

**International Day for the Right to the Truth  
Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the  
Dignity of Victims, March 24**

**Día Internacional por el derecho a la verdad ante las  
violaciones flagrantes de los Derechos Humanos y por la  
dignidad de las víctimas, Marzo 24**

**PRAYER SERVICE**

*“The rights to truth and justice are central to ending impunity for gross violations of human rights. [...] In all instances, honoring this right puts others on notice that violations cannot stay hidden for long.”*

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

**INTRODUCTION**

On 21 December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.

The purpose of the Day is to:

- Honor the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and promote the importance of the right to truth and justice;
- Pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives to, and lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all;
- Recognize, in particular, the important work and values of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, of El Salvador, who was assassinated on 24 March 1980, after denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable populations and defending the principles of protecting lives, promoting human dignity and opposition to all forms of violence.

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