertad	50	18-Mar-80	Karl, Terry L (2012)
San Ildefonso	San Vicente	8	29-Mar-80	Karl, Terry L (2012)
El Mirador	Santa Ana	12	Jul-80	Karl, Terry L (2012)
crio. El Bartolillo	La Libertad	13	23-Jul-80	Karl, Terry L (2012)
IglesiaAzacualpa	Santa Ana	12	Mar-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
CutumayCamones	Santa Ana	200	15-Jan-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Rio Lempa	Cabanas	50	17-Mar-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Rio Lempa (#2)	Cabanas	147	October 20-29 1981	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Los Lotes	San Vicente	5	19-Aug-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Las Mesas	Usulután	4	12-Dec-81	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Palo Blanco	Lago Ilopango	18	4-Mar-82	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
desvio Santa Rita	Chalatenango	8	17-Mar-82	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Santa Clara	San Vicente	7	23-Mar-82	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Hacienda La Florida	Santa Ana	9	Jul-82	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
San Juan Buena Vista	San Vicente	29	26-Aug-82	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Santa Elena	Usulután	15	Nov-82	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Quillo	Morazan	4	27-Jan-83	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)

Name	Department	Reported Deaths	Date	Source
Casa Suchitlan	Cuscatlan	20	Nov-83	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Lago Suchitlan	Cuscatlan	30	27-Nov-83	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Santa Rita	Cabanas	5	24-Jan-84	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Quebrada	Cuscatlan	7	13-May-84	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Los Llanitos	Cabanas	68	July 17-22, 1984	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
El Jizate	Morazan	10	1987	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Quintanilla	San Vicente	5	Jan-87	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Hospital Campana	San Vicente	5	15-Apr-89	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Guancorita	Chalatenango	5	11-Feb-90	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)
Zona Rosa	San Salvador	15	21-Jan-91	Calderon Ruiz, Bersabe Altagracia (2007)

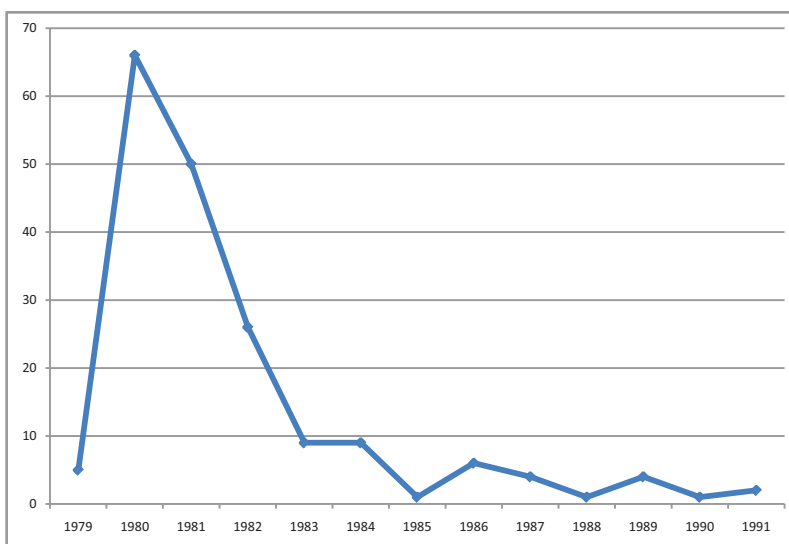
In addition, Table 2 contains 32 massacres not listed on the memorial wall summing to 816 civilian deaths. This contribution assists in demonstrating that no possible collection of massacres is exclusive. The State covered up violence and human rights violations. New information about the war is still coming to light in the present day.

The two tables combine for 184 massacres and 8,757 deaths. This number falls well short of the PITF mid-point fatality estimate of 49,500, likely for a few reasons (State Failure Problem Set 1955–2010). First, as already mentioned, this list of massacres is in no way exclusive. Additionally, numerous small-scale killings occurred that may have never been recorded. As few accurate records were taken, many innocent civilians were killed in the crossfire throughout the decade. PITF does not emphasize body count and states that small-scale genocides/politicides are just as valid, especially when the victim group is small to begin with. Lastly, the PITF findings are estimates and may include disappeared persons. Neither the Political Instability Task Force nor the Uppsala Conflict Data Program offers this kind of specific (micro) data for the Salvadoran civil war; and while not a complete dataset, it is the first contribution of its kind.

This dataset is concrete evidence of a “persistent, coherent action” against unarmed civilians by an authority group. Figure 1 illustrates the death totals per year and Figure 2 illustrates the number of massacre events stretching over thirteen years. The magnitude of violence peaks early on in the war, at its highest between 1980 and 1982. Although the quantity of massacres per year decreases as the war progresses, this data indicates systemic violence extending over more than a decade.



**Figure 1.** Reported death totals in Salvadoran massacres, 1979–1991



**Figure 2.** Number of Salvadoran massacre events, 1979–1991

### 3. Working towards peace and justice

After two years of U.N. mediation talks, the civil war ended with the signing of the Chapultepec Accords on January 16, 1992. The peace accord assembled a U.N. Truth Commission to investigate the acts of violence committed during the war. This culminated in a report, *From Madness to Hope: The 12-year War in El Salvador*, documenting testimony from over 2,000 people regarding over 7,000 victims. The Commission announced that the Salvadoran military and its death squads had committed 85 percent of the war’s worst atrocities (Cooper and Hodge 2015). Although the report called for the dismissal of persons found responsible for these human rights violations, just days later President Cristiani



denounced the document and instated the General Amnesty Law for the Consolidation of Peace, citing the need for the country to forgive, forget, and move forward. The law granted “broad, absolute, unconditional amnesty for anyone that in whatever form had participated in the commission of political crimes, common crimes connected to political crimes and common crimes in which more than twenty persons took part, before January 1, 1992” (Popkin 2003, 211). This law prohibited the prosecution of war crimes and halted the pursuit of judicial justice for thousands of victims of the civil war (Roht-Arriaza 2012). In short, such laws seemed designed to turn the El Salvador politicicide into a “lost case,” but this obviously does not obligate the genocide studies community to do the same.

