



MASCP

Madison Arcatao Sister City Project
U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities



OUR PARTNER:
CRIPDES

U.S.—El Salvador Sister Cities

MAY 2011

Tribunal in Arcatao Aims to Restore Justice to War Crimes Survivors

By Emily Carpenter, Sister Cities and MASCP Volunteer

In the Third International Tribunal for Restorative Justice in El Salvador, one of the judges addresses a witness. He speaks directly to her, although he knows that his words are heard by the 250 person audience filling the church of Arcatao, Chalatenango; thousands of listeners of the Radio Sumpul and YUCA radio stations; future generations and judges who will watch the recorded testimonies; and even the perpetrators of the war crimes being described.

What would you need," the judge asked the witness, "to feel

that justice has been done in this case?"

"I think it is necessary," the witness says, "to find out who is responsible. Those people need to be brought to justice, and there needs to be some sort of reparations for the victims, so that the truth is brought to light and this never happens again."

The woman speaking was giving testimony about two massacres committed in El Rincón, Manaquil, Nueva Trinidad, about 6 miles from the Honduran border in the department of Chalatenango in May and July of 1980. The victims were one man and 11 women, two of them pregnant. As the woman testified and the judge declared, the women were killed because of they were sisters, mothers, and daughters of people who were active in base organizations for campesino rights. Their murders were part of a brutal campaign of violence designed to terrorize the rural working population away from defending their rights in the years leading up to and during the Salvadoran civil war.

The Human Rights Institute of the Jesuit University of Central America (UCA) began to organize Restorative Justice Tribunals three years ago with two goals in mind.



The last witness.

For some, the tribunals are a way to hear the voices of victims of human rights violations that have been silenced in government documents and mainstream media. For those who are committed to speaking about their experiences in the war despite the emotional pain of remembering, the UCA Tribunals bring the country one step closer to achieving real, formal reparations. These people demand formal trials and consequences for those who committed war crimes; monetary reparations for affected communities; monuments, memorials, and a place in the collective consciousness of the country.

The UCA Tribunal takes place every year in a different part of the country. The first Tribunal three years ago took place in San Salvador, last year's was in Suchitoto, Cuscatlan, and this year the UCA Tribunal came Arcatao, Chalatenango. Each year, cases are seen in the categories of summary execution, massacres, disappearances, and torture. In Arcatao, from March 14–16, 2011 the tribunal heard three days of brave and heart-wrenching testimonies of war crimes that happened in each of these categories all in the relatively small region of



Examining photos from the Historic Memory museum.



Testifying before the International Restorative Tribunal.

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The Ongoing Struggle for Resource Rights in El Salvador

Solidarity, Success, and a Prize!

By Fred and Barbara Arnold, Friends of MASCP

The 2011 Goldman Prize recipients tackled some of the most pressing environmental issues worldwide through grassroots efforts, helping to educate and motivate local communities to get involved in the effort to protect the natural environment around them and to stand up for their rights. Francisco Pineda from El Salvador is one of the six 2011 recipients of this prestigious award. Living under the constant threat of assassination, Pineda led a citizens' movement that stopped Pacific Rim, a Canadian gold mining company from destroying El Salvador's dwindling water resource. Each recipient receives international recognition and \$150,000 to continue his/her grassroots activism.

Pineda's activism started in 2004 as he realized the devastating impact that a proposed gold mine in northern El Salvador would have on the quality and amount of water available for people, farming and everyday life. His outrage grew in Honduras and Guatemala where he could see firsthand the effects gold mining had on health and water quality. He built a powerful coalition of people in 26 affected communities in El Salvador—one of them is Arcatao, our sister city—and with international allies including the Midwest Coalition Against Lethal Mining (MCALM) of which MASCP is a founding member. MCALM's job was not to lead or organize in El Salvador. Instead, this grassroots organization coordinates efforts with Pineda's National Roundtable on Metallic Mining of El Salvador, known as "La Mesa", to lobby the US Congress to question and amend so-called investor rights under CAFTA and NAFTA.

"My work is as an environmentalist; this is the principle for my life. When I began to understand the impact of the mining exploration, I couldn't stay quiet."

—Francisco Pineda

As the movement gained momentum, supporters of the Cabañas mine suspected to have ties to Pacific Rim retaliated with threats and deadly attacks. In 2009, three of Pineda's colleagues were assassinated. One close colleague was killed while under police protection. Another anti-mining activist was kidnapped and his tortured body was found in a well. Due in large part to Pineda's national and international leadership, the Salvadoran government has not granted Pacific Rim the necessary extraction permit to move forward with their project. The movement—in El Salvador, Canada and the US—succeeded in creating a loud enough public outcry to sway the current government, despite the financial incentives and development funds offered by Pacific Rim. Pacific Rim recently brought suit under CAFTA against the Salvadoran government for not allowing them permits to begin construction. That suit was thrown out on a technicality but the government of El Salvador

was ordered to pay Pacific Rim \$800,000 in arbitration and legal costs. That ruling is being appealed. La Mesa and MCALM continue to be alert and proactive. MCALM recently received the cooperation of Congresswoman, Tammy Baldwin to author a "Dear Colleague" letter for her

fellow lawmakers which expresses outrage over inappropriate investor rights under CAFTA and NAFTA.

Today, Pineda lives with 24-hour police protection. He has vowed to continue his struggle no matter the consequences. Muchissimas felicitaciones a Señor Pineda and to all the members of La Mesa and MCALM! Working together as equals they have achieved a monumental success...at least for now.

See more about this amazing Salvadoran activist at: www.goldmanprize.org/2011/southcentralamerica

Visit our sister city in El Salvador this summer!

Work & learn together • Meet amazing people • Experience life in Arcatao

Madison Arcatao Sister City Project (MASCP) is taking a delegation to El Salvador this summer to work with youth and adults on an historic trail used during the war to get from Arcatao to the refugee camps in Honduras. Learn about community organizing. Live with a family. Speak a little Spanish. Swim in the Pacific. Join us!

Dates: August 1-10, 2011

Cost: about \$1200

Info: Joan at 608-556-0717

Deadline: June 15

**Need-based
scholarships for
2 high school
students**

**More information on
Facebook at Madison
Arcatao Sister City
Project**

US-El Salvador Sister Cities National Gathering in Madison, Oct. 2011

By Barb Alvarado

HELP US HOST!

MASCP is proud to announce that we will host the National Gathering of our parent organization, US-El Salvador Sister Cities in Madison October 8–9, 2011. This is our yearly “peoples’ activist gathering” with members from 17 different sister city groups from around the US and our Salvadoran partners of CRIPDES (the National Association of Rural Communities for the Development of El Salvador).

The National Gathering happens every year to evaluate joint work from the past year

and to set priorities with our Salvadoran partners for the coming year. This year’s gathering will be meaningful in another special way. Both US-El Salvador Sister Cities and MASCP are celebrating their 25th anniversary in 2011. MASCP was one of the first US cities to step up to help protect embattled civilians in El Salvador during the long civil war, 1980–1993. Madison’s Common Council voted to sister with Arcatao in 1986.

We hope that you will volunteer a little time to help make the 25th national gathering a success! Just an hour or two will make a

difference. Ways you can help: Provide housing, prepare food, serve food and pick up/drop off folks at the airport or bus station.

PLEASE call or e-mail Carol Dalton, 608-274-5816, sdshammi@chartermi.net, if you would like to donate time to our activist gathering. You can also use the reply card included in the newsletter.

GRACIAS! We look forward to organizing together with many of you.

WE ARE ALL PART OF SISTERING WITH ARCATAO AND EL SALVADOR!

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north-eastern Chalatenango around Arcatao. It was still more sobering to hear these testimonies knowing that each and every audience member has their own story to tell and that the tribunal could go for months and months and still not hear them all.

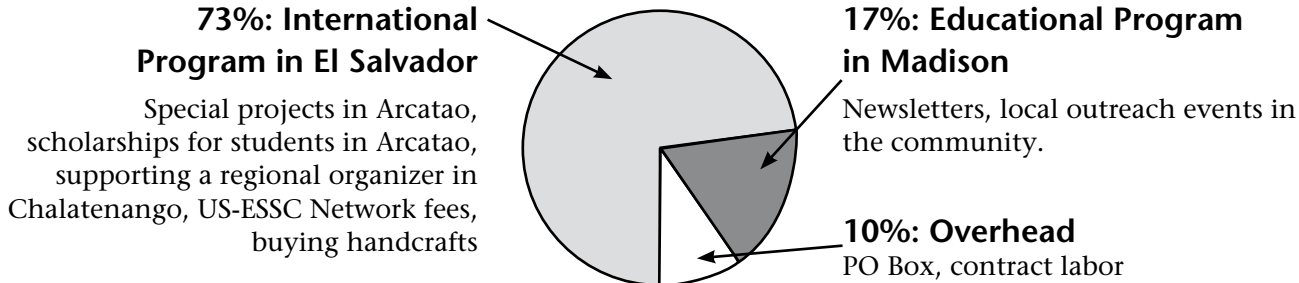
For those of us from Sister Cities who had the honor to

