El Salvador's Decade of Terror: Human Rights since the Assassination of Archbishop Romero is the result of many years of research and reporting conducted by the San Salvador office of Americas Watch. This book is perfect for anyone who wants to understand the current human rights situation in El Salvador in terms of the events which occurred over the past decade. The book provides the reader with vital statistics on El Salvador and a list of acronyms, which makes following the descriptions of the events easier. The book opens with a brief historical and cultural overview of the country which gives the reader a framework for understanding the discussion of the human rights situation in El Salvador.

The chapter "The Assault on Civil Society" explains who has committed the violence and which groups have been targets. Other chapters relate information pertaining to combat-related government violence, violence committed by guerrillas, and the government's lack of will to bring those responsible for committing atrocities to justice. The authors also discuss the problems of refugees and displaced persons which have increased because of the continuing violence.

An entire chapter is dedicated to exposing the United States' role in the brutalities. This chapter begins with a quick summary of the Carter administration's use of foreign aid as a means of encouraging a better human rights record, which was criticized by many in El Salvador including Archbishop Romero. The authors also point out that the Reagan administration used the same justifications for their aid to El Salvador. Since the report focuses on the decade following the 1980 assassination of Archbishop Romero, the majority of the emphasis is placed on examining the Reagan and Bush administrations. The report is justifiably critical of the two administrations' and the state department's refusal to acknowledge the severity of the human rights abuses being committed by the government.

The appendices which are included in the report are useful to the reader. Appendix A provides a breakdown of US military and economic aid to El Salvador from 1980 to 1992. Appendix B is a partial chronology of the events from 1979 to 1991. This chronology is a valuable aid to anyone new to this issue and would like a quick overview of what happened in El Salvador before reading the entire report or to anyone who has forgