

THE CARTER-MENIL
HUMAN RIGHTS
PRIZE

*Commemorating the 43rd anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

*The Rothko Chapel
Houston, Texas
December 8, 1991*

The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation

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**1991
Carter-Menil
Human Rights
Prize Recipients**

Posthumously awarded to:

Father Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J.
Father Ignacio Martín Baró, S.J.
Father Segundo Montes Mozo, S.J.
Father Juan Ramón Moreno Pardo, S.J.
Father Amando López Quintana, S.J.
Father Joaquín López y López, S.J.

assassinated on November 16, 1989, along with Elba Julia Ramos and Celina Maricet Ramos, at the Central American University José Simeón Cañas (UCA) in El Salvador.

Ten members of the Salvadoran military were charged with the Jesuit murders, of whom nine were tried in El Salvador in late September 1991. This trial resulted in the conviction of a colonel for having ordered the eight murders and a lieutenant for having committed one of the murders; the seven other confessed triggermen were acquitted. While this outcome marked the first time in Salvadoran history that military officers were convicted of human rights crimes, it remains unclear if the verdicts rendered in this case truly are precedent-setting and actually signal a break in the impunity of government security forces in the country.

The \$100,000 prize will be presented to the Human Rights Institute of the UCA in memory of the martyred Jesuits' extraordinary commitment and steadfast dedication to human rights and social change in El Salvador.

Father Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J.



Born in 1930 in the Basque region of Spain, Ignacio Ellacuría entered the Society of Jesus in 1947. Father Ellacuría first went to El Salvador in 1948 and after studying abroad for the next two decades, he returned to the country in 1967 to begin teaching at the UCA. While there, he gained international distinction as a philosopher and theologian and helped shape the design of the university's approach to scholarship, teaching, and social outreach. Father Ellacuría became a Salvadoran citizen in 1975 and was named rector of the UCA in 1979, a post he held until his death. At that time he also served as vice-rector for social outreach, chair of the philosophy department, and editor-in-chief of *Estudio Centroamericanos* (ECA), the UCA's

academic journal. Father Ellacuría was well-known as an articulate spokesperson for the poor and oppressed in El Salvador; he was among the first and remained a constant advocate for a negotiated settlement to the country's civil war.

"In the process of liberation of the peoples of Latin America, a university cannot do it all, but what it can do is indispensable. And if it fails in this it has failed as a university and has betrayed its historical mission."

—Father Ignacio Ellacuría

Father Ignacio Martín Baró, S.J.

Father Ignacio Martín Baró was born in 1942 in Valladolid, Spain. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1959 and was sent to El Salvador to complete his novitiate. Though Father Martín Baró also left the country to study abroad, he returned to El Salvador in 1966 and soon began teaching at the UCA. He continued his studies during the 1970s and at the time of his death was the UCA's vice-rector for Research and Graduate Programs, chair of the psychology department, and a member of the editorial boards of *ECA* and the UCA's psychology journal. As founding director of El Salvador's only public polling institute, he pioneered public polling in the country and was one of few to examine the effects of the war on Salvadorans' mental health. Father Martín Baró also served as pastor of the rural parish of Jayaque.



Father Segundo Montes Mozo, S.J.

Born in Valladolid in 1933, Segundo Montes was sent to El Salvador in 1951 to complete his Jesuit novitiate. Though he studied abroad after his initial arrival in the country, he was the first of the Spanish Jesuits to obtain Salvadoran citizenship in 1970. Father Montes was chair of the natural sciences department from 1970-1976, and during part of that period he also served as rector of the Jesuit high school in San Salvador. Because of the extreme social problems in El Salvador, however, Father Montes changed his scholarly focus to social anthropology and completed further studies in Madrid in 1978. During the 1980s, he studied refugees and those displaced by the war in El Salvador, and each year he published an authoritative work on the subject. From 1985 until his death, Father Montes also directed IDHUCA, the UCA's Institute of Human Rights.



