

sands of other, lesser-known slaughtered innocents.

The war-era mass graves I visited around an area called Pan-chimalco are located right next to the more recent mass graves dug by gangs in the area. Like the weapons and training used by the Salvadoran military, the gangs themselves were also born in the United States, specifically Los Angeles' Pico Union neighborhood. I remember because I was there in the early 90s, when police of the Rampart police division—the site of the worst police scandal in U.S. history—started pushing the MS-13 and 18th Street gangs

to escalate the warfare between them. The Rampart division's well-documented tactics—planting guns for false arrests, taking a young man in gang from one neighborhood into the hostile territory of rival gangs, shooting and even killing gang members and make it seem like rival gangs did it—did much to foment violence among the gangs.

Most damaging for El Salvador and its shitholes was the way LAPD then broke sanctuary laws designed to protect people fleeing extreme violence and other disasters from deportation. In the

early 90s, the LAPD and INS began the fatal practice of handing the young gang members over to the then Immigration and



Victims of the El Mozote Massacre (Photo by Susan Meiselas, Magnum Photos/ Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States)

Naturalization Service (INS) for deportation. In the process, these agents of US policy helped create a gang culture in a country with no history of U.S.-style gangs and gang warfare. These gangs have since gone on to fill the mass graves that mark El Salvador as one of the most violent countries on earth.

In immigration terms, the shithole is a distraction. Calling the countries shitholes, but also designating them as counties ready to both receive hun-

dreds of thousands of deportees and lose billions of dollars sent home by them is also a logical—and tragic—fallacy, another policy failure. But if the President is going to use such language, he should back up his words with policy that recognizes U.S. responsibility for the foreign war and immigration policies that create catastrophes. In other words, I would prefer Trump walk the shithole talk—and can give him the hiking boots to do it with.

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Rape on the Night Shift

Film Screening & Conversation with Lilia García-Brower

This film by Frontline (PBS) investigates the sexual abuse of women who work as janitors. Lilia García-Brower is the Executive Director of the Maintenance Corporation Trust Fund (MCTF) a watchdog organization in California whose mission is to abolish illegal and unfair business practices in the janitorial industry.

Contact Dr. Rita Urquijo-Ruiz at 210.999.7898 or rurquijo@trinity.edu for more information. **Co-sponsored by the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center.**

Thursday, March 22, 2018

Northrup Hall 040

Refreshments: 5:30 pm

Screening & Conversation: 6:00 pm

Free & open to the public

