

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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When will President Funes answer the survivors and relatives of the victims of the El Calabozo massacre?

This Thursday the survivors and families of the victims of the El Calabozo massacre will walk to the monument by the Amatitán River in San Vicente, where the Salvadoran army killed over 200 defenceless people on 22 August 1982. They will make their way there to remember their loved ones, and to demand once again their rights to truth, justice and reparation from the state.

One year ago, on the 30th anniversary of the massacre, 5,000 Amnesty International activists across the world signed a petition to President Mauricio Funes, urging the Salvadoran state to finally fulfill its obligations to bring to justice those responsible and to ensure that survivors and relatives of the victims receive reparations for the terrible losses they suffered. However, one year on from this mass campaign the government's response to the survivors and relatives, to the "Madeleine Lagadec" Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights who are taking the case, and to Amnesty International, has been silence.

Faced with this silence, Amnesty International has once again written to President Mauricio Funes in support of the calls of the survivors and relatives of the victims, demanding that the government finally responds to them, and takes the necessary steps towards truth, justice and reparation in this case. The organization has also called on the president to commit to three actions this 22 August.

Amnesty International is urging the government to publicly recognize state responsibility for the El Calabozo massacre; to send a state representative to attend the commemoration of the massacre; and to take steps towards declaring the memorial to the victims of the El Calabozo massacre a site of cultural heritage of the nation.

Amnesty International stands in solidarity with the survivors and relatives of the victims on this day and recognizes their tireless work for truth, justice and reparation. 31 years since the massacre took place, it is time for the Salvadoran state to remember the victims and those still living with memories of that day, and to answer for its actions.