[International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances - August 30, 2021]

Resolution retroactively declaring August 30 as International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, and observing this date every year thereafter, and condemning enforced disappearances in El Salvador.

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

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

WHEREAS, The United States government provided more than $4 billion in U.S. tax dollars for training and aid to the Salvadoran military in support of government and military repression of its people; 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 16,000 Salvadorans residing in San Francisco, according to the latest Census data; and

WHEREAS, Families and communities of the victims of forced disappearance experience significant post-traumatic stress disorder, slow mental anguish and torture, alternating between hope and despair, wondering and waiting, often for years, for news that may never arrive; and

WHEREAS, Enforced Disappearances deprive families and communities the right to know the truth about their loved ones, and deny justice and reparation as impunity compounds the anguish and trauma; and
WHEREAS, Enforced Disappearance is not an issue of the past, but an appalling strategy and human rights violation used across the world as a method of repression, terror, and stifling dissent; and

WHEREAS, Families and societies deserve the right to know the truth about what happened to their loved ones in order to heal and find peace from the decades of torture caused by burying truths with impunity; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations declared Enforced Disappearance a crime against humanity in its 1992 Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and established a Committee and Working Group on Enforced Disappearances; and

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

WHEREAS, The act of remembrance honors and dignifies the victims, their families, and devastated communities, and constructs bridges to transmit historical memory to younger generations of Salvadoran Americans; and

WHEREAS, Mothers and relatives of the disappeared in El Salvador and abroad have not given up the search for the truth of the experiences and whereabouts of their loved ones, demanding that the Salvadoran National Assembly recognize and enact the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, 30 August; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares August 30th as the International Day of the Victims Enforced Disappearances in the City and County of San Francisco; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors observes the International Day of the Victims Enforced Disappearances annually with a special tribute to Salvadorans in the United States and, specifically, in San Francisco; and
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls on the Salvadoran National Assembly to recognize and declare August 30 The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, and requests that President Biden declassify U.S. records that relate to disappearances and other human rights violations that took place during the civil war; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco further directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the U.S. Senators for the State of California upon passage.
Resolution retroactively declaring August 30 as International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, and observing this date every year thereafter, and condemning enforced disappearances in El Salvador.

September 21, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/21/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board