



# 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 YSUCA 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 Joan Laurion

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.

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. Muchisimas felicitaciones a Señor Pineda and to all the members of La Mesa and MCALM! Working together as equals they have achieved a monumental success that the coalition can build on in the struggle ahead.

See more about this amazing Salvadoran activist at: [www.goldmanprize.org/2011/southcentralamerica](http://www.goldmanprize.org/2011/southcentralamerica)



*"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

## USESSC sponsoring a national delegation June 23rd – July 2nd!

2011 is the 25th Anniversary of the US-El Salvador Sister Cities national network and to celebrate they 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 two days visiting 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 will be between \$600 and \$700 plus airfare. They need to hear from you as soon as possible! You can email them at [sistercities.elsalvador@gmail.com](mailto:sistercities.elsalvador@gmail.com) or call their U.S. office at 785.727.2252. **¡Qué viva USESSC!**

# 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.

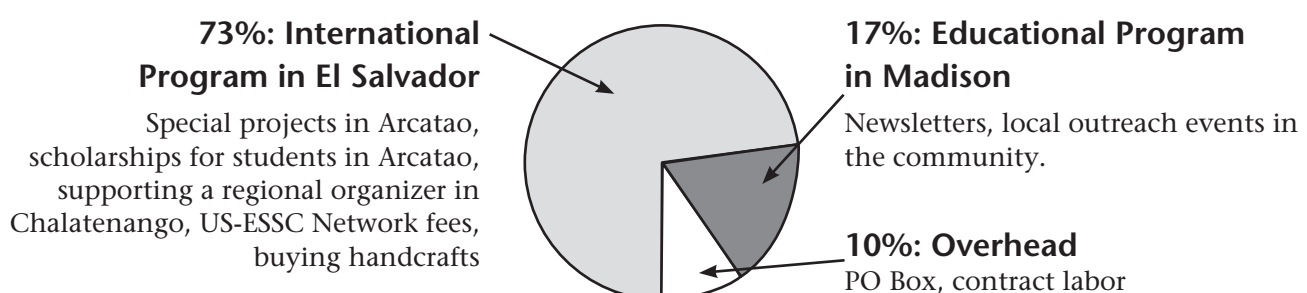
## Where do your donations to MASCP go?

You probably know that MASCP educates Madisonians about Arcatao with 2–3 newsletters/year, by sponsoring yearly delegations to Arcatao and by buying and selling crafts from local co-operatives in Chalatenango. However, you might not know that the bulk of our \$10,000/year budget meets financial obligations we have as partners in projects with Arcatao, with regional organizing in Chalatenango and as members of the national US-El Salvador Sister City Network. Every year, our staff in El Salvador meets with community leaders in

El Salvador to hear about current goals and make projections for what each of the 17 sister cities can contribute to help support regional organizing, scholarship students, USESSC staff presence in San Salvador and special projects identified by each Salvadoran Sister City. For example, in 2010, MASCP donated \$1000 to help build the new memory garden in Arcatao to welcome newly exhumed bodies back home. The chart below shows what our expenditures looked like in 2010.

We hope that you value the work of MASCP and will contribute as generously as you can. The more you can support MASCP financially, the more we can put into projects in Arcatao. You can also help by volunteering with the 2011 National USESSC Gathering that will be held here in Madison in October, 7–9. On the enclosed form, please check the items that you can help with and we’ll contact you. Thank you for all your interest and support!!

## How do we spend your donations to MASCP?



# MASCP Annual Garage Sale June 25, 2011 New Monona Location

By Laura Mason

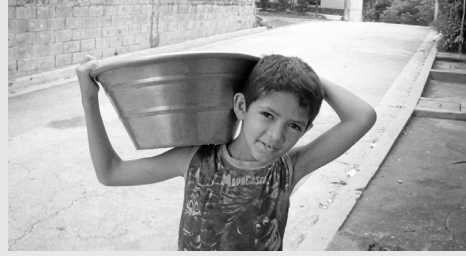
We are having our **annual garage sale** on June 25, 2011, at 4808 Schofield St., Monona, not far from Monona Grove High School. This new location has lots of space in the double garage and enclosed back porch. Please donate lots and often to this major fund raiser for MASCP!! Since we sell for very low prices, we need mountains of gently used items to make the \$2,500 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! Muchisimas gracias!



## Join the MASCP 25th Anniversary Delegation! August 1-10, 2011

All are welcome to join the delegation of Madison youth and adults to Arcatao this summer! We will be helping college and high school age youth in Arcatao with repair and maintenance on an historic trail that leads from Arcatao up into the mountains. During the war, people used the trail to find refuge in the hills for weeks and months at a time. Others used the trail to get to refugee camps in Honduras to wait out the worst of the fighting.

The delegation will not be all work! We will be staying in people's homes and learning about daily life in an organized community; renewing long friendships; meeting with the Directiva, historic memory and embroidery committees; speaking a lot of Spanish; taping interviews for broadcast on WORT; and spending the day at a small resort on the Pacific before heading home. The cost of the delegation will be about \$1200 which includes airfare. Two \$500 need-based scholarships are available for high school students. You can find more information on the MASCP facebook page or call Joan Laurion at 556-0717.

### MASCP has a new address:

**MASCP, Box 132, Madison, WI 53701**

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

## MADISON ARCATAO SISTER CITY PROJECT

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phone: (608) 255-1922 ~ email: [mascp@mascp.org](mailto:mascp@mascp.org) ~ web: [mascp.org](http://mascp.org)

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

DEAR READER: Please let us know if you would like to continue to be on our mailing list or would prefer being removed. Contact info below.

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