

SENATE RESOLUTION #1539

Title: A resolution to establish sanctuary (safe haven, refuge) at the University of Wyoming for political refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

Introduced: September 11, 1986

Thesis:

Sponsor: Rock Schular

1. Be it resolved that the Student Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming declares it to be the policy of the student body that, to the extent legally possible, no employee or department of ASUW will violate established or future sanctuaries by assisting in investigations, public or clandestine, by engaging in or assisting with arrests for alleged violations of immigration laws by the refugees in the sanctuaries or by those offering sanctuary, or by refusing established public services to the established sanctuaries; and, no ASUW employee or department shall request information about or otherwise investigate or assist in the investigation of the citizenship or residency status of any person unless inquiry is required by statute, ordinance, federal regulation, or court decision; and that the ASUW urges and exhorts other offices, units, and employees of the University, especially the campus police department, faculty and staff, and administration, to abide by this resolution in spirit as the will and purpose of a free thinking and educated student body; and that the ASUW urges and exhorts the federal authorities, including Congress, to take the necessary actions to grant "extended voluntary departure"

19. status to Central American refugees who have fled persecution in their
20. home countries; and that all such authorities be further urged to end
21. policies, official or otherwise, that have led to violence,
22. repression, and degradation in Central America, especially foreign
23. economic and political exploitation; and that copies of this
24. resolution be sent to the University President, Faculty Senate, Board
25. of Trustees, Wyoming Congressional delegation, Wyoming Governor, and
26. United States President.

Referred to: Information Committee
 DO NOT PASS 10/7/86
 DO NOT PASS 1/27/87

Date of Passage: _____
 Signed: _____ ASUM Senate Chairperson

"Being enacted on _____, I do hereby sign my name

hereto and approve this Senate action."

ASUM President

1st Meeting
 9/14/86

2nd Meeting
 10/7/86

3rd Meeting
 10/7/86

motion to withdraw
 around back to Committee
 consultation with the lawyers
 10/7/86

3rd Meeting
 1/27/87

Appendix to Senate Resolution #1539

Senate Resolution #1386 has officially placed the ASUU in solidarity with the suffering persecuted of El Salvador and Central America and against U. S. policy in the region.

The Statue of Liberty of our land proclaims with renewed vigor, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuge of your teeming shore, send these the homeless, tempest-tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

The United States Refugee Act of 1980 (8 USC 1101 (a)(42)) provides refugee status for any refugee "who is unable or unwilling to return to, and who is unwilling or unable to avail himself or herself of the protection of their country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion..."

The United States is an adherent to U.N. treaty 2545 which states that "No contracting party shall expel or forcibly return a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the...territories where his life or freedom would be threatened..."

The United States Constitution proclaims all such treaties to be "the supreme law of the land (article vi, section 2)." .

The United Nations has proclaimed refugees from the aforementioned nation-states to be political refugees in danger of persecution and death. Virtually every nation on Earth has recognized this proclamation, the United States being the only notable exception.

Tens of thousands of Central American refugees in the U.S. face the immediate threat of illegal deportation by the U.S. to their unsafe homelands. 30,000 people were killed in one year (1979) in El Salvador, 80% of whom were victims of governmental terrorism. Violence has increased progressively since then, with tractor bullets, white phosphorous, indiscriminate aerial bombings and napalm being used on civilian populations.

"Thousands of non-combatant civilians, including peasants, Indians, trade-unionists, teachers, religious and political leaders, journalists and members of the legal community have been systematically seized and frequently tortured and murdered by both uniformed and plain-clothed members of the security forces under government control..."

During the last 30 years, 100,000 Guatemalans have been killed and over 38,000 have disappeared.

Those deported from the U.S. face a high likelihood of violence upon their return.

In response to this situation, over 300 churches and Synagogues across the United States, 19 cities, 20 universities, and one state have elected to provide sanctuary to refugees.

The United States has traditionally served as a haven for all refugees of religious, political, or other persecution, and much of our historical and moral tradition both as a community and as a nation is rooted in the provision of sanctuary to persecuted peoples.

The ASUW wishes to clarify its desire not to expend University or student resources, beyond the requirements of Federal Law, by voluntarily assisting or cooperating with investigations of alleged violations of immigration law by Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Nicaraguan or other refugees, or in gathering or disseminating information on the citizenship status of those residing within the bounds of the University.

Virtually all the residents of the U.S. are immigrants or refugees, or descendants of immigrants or refugees.