

## **Carlos Mauricio**

Carlos Mauricio was a professor at the University of El Salvador when he was detained in June 1983 and tortured for nearly two weeks at the National Police Headquarters. After coming to the United States, he obtained two Master's degrees, in Molecular Genetics and Adult Education, from San Francisco State University, and a teaching credential. He teaches biology at Balbao High School in San Francisco.

Mauricio was born in the town of Ahuachapan, El Salvador and is 49 years old. At the age of 13, he moved to San Salvador with his family, where he soon found a construction job at the University of El Salvador. This enabled him to work during the day and continue his studies at night. After high school, he began to study agricultural engineering at the University, supporting himself by teaching in local high schools and working as an assistant professor at the university. He won a scholarship to study in Mexico, where he received his Masters degree in animal nutrition (sciences?), at the University of Merida. Mauricio then returned to El Salvador to continue teaching.

In June 1983 he was lured from the classroom where he was teaching Agricultural Sciences, forced into an unmarked vehicle and beaten by individuals dressed in civilian clothing. He was then taken to the National Police headquarters, where he was detained for nearly two weeks.

During that time, he was tortured and interrogated repeatedly. Methods of torture included being hung by his wrists with his hands tied behind his back, repeated beatings with a baton, denial of bathroom access, forced standing for hours and deprivation of food for extended periods. Upon being released, Mauricio fled El Salvador for the United States, where he now resides.

Mauricio has suffered permanent physical and emotional injuries as a result of the abuse he underwent while detained. The physical wounds remaining from his detention include broken ribs, an injured eye and persistent pain in his shoulders, joints and chest.

Mauricio states that his interest in bringing the Generals to trial in this case stems from his conviction that seeking justice for what was done will help heal the emotional wounds caused by the torture. In addition, he hopes that participating in this case will send a powerful message to military leaders around the world that if they, or those under their command, commit atrocities, they will not be able to visit or live in the U.S. with impunity. Therefore, this case may assist in deterring others from committing such atrocities in the future. Mauricio hopes that bringing the Generals to trial will raise awareness of the importance of combating impunity not only in the ongoing struggle for justice for the people of El Salvador, but also in the battle for accountability and justice worldwide.