

Freedom of movement is limited, with armed forces requiring the presentation of safe conduct passes for travel in the countryside on a largely arbitrary basis, and frequently refusing to grant passage even when persons are correctly documented. A range of unions and social organizations exists in El Salvador, including groups on the extreme left with ties to FMLN. These groups operate openly and aggressively, although members are frequently targets for detention and, in some cases, disappearance. Labour legislation makes legal strikes virtually impossible. The government is in the process of revising the labour code.

CANADIAN POSITION:

The human rights situation in El Salvador is of deep and continuing concern to the Government of Canada, which has called on the Salvadoran government to demonstrate its stated commitment to human rights.

Canadian officials accredited from our Embassy in Guatemala visit El Salvador on a regular and frequent basis and have close contact with members of the Church, human rights and non-governmental community. In contacts with the government, we reiterate our concerns about the human rights situation and make urgent representations in regard to specific cases. We have also urged the Salvadoran government to see that every effort is made to bring to justice those responsible for atrocities, such as the killing of the Jesuits and their household staff last November.

We have maintained close and regular contact with all parties to the conflict to assist and encourage them in their efforts for peace and social justice. We are prepared to give fullest consideration to whatever support will assist the United Nations in the peace negotiations in El Salvador.

Canada has given full support to United Nations and OAS resolutions on the human rights situation in El Salvador and those calling for a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

NOTE: This text does not cover the peace negotiations process, which will be updated at the time of the consultations.