

1 [International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances - August 30, 2021]

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3 **Resolution retroactively declaring August 30 as International Day of the Victims of**  
4 **Enforced Disappearances, and observing this date every year thereafter, and**  
5 **condemning enforced disappearances in El Salvador.**  
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7 WHEREAS, The United Nations declared August 30th the International Day of Victims  
8 of Enforced Disappearances; and

9 WHEREAS, El Salvador endured a civil war from 1980 through 1992 that displaced  
10 500,000 people, forced the migration of approximately 1 million, killed 75,000, and forcibly  
11 disappeared at least another 10,000; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States government provided more than \$4 billion in U.S. tax  
13 dollars for training and aid to the Salvadoran military in support of government and military  
14 repression of its people; and

15 WHEREAS, Over 2 million Salvadorans currently live and work in the United States,  
16 forming the third largest Latino community in the country, with over 16,000 Salvadorans  
17 residing in San Francisco, according to the latest Census data; and

18 WHEREAS, Families and communities of the victims of forced disappearance  
19 experience significant post-traumatic stress disorder, slow mental anguish and torture,  
20 alternating between hope and despair, wondering and waiting, often for years, for news that  
21 may never arrive; and

22 WHEREAS, Enforced Disappearances deprive families and communities the right to  
23 know the truth about their loved ones, and deny justice and reparation as impunity  
24 compounds the anguish and trauma; and  
25

1 WHEREAS, Enforced Disappearance is not an issue of the past, but an appalling  
2 strategy and human rights violation used across the world as a method of repression, terror,  
3 and stifling dissent; and

4 WHEREAS, Families and societies deserve the right to know the truth about what  
5 happened to their loved ones in order to heal and find peace from the decades of torture  
6 caused by burying truths with impunity; and

7 WHEREAS, The United Nations declared Enforced Disappearance a crime against  
8 humanity in its 1992 Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced  
9 Disappearance and established a Committee and Working Group on Enforced  
10 Disappearances; and

11 WHEREAS, El Salvador's National Assembly and President have not ratified the  
12 United Nations International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced  
13 Disappearance; and

14 WHEREAS, The act of remembrance honors and dignifies the victims, their families,  
15 and devastated communities, and constructs bridges to transmit historical memory to younger  
16 generations of Salvadoran Americans; and

17 WHEREAS, Mothers and relatives of the disappeared in El Salvador and abroad have  
18 not given up the search for the truth of the experiences and whereabouts of their loved ones,  
19 demanding that the Salvadoran National Assembly recognize and enact the International Day  
20 of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, 30 August; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares August 30th as the International  
22 Day of the Victims Enforced Disappearances in the City and County of San Francisco; and

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors observes the International Day  
24 of the Victims Enforced Disappearances annually with a special tribute to Salvadorans in the  
25 United States and, specifically, in San Francisco; and

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls on the Salvadoran  
2 National Assembly to recognize and declare August 30 The International Day of the Victims of  
3 Enforced Disappearances, and requests that President Biden declassify U.S. records that  
4 relate to disappearances and other human rights violations that took place during the civil war;  
5 and

6           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
7 Francisco further directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the  
8 President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of  
9 Representatives, and to the U.S. Senators for the State of California upon passage.