participate: Jan Morill, USESSC staff in San Salvador; Molly Todd and Carol Dalton from Madison Arcatao Sister City Project (MASCP) and myself, the Tribunal was a deeply moving event that left us more grounded in the history of this community and region and more deeply committed to struggles for truth, peace, and justice.



Listening to testimony.

Where does the money go?



Please let us know how you would like to be involved with MASCP!

- I would like to donate \$ _____
- I would like to help with the National Gathering, October 7–9.
- I would like to be on the MASCP Friends email list (1–2 emails per month) to learn about events, urgent actions, and volunteer opportunities.
- I would like to receive the MASCP by email only (PDF format).
- Please remove me entirely from the MASCP mailing list.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Email: _____

Cut form and mail to MASCP, PO Box 132, Madison, WI 53701
 Or Email us at mascp@mascp.org
 Or phone 608-255-1922
 Visit us on Facebook at Madison Arcatao Sister City Project

MASCP Annual Garage Sale June 25, 2011 New Monona Location

By Laura Mason

We are having our **annual garage sale** on June 25, 2011, at 4808 Schofield St., Monona, not far from Monona Grove High School. This new location has lots of space in the double garage and enclosed back porch. Please donate lots and often to this major fund raiser for MASCP!! Since we sell for very low prices, we need mountains of gently used items to make the \$2000 fundraising goal.

Things that sell really well are **housewares, books, toys, baby gear, small furniture, linens, bikes, tools**, etc. Kid's clothes and **unique** adult clothes also sell well. No every-day adult clothing, computer equipment, TVs, skis, or Christmas decorations, please. You can drop things off at 4808 Schofield St, Monona, anytime between May 1 and June 23. Just leave them on the back porch. Call Carol at 274-5816 or Laura 221-0237 for special arrangements.

How to get to 4808 Schofield St.

1) From the beltline, take the Monona Dr. exit. Proceed north (only way) to the traffic light at Monona Dr. and Pflaum/Nichols St. Turn left on Nichols and drive 2 blocks to Schofield St. Turn right on Schofield and go about 3 blocks to #4808.

2) From the east side, take Atwood to Monona Dr. Go a few blocks past Monona Grove High to the traffic light at Dean Ave. Turn right and go 3 blocks to Schofield St. Turn left on Schofield. and go about 2 blocks to #4808.

Time to clean house, declutter and support the work of MASCP! Muchissimas gracias!

Another opportunity to join a delegation to El Salvador:

The national USESSC delegation is June 23–July 2!

2011 is the 25th Anniversary of the Sister Cities national network, and to celebrate with our Salvadoran compañeros and compañeras we are leading a delegation to El Salvador just in time for the CRIPDES National Assembly on June 25th. The delegation will meet with leaders of the social movement, celebrate with CRIPDES at the assembly and spend time in our sister communities. We will also spend two days visiting the organized communities in Honduras to learn more about the connections between El Salvador and the Honduran movement for human rights.

The cost of the delegation (including food, housing, transportation and coordination) will be between \$600 and \$700 depending on the final number of participants.

We need to hear from you as soon as possible! Please contact us if you are interested in participating in the National Sister Cities 25th Anniversary Delegation. You can email us at sistercities.elsalvador@gmail.com or call our U.S. office at 785-727-2252.

Que viva USESSC!

MASCP has a new address:

MASCP, Box 132, Madison, WI 53701

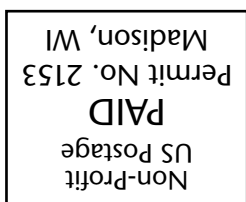
If any mail was returned to you during our address switch, please return it to the new address and accept our thanks for your trouble!!

MADISON ARCATAO SISTER CITY PROJECT

PO Box 132, Madison WI 53701

phone: (608) 251-9280 ~ email: mascp@mascp.org ~ web: mascp.org

MASCP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



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Address Correction Requested