

Salvadoran refugees

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Guatemala in the Portland area now, with more coming each day.

Robert Krueger, District Director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in Portland, was not able to offer an estimate, but he did say that 11 Guatemalans are awaiting deportation hearings in Portland, and a Salvadoran arrested recently has been released on bond.

Those who help are quiet and cautious about it. The INS considers the Central Americans refugees from poverty, not politics, and deports them. According to Title 8, Section 1324 of the U.S. Code, harboring illegal aliens is a felony punishable by up to a \$2,000 fine and five years in jail.

Rogers feels the government is reluctant to prosecute because it would expose the refugees' stories of massacres and atrocities committed with U.S. arms and the help of U.S. advisors.

"Our government doesn't want the American public to hear eyewitness accounts of how American machine guns and helicopters are being used against the civilian populations," she said.

But, according to Krueger, the INS would prosecute a valid case if presented. "We will try to avoid any confrontation," he said, however. "I have nobody out looking for El Salvadorans or Guatemalans now."

Rogers, a bilingual career counselor, said she experienced terror during the year she spent as a volunteer with a development cooperative in Guatemala in 1978. A second trip in 1980 lasted only 18 days, she said. "I thought I was going to be killed, so it seemed like 18 months. Everyday, when I got up, I asked myself, 'do I stay here, or do I get out while I can?'"

"It's not so much that I would be singled out, as anybody there was in danger," said Rogers, who is Catholic. "If you are Catholic or associated with a co-op in any way, that's enough."

"I've lived in the adobe huts with the Indian population," she said. "I feel an obligation to help them survive. It comes from a personal commitment to them, a commitment to peace and justice. I'm outraged that they have to be here in the first place."



Salvadorans march on Washington

On July 5, 60 Salvadoran refugees and North American supporters began a 250-mile walk from New York to Washington, D.C., scheduled to arrive on July 22. This is the date by which the Reagan administration is scheduled to "certify" that human rights progress is being made in El Salvador, thus allowing for continued military aid to that government.

The Salvadorans are walking to help prevent an intervention of U.S. troops in Central America; to denounce the escalation of a Vietnam-like war in the region; to denounce the open war declared by Reagan against Nicaragua; to protest certification as a farce and expose its hypocrisy to North Americans; and to publicize and demand an end to the U.S. policy of deporting Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees who have sought refuge in the U.S.

The walkers are stopping in many towns along the way, with many supporters walking with the group for one day as they pass through their towns.

Casa El Salvador-Farabundo Marti (an organization of Salvadorans in the U.S.) is requesting that people sponsor a walker. 10¢/mile would be \$25. All donations are welcome. After expenses, the money will go to the Salvadoran Humanitarian Aid, Research and Education Foundation (SHARE), which sends aid to Salvadoran refugees in Central America.

Checks, payable to "Salvadoran Refugees Against Certification," can be sent to the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC), P.O. Box 6443, Portland, OR 97228.



Members of the Black United Front go over the floor plans of the Vancouver Ave. Baptist Church in finalizing logistics for the 4th Annual BUF National Convention, starting July 21st. L-R:

Gloria Stewart, Debra Cook, Jean Reese, Jean Vessup, Aisha Daniels, Jerri Abrams, Ron Herndon, Odell Brown, Julius Moore, and Kamau Anderson. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Campaigner speaks to Demos

Phillip Johnson will be the featured speaker at the July 21 public meeting of District 18 Democrats. Mr. Johnson will share his personal experience as a staff member of the Harold Washington campaign in Chicago.

A native Portlander, Mr. Johnson worked last year for Rev. Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH until beginning work in October as a fundraiser for the Washington team. Mr. Johnson stayed with the campaign until Washington's victory in April.

As a "gold key" member of the Washington campaign staff, Mr. Johnson expects to work on future campaigns in Chicago. In the meanwhile, Mr. Johnson will give his energy to organizing here in Portland. He is currently working for Oregon Fair Share and is participating in the summer/fall organizing



Mr. Phillip Johnson (Photo: Ross Danielson)

campaign of District 18 Democrats. The meeting begins at 7:00 at Walt's Sandwich Shop, corner of N.E. Alberta at Albina, across the street from Neil Kelly Designers. Those who wish to enjoy Walt's Bar-B-Que rib dinner (at menu price of three dollars) should call Ross Danielson, 281-8126, or Walt's Sandwich Shop, 288-3174.

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