

ARRUPE LECTURE SERIES SAINT PETER'S PREP

Preferential Option for the Poor in Central America: Education and Advocacy Resource Sheet

Advocacy means active support of a cause – to speak on behalf of another. During this year's Arrupe Series, we explored the current situation in Central America, where violence and corruption forces people to flee their homes. Through these reflections, we hoped to inspire our community to make a real "preferential option for the poor." While Central America may seem far away, there is much we can do to help simply by influencing US policy towards these nations. The resources below will help you to explore this topic more deeply, and to advocate for the poor of Central America, our brothers and sisters in the "Pueblo de Dios."

Justice for Berta Caceres



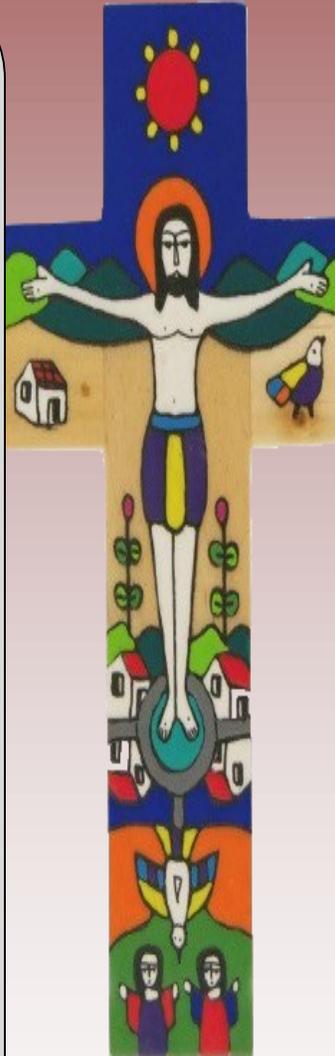
Earlier this month, Honduran activist Berta Caceres was murdered in her home by unknown assailants. Caceres, the leader of the [Civic Council of the Indigenous and Popular Organizations of Honduras \(COPINH\)](#) was constantly the target of threats due to her defense of the land and water rights of indigenous people in Honduras. Another member of COPINH, Nelson Garcia, was murdered on Tuesday.

Due to the high rates of impunity in Honduras, it is likely that their killers will face no consequences.

[Click here](#) to read a message from her friend Padre Melo (who spoke at Prep this fall) about Caceres' death.

[Click here](#) to read an appeal to the State Department to insure a fair investigation into her death, signed by the Jesuit Conference, Ignatian Solidarity Network, and other justice groups.

[Click here](#) to add your voice to the Jesuits' efforts to find justice for Berta Caceres.



Learn More

[La Voz Del Pueblo](#): This short documentary, viewed at our all-school assembly on Tuesday, looks at Honduras' Jesuit-run Radio Progreso, and their work to give a voice to the oppressed.

["Violence is Causing Children to Flee Central America"](#): Article from Center for American Progress which includes a lot of infographics and statistics about violence in Central America.

["In Honduras, A Mess Made in America"](#): Dana Frank of the *New York Times* explores the effect of US policy and intervention on the current situation in Honduras.

["We're Still Not Practicing What He Preached": El Salvador Celebrates Oscar Romero's Beatification as Gangs Wage War](#):

Earlier this year, Archbishop Oscar Romero was beatified by the Church. But in El Salvador, his legacy is challenged by violence and injustice.

General Resources

The Ignatian Solidarity Network has made "US Policy Towards Central America" one of its priority issues.

[Click here](#) for a page of advocacy resources.

[Click here](#) to sign an advocacy letter encouraging Congress to heed Pope Francis' call to defend human rights in Central America.