

Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize the observance of August 30th, 2021 as the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances in El Salvador.

WHEREAS, the United Nations declared August 30th The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances; and

WHEREAS, El Salvador endured a civil war (1980-1992) that displaced 500,000 people, forced the migration of 1 million, killed 75,000, and forcibly disappeared at least another 10,000; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government supported government and military repression, providing more than \$4 billion for training and aid to the Salvadoran military; and

WHEREAS, over 2 million Salvadorans currently live and work in the United States forming the third largest Latino community in the country, with over 260,000 Salvadorans residing in the Washington D.C. region; and

WHEREAS, the families and friends of the victims of forced disappearance experience post-traumatic stress disorder and slow mental anguish, alternating between hope and despair, wondering and waiting, sometimes for years, for news that may never come with the impunity compounding the suffering and anguish; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations declared Forced Disappearance a crime against humanity in its 1992 Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and

36 WHEREAS, El Salvador’s National Assembly and President have not ratified the United
37 Nations International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced
38 Disappearance; and

39 WHEREAS, forced disappearance has frequently been used by dictatorships as a strategy
40 to spread terror within the society, and affects the communities and society as a whole; and

41 WHEREAS, the victims’ families have the right to seek reparations, and to demand the
42 truth about the disappearance of their loved ones; and

43 WHEREAS, remembering dignifies the victims and their families, and constructs bridges
44 to transmit historical memory to younger generations of Salvadoran Americans; and

45 WHEREAS, the mothers and relatives of the disappeared in El Salvador and abroad have
46 been searching for the whereabouts of their loved ones for decades, demanding that the
47 Salvadoran National Assembly recognize and enact August 30th the International Day of the
48 Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

49 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
50 resolution may be cited as the “International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances in
51 El Salvador Recognition Resolution of 2021”.

52 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes August 30th as the International Day of the Victims
53 Enforced Disappearances in El Salvador as a special tribute to U.S. Salvadorans. The Council
54 calls on the Salvadoran National Assembly to recognize and declare August 30th, The
55 International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, and requests that President Biden
56 declassify U.S. records that relate to disappearances and other human rights violations that took
57 place during the civil war.

58 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
59 the District of Columbia Register.