

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 12, 2006

His Excellency Rene Antonio Leon Rodriguez  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Embassy of El Salvador  
1400 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Suite 100  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

We are writing in regard to the Universidad Monseñor Oscar Arnulfo Romero (Oscar Romero University) in Chalatenango. It is our hope that Oscar Romero University, the only rural university educating the population of Northern El Salvador, will be allowed to continue its mission.

The university was created in the wake of the United Nations brokered peace accords in 1993. Their goal is to foster peace and bring education and greater economic opportunity to the people of Northern El Salvador, many of whom live in extreme poverty. The students are given the opportunity to learn professional skills and enrich their education. They then return to their community and help grow the local economies. The student body of Oscar Romero University had grown to over 900 students from the region.

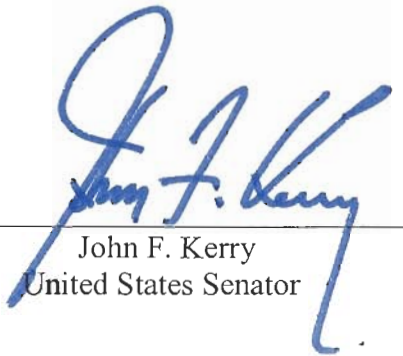
Recent news articles have exposed alleged corruption within a group of university administrators. Charges were quickly filed against these board members for misuse of funds and fraudulent administration. The Ministry of Education has concurrently begun their own investigation into the university board members' actions. However, there have been indications that the Ministry might recommend closure of the university as a result of the impropriety of these administrators.

It is our hope that Oscar Romero University will be able to remain as an educational institution serving the people of El Salvador. In light of the important role that the school plays we hope that the government will prosecute the corrupt officials, rather than close down the entire University

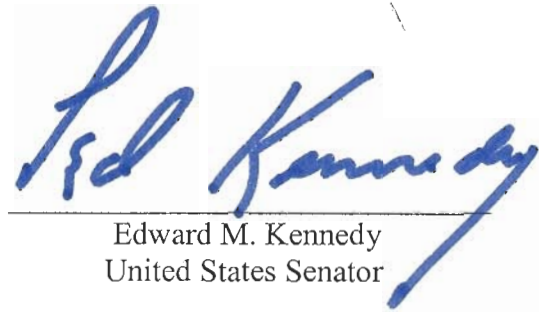
When Oscar Romero University has addressed these problems satisfactorily, it is our hope that some of the Millennium Challenge Funds set aside for El Salvador could be provided to them. The University is an ideal source of economic growth and stability in the region.

Any aid you can offer the Oscar Romero University during this trying time will be much appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry  
United States Senator



Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senator