That said, El Salvador continues to seek justice for the violence. In 2003, the Supreme Court ruled that trial judges may decide on a case-by-case basis if the amnesty law applies. Local courts have not used this approach to prosecute yet. President Marcos Funes publically recognized and apologized for the State’s role in some of the most atrocious crimes, for instance acknowledging the largest massacre of the war at El Mozote in 2012. Nevertheless, victims still wait for judicial justice and the El Salvador case still seems to rest on the fringe of cases that genocide studies scholars consider.

Recently, there has been some reason to hope that those responsible for the crimes committed between 1979 and 1991 will be brought to justice. In 2008, the Center for Justice and Accountability filed a case in Spain against twenty members of the Salvadoran military involved with the massacre of six Jesuits and two women at the UCA in 1989. As a result of this filing, Boston authorities found former Salvadoran Vice Minister of Public Safety Inocente Orlando Montano living in Everett, MA. Montano conspired with other high officials to murder the Jesuits. At the time, Montano was only charged and imprisoned for immigration fraud and perjury. On April 8, 2015 the U.S. government filed the request seeking his extradition and the hearing took place on August 12, 2015. Judge Kimberly Swank approved the extradition order in February 2016, citing that “the government’s evidence shows (Montano) was a decision-maker and member of a group of officers who collectively ordered the unlawful killings of Jesuit priests” (*The Guardian* 2016). Montano’s extradition and the Jesuit Massacre Case hearing by the Spanish National Court may be the beginning of the pursuit of judicial justice both internationally and domestically (Center for Justice and Accountability 2015). If Montano is sent to Spain to stand trial, other defendants can be tried with him in absentia.

In the midst of the current violence in El Salvador, the pursuit of justice for the crime of genocide/politicicide during the civil war becomes more relevant and crucial. El Salvador is ranked the second-most murderous nation in the world. Police and members of legislature currently openly discuss creating death squads to eliminate gangs and declare a state of siege in violent crime areas. A culture of impunity has ruled for over thirty-five years in El Salvador and must come to an end. Recently Amnesty International again called for a repeal of the amnesty law:

El Salvador’s Amnesty Law is not in accordance with international law and is also an affront to the thousands of victims of human rights abuses and their families. It is time now to repeal it and to permit that all the cases of torture, rape, killings and enforced

disappearances that took place during the conflict in the 1980's are investigated and all those suspected of criminal responsibility be brought to trial. (Amnesty International 2015)

El Salvador sits in a precarious situation of repeating the horrific violence that ended just twenty-four years ago. There can be no peace without justice. Pursuing justice and naming this genocide/politicide is a critical step towards peace and non-violence. Furthermore, future research and teaching in genocide studies can help potential future perpetrators of atrocities against civilians to realize that El Salvador was not forgotten and that their actions will not be ignored either.

#### **4. Conclusions: Contributions of the new data**

The U.N. Truth Commission consolidated testimony received on mass executions that took place 1980-1982 into a succinct pattern of conduct which it described as: "members of the armed forces, in the course of anti-guerrilla operations, executed peasants – men, women and children who had offered no resistance – simply because they considered them to be guerrilla collaborators" (U.N. Security Council 1993). As a result of the apparent consistency of these events, the Commission states that these were not "isolated incidents where soldiers or their immediate superiors went to extremes" (U.N. Security Council 1993). Instead:

*these deaths formed part of a pattern of conduct, as a deliberate strategy of eliminating or terrifying the peasant population in areas where the guerrillas were active, the purpose being to deprive the guerrilla forces of this source of supplies and information and of the possibility of hiding or concealing themselves among that population. (U.N. Security Council 1993)*

Since authorities dismissed reports of massacres and investigations were clearly not pursued, it is also evident that senior commanders knew of the events. The U.N. Truth Commission document refers to the violence against the peasant population as "deliberate, systematic, and indiscriminate."

The new data set presented in this article serves as further support to the U.N. Truth Commission's and PITF's findings of systemic and deliberate violence. I argue that the violence perpetrated by the Salvadoran state against the left-wing political party and those innocents only tangentially associated with their concerns in the 1980's is clearly characteristic of genocide/politicide. My hope is that this new data would foster further studies by scholars into the violence of the civil war and the State's role in the genocide/politicide. El Salvador's state apparatus has a history of granting itself impunity for its crimes, and the full story needs to be told. Without justice for these vicious crimes of the civil war, there can be no peace and reconciliation. As violence currently increases again in El Salvador, the country stands vulnerable to repeating similar human rights violations and state sponsored violence.

President Cristiani's desire for the country to forgive and forget by instating the amnesty law in 1992 has rendered the civil war a lost case of genocide. A policy of forgetting denies justice to the victims and might undermine prevention if potential future perpetrators

take the political “culture of forgetting” as an implicit sanction of everlasting impunity. In striving for justice in the unlawful death of thousands of Salvadorans over 30 years ago, and for the sake of genocide prevention, we must enforce the message that unjust violence committed by the State will never again go unpunished. The dataset offered in this article contributes to the call that the El Salvador case not be lost to the genocide studies community, that peace prevail in nations at risk of civil war, and that justice, memory, and genocide prevention continue to be vigorously pursued.

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