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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
DENOUNCES SLAYING OF JESUITS IN EL SALVADOR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark expressed the shock and outrage of the Government of Canada at the brutal slaying this morning of members of the Jesuit Community in El Salvador. One of the victims, Father Ignacio Ellacuria, Rector of Central American University, was a close friend of Canada. "He and his colleagues dedicated their lives to peace and justice in El Salvador and in Central America. All Canadians are appalled," stated Mr. Clark, "at the brutality of these murders. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Jesuit Community, the Church, the families of the victims, and the people of El Salvador."

"Such acts of violence and brutality are reprehensible by any standards" emphasized Mr. Clark. "They clearly demonstrate that the government of El Salvador cannot control, or is not willing to control, the acts of extremists. I understand the Salvadoran government condemned the killings and launched an investigation. This must be pursued vigourously and thoroughly."

"This bloodshed and suffering must be brought to an end immediately" Mr. Clark stated. "If a negotiated settlement is not sought, there will be no victors. The losers will be the people of El Salvador. I call on all parties to agree to ceasefire now as a first step."

Canada will be working intensively with the OAS and the United Nations and countries in the region to bring an end to this tragic conflict. Canadian officials in Central America, including a diplomat now present in San Salvador, will continue to provide whatever assistance they can at this critical time.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

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