"Back in the early 1980s, when the killing of priests was so terrible, I thought of [leaving the country]. Several of us here at the university talked about leaving, of seeking freedom in the United States, or Spain. But we decided—there is a saying—how can we be really free if our brothers and sisters are not free? This is my country and these are my people. We here are not just teachers and social scientists. We are also parish priests, and the people need to have the church stay with them in these terrible times—the rich as well as the poor...God's grace does not leave, so neither can we."

—Father Segundo Montes Mozo

Father Juan Ramón Moreno Pardo, S.J.



Juan Ramón Moreno was born in Villatuerta, Spain, in 1933, and in 1951 was sent to El Salvador to complete his novitiate. He studied humanities in Ecuador before being sent to teach at the Jesuit high school in Granada, Nicaragua, in 1958. After further study abroad over the next decade, Father Moreno returned to San Salvador in 1971 and taught at the UCA until 1974. He spent two years in Rome and then was sent to Panama in 1976, where he founded the Central American Ignatian Center to promote the religious tradition of Jesuit founder St. Ignatius of Loyola. He moved along with this Center to Managua, Nicaragua, and remained there until he was sent back to El Salvador in 1985. Father Moreno then became the deputy director of the UCA's Oscar Romero Pastoral Center and also served as librarian of its Center of Theological Reflection. In addition, he was secretary to the Central American Jesuit Provincial and served a parish in Santa Tecla.



Father Ignacio Martín Baró speaks at a UCA forum in 1988.

"Above all, this is a society that is more than poor—it is impoverished; a society that is not just divided—it is violently torn apart. It is a society in which the most basic human rights of the majority are structurally and systematically denied—such fundamental rights as having a place to live, a job in which to fulfill oneself as a human being, or a school in which to educate one's children."

—Father Ignacio Martín Baró

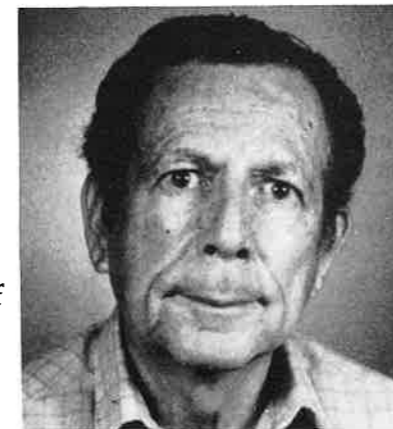
Father Amando López Quintana, S.J.

Father Amando López Quintana was born in Burgos, Spain, in 1936 and was sent by the Jesuits to El Salvador in 1953. After his studies in various countries, he returned to El Salvador where from 1970-1972, he served as rector of the diocesan seminary in San Salvador and from 1973-1974, he taught philosophy at the UCA. In 1975, Father López went to Nicaragua to teach at Managua's Jesuit high school and then served until 1983 as rector of Nicaragua's Jesuit university. After a year's sabbatical in Spain, he returned to San Salvador in late 1984 to teach philosophy and theology at the UCA. A year before his murder he had begun performing pastoral work in the rural village of Tierra Virgen.



Father Joaquín López y López, S.J.

Father Joaquín López y López was the only native Salvadoran priest of those murdered at the UCA. Born into a wealthy Salvadoran family in 1918, Father López entered the Society of Jesus in 1938 and completed his novitiate in the United States. Though he also studied in Spain, he spent most of his life working in El Salvador. In 1964, he helped start the campaign to found the UCA. He also worked for many years at the Jesuit high school in San Salvador, and in 1969 he founded the El Salvador branch of "Faith and Joy," an after-school program for children that operates throughout Latin America. This program comprises 13 schools and 12 workshops that serve 8,000 children, in addition to administering 2 clinics that serve some 50,000 clients.



Dominique de Menil

"The murder of the Jesuits is an important symbol for the people of El Salvador. It represents both the last decade of brutal violence that has taken the lives of some 70,000 Salvadorans, and the impunity of the Salvadoran military."

—Dominique de Menil

French-born Dominique de Menil is the daughter of Conrad Schlumberger whose geo-electric discoveries led him to found, with his brother Marcel, the oil field service firm bearing their name.

