

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am writing to urge you to publicly oppose the U.S.-sponsored International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in El Salvador and to reverse the steps that have already been taken to impose this project on the people of El Salvador. I also urge you to oppose the funding for the construction of the ILEA, funding that must be approved by the U.S. Congress.

During the bloody 12-year civil war in El Salvador, the U.S.'s role in "professionalizing" repressive forces through the School of the Americas (SOA) meant open support for governmental and paramilitary forces that tortured, disappeared, and murdered tens of thousands of people. Currently in El Salvador the lines drawn by the 1992 Salvadoran Peace Accords between military and police are being blurred, while draconian "iron fist" policies and violent state-backed repression are on the rise. The justification of gang-fighting and anti-terrorism has led to a backlash against Salvadorans who oppose their government's "free trade" policies and are struggling for increased democratic participation. The decision of the U.S. State Department to build an ILEA police training center in San Salvador will only encourage such "iron fist" policing and repression of youth and social movement activists.

Salvadoran organizations are strongly opposing the imposition of the ILEA, claiming that it represents a setback for the 1992 Peace Accords. It is for these reasons I ask that you take a position against the ILEA and against U.S. funding for such an institution.

Sincerely,

Mailing address:

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stamp  
here

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**US House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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