



# General Assembly

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2010

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/65/451)]

### **65/196. Proclamation of 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>2</sup> and other relevant instruments of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>3</sup>

*Recognizing* the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

*Recalling* articles 32 and 33 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949<sup>4</sup> and article 24, paragraph 2, of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006, according to which each victim has the right to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, the progress and results of the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person,

*Taking into account* the right to the truth as defined in Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/66 of 20 April 2005<sup>5</sup> and Human Rights Council decision 2/105 of 27 November 2006<sup>6</sup> and resolutions 9/11 of 24 September 2008<sup>7</sup> and 12/12 of 1 October 2009<sup>8</sup> on the right to the truth,

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>2</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>3</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, No. 17512.

<sup>5</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>6</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/62/53)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/63/53/Add.1)*, chap. I.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.



*Welcoming* Human Rights Council resolution 14/7 of 17 June 2010 entitled “Proclamation of 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims”,<sup>9</sup>

*Acknowledging* the reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights<sup>10</sup> and the significant conclusions therein related to the right to the truth,

*Recognizing* the importance of promoting the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and the importance of the right to truth and justice,

*Acknowledging*, at the same time, the significance of paying tribute to those who have devoted their lives to, and lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all,

*Recognizing in particular* the important and valuable work of Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, of El Salvador, who was actively engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights in his country, and whose work was acknowledged internationally through his messages, in which he denounced violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable populations,

*Recognizing* the values of Monsignor Romero and his dedication to the service of humanity, in the context of armed conflicts, as a humanist dedicated to defending human rights, protecting lives and promoting human dignity, his constant calls to dialogue and his opposition to all forms of violence to avoid armed confrontation, which consequently led to his death on 24 March 1980,

1. *Proclaims* 24 March the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims;
2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations and civil society entities, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day in an appropriate manner;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*71st plenary meeting  
21 December 2010*

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>10</sup> E/CN.4/2006/91, A/HRC/5/7, A/HRC/12/19 and A/HRC/15/33.