Mrs. de Menil, who founded with her late husband The Rothko Chapel in Houston, is a proponent of better understanding among people of different religions. She also has been active in her support of human and civil rights causes. Her empathy with the deprived and oppressed and her commitment to justice have led her to initiate a variety of projects seeking truth; denouncing repression; and promoting understanding, nonviolence, and peace.

Mrs. de Menil is known as well for her interest in art, which has led to the creation of the Menil Collection Museum in Houston. The museum, inaugurated on June 4, 1987, houses the collections both she and her late husband, John de Menil, acquired throughout the years. In addition to her commitment to the Houston museum, Mrs. de Menil is chairman of the Georges Pompidou Art and Culture Foundation and is involved with Menil Foundation projects such as the Image of the Black in Western Art, the Institute for the Arts at Rice University, and the International Circle for Philosophy.

Jimmy Carter

"The six men we will honor were among El Salvador's most eloquent and effective proponents of a peaceful and just society. They called for the crucial changes necessary to build such a society, and for their efforts they paid with their lives. This award recognizes the history of human rights crimes in El Salvador while looking to the future. In many ways, the UCA and the Jesuits who are continuing the work of their murdered brethren offer a new vision for that country."

—Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the United States, is recognized and honored as an international statesman. The efforts of his administration to make human rights the centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy and his own deep commitment to human rights, both during and after his tenure as president, have put the issue on the international political agenda. His wife, Rosalynn, also has been active in promoting respect for human rights. The credibility established by the Carters and their access to world leaders make them invaluable assets to The Carter Center's Human Rights program.

Through their leadership and diligence many lives have been spared, hundreds of prisoners of conscience have been released, and governments have been placed on notice that their human rights practices are being watched closely.

The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation

The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation was established in 1986 by Jimmy Carter and Dominique de Menil to promote the protection of human rights throughout the world. Each year on December 10, which marks the anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the foundation presents a \$100,000 prize to one or more organizations or individuals for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of human rights principles. The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation also supports the activities of the Human Rights program of The Carter Center of Emory University.

Past Recipients

1986: Yuri Orlov, Soviet Union

Soviet physicist and dissident Yuri Orlov founded the Moscow Helsinki Committee in May 1976. His outspoken criticism of the Communist party and human rights activism led to his expulsion from the party in 1956 and arrest in 1977. Dr. Orlov spent seven years in a strict regimen labor camp and two years in exile in Siberia before being released and moving to the United States. In 1987, he accepted a position in the physics department at Cornell University and continues his human rights activities as honorary chair and spokesperson for the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights.



Yuri Orlov, Soviet Union (co-recipient)

1986: Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo, Guatemala

The Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo (GAM) was created in June 1984 by relatives of the disappeared in Guatemala attempting to determine the fate of their missing family members by making inquiries to the government, filing *habeas corpus* petitions, and denouncing disappearances in local and international forums. GAM's current membership of over 1,500 continues to serve the important role of uniting and supporting families who have suffered and leading protests to call attention to these situations. Because of these efforts, members themselves have been the victims of repeated threats, torture, kidnapping, and, in some cases, murder.



Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo, Guatemala (co-recipient)



La Vicaría de la Solidaridad, Chile

1987: La Vicaría de la Solidaridad, Chile

In January 1976, Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez founded La Vicaría de la Solidaridad to provide legal assistance to political prisoners and social welfare assistance to the families of victims of human rights abuses. La Vicaría also was established to collect and disseminate information about specific rights violations. The organization continues these activities in addition to providing food and monetary assistance to the large sectors of the Chilean population living in extreme poverty. La Vicaría also has intensified its traditional human rights education efforts through non-political civic programs.

1988: The Sisulu Family, South Africa

Walter and Albertina Sisulu and their seven children—Zwelakhe, Jongumzi, Max, Lindiwe, Nonkululeko, Berel, and Mlungisi—have come to symbolize the fight against apartheid and the suffering it has imposed on South Africa. Since they first met in the early 1940s, Walter, as secretary-general of the African National Congress (ANC), and Albertina, as a leading member of the South African

women's movement, have struggled constantly for the recognition of human rights for all South Africans. Because of their activities to promote these rights, Walter served 26 years of a life sentence in prison along with Nelson Mandela, and Albertina lived under restriction orders which made her a prisoner in her own home for the better part of 25 years. Many of the Sisulu children also have been imprisoned, exiled, or otherwise harassed for their efforts to end apartheid and work for justice in South Africa. Walter was released from prison and Albertina's

restrictions were lifted in a historic decision by the South African government in October 1989.



The Sisulu Family, South Africa

1989: Al-Haq, West Bank

Al-Haq (Arabic for "truth," "justice," "fairness," and "law"), the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, is a Palestinian human rights organization based in Ramallah. It was founded in 1979 to promote respect for internationally recognized standards of human rights, humanitarian law, and justice in the Occupied Territories. The primary activities of al-Haq are investigating and documenting human rights violations; researching issues pertaining to the rule of law in the Occupied Territories; publishing studies on various aspects of the legal and human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; and making an ongoing effort, through direct intervention and other means, to bring specific abuses to an end.



Al-Haq (co-recipient)

1989: B'Tselem/The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, Israel

B'Tselem was founded in February 1989 by a group of Israeli lawyers, intellectuals, physicians, journalists, and Knesset members to respond to the resounding silence in Israel about the treatment of Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories. B'Tselem's primary objective is the systematic collection of data on human rights violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the dissemination of reliable information. In addition, the organization educates the Israeli public about international human rights standards and fosters public debate within Israel about the nature and scope of human rights violations and their impact on Israeli society and democracy.



B'Tselem (co-recipient)

The Carter Center Human Rights Program

1990: The Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas Runujel Junam, Guatemala



The Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas Runujel Junam, Guatemala (co-recipient)

The Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas Runujel Junam (Council of Ethnic Communities Runujel Junam, or CERJ) was formed by a group of Mayan Indian peasants with the assistance of schoolteacher Amílcar Méndez Urizar in July 1988 to monitor and defend human rights and fundamental freedoms. The primary objectives of the CERJ include the disbanding of Guatemala's massive civilian patrol system and defending peasants against the obligation to provide unpaid service in this system; educating the rural populace (primarily indigenous) about human rights; denouncing human rights violations directed at these individuals and seeking legal redress for victims of abuse; and advocating for increased respect for indigenous culture and identity.

1990: The Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka

The Civil Rights Movement (CRM) of Sri Lanka is a nonpartisan, inter-ethnic organization committed to the promotion and protection of civil and political rights. The group was founded in 1971 in response to government emergency measures introduced to deal with a militant insurgency. Though this insurgency was speedily crushed, CRM worked vigorously to counter human rights violations that emerged in its aftermath such as prolonged detention, deaths in custody, unfair trial procedures, suspension of trade



The Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka (co-recipient)

union rights, and censorship. The group has continued this work and built upon it by examining existing and proposed laws and the workings of government in light of internationally recognized human rights principles. CRM also initiates debate and educates the public about human rights issues.

Launched in January 1988, the Human Rights program of The Carter Center of Emory University seeks to strengthen institutions engaged in human rights monitoring and advocacy, promote their collaborative interaction, and help in the development of strategies that discourage violations of human rights. Working with President and Mrs. Carter, the program seeks to promote and protect human rights through technical assistance, action-oriented policy research, interventions, and public education, and is supported by an internship program. New initiatives currently are being launched in several of these areas.

Technical Assistance:

The dramatically changing world scene offers new challenges for creating constitutional, legal, and institutional reforms in countries undergoing a democratization process. The Human Rights program hopes to capitalize on these unique opportunities to introduce human rights safeguards and establish institutions that protect human rights at all times--rather than waiting to react to abuses when they occur. This work is undertaken in partnership with both the governments concerned and local human rights organizations and draws on the thinking of human rights experts. Projects currently are underway in Ethiopia, Liberia, and Chad that focus on:

- providing support, expertise, and practical help to governments to introduce new legal safeguards and design domestic legislation that is compatible with international human rights standards;
- submitting recommendations on human rights provisions and safeguards in countries undergoing constitutional reforms;
- providing advice on procedures and standards for investigating human rights abuses; and
- providing assistance to governments that express a willingness to set up human rights institutions such as commissions of inquiry, policy commissions, human rights education projects, and ombudsman bodies.

Policy Research:

The Human Rights program will host two major seminars in the coming year that bring together academic experts, human rights monitors, journalists, and government officials to stimulate new thinking and generate action-oriented policy research that could help human rights activists respond more effectively to the challenges they face. Topics identified for 1992-1993 include the experiences of government-appointed commissions of inquiry in

countries that must come to terms with a repressive past and the conspicuous deficiency of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, which have proven largely ineffective and highly politicized. In addition, the program maintains files and current information on 15-20 countries worldwide to continually evaluate conditions and possible future initiatives.

Interventions:

The Human Rights program continues to brief President and Mrs. Carter on human rights conditions in countries where human rights will be the subject of high-level discussions with the governments, as well as to evaluate the Carters' interventions in individual cases of abuse.

Public Education:

The Human Rights program hosts a speakers series that brings human rights and other activists from around the world to seminars that include local students and scholars, civic groups, the religious community, and human rights organizations. In addition, program staff speak publicly in a wide variety of domestic and international fora on human rights topics and the work of The Carter Center.

Internship Program:

Each year, 10-12 undergraduate and graduate students from the United States and abroad are chosen to participate in the Human Rights Internship Program. Interns are offered opportunities to gain practical experience in the field of human rights through both academic research and direct participation in program activities.

Program Staff:

The Human Rights program is directed by Jamal Benomar. Dr. Benomar fled his native country of Morocco in early 1985 after being tortured and imprisoned for eight years for his nonviolent political beliefs. After working as a research associate at the University of Paris, he served for almost five years as an Africa specialist at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International in London. Dr. Benomar came to The Carter Center in July 1991. He holds degrees from Rabat University, the University of Paris (Sorbonne), and the University of London, where he completed his doctoral studies in sociology and political science.

Karin Ryan has worked with the program since its inception in 1988 and currently serves as program coordinator. Ms. Ryan studied political science in San Diego before serving as a Bahá'í community development volunteer in Zaire for two years. She has worked with the United Nations Association and other organizations to develop youth leadership training programs related to international issues.

Susan Casey is program associate and coordinator of the Carter-Menil Human Rights Prize. Ms. Casey received a B.A. from Emory University and an M.A. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to joining The Carter Center in 1989, she coordinated a peace and justice resource center in Tacoma, Washington, and worked with homeless mentally disabled adults in Atlanta.

The Carter Center Atlanta, Georgia

The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia is a nonprofit public policy institute founded in 1982. The Center is home to a consortium of organizations that unite research and outreach programs in an effort to improve quality of life around the world.

The core organization of the Center is The Carter Center of Emory University (CCEU). Here, academic fellows, who also teach at Emory, address carefully selected issues through research, conferences, and special publications. CCEU programs focus on resolving conflict, promoting democracy, preserving human rights, improving health, and fighting hunger in regions such as Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Soviet Union.

The Center's strength lies in a unique combination of resources. Jimmy Carter's stature as a world leader provides the Center with singular access, vision, and direction. Under the direction of James T. Laney, Emory University's strong academic programs provide a solid base for studying contemporary issues and implementing solutions to global problems.

The construction of The Carter Center facilities was funded entirely by \$28 million in private donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Dedicated on October 1, 1986, the complex of four interconnected buildings on 30 acres houses CCEU and the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum, deeded to and operated by the federal government. The Center is also home to Project Atlanta, Global 2000, The Task Force for Child Survival, and the Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation, a group of independently funded and administered organizations with goals and ideals that complement and enhance The Carter Center as a whole.



The Carter Center

For more information about The Carter Center and its programs, call (404)420-5117 or write: The Carter Center Public Information Office, One Copenhill, Atlanta, GA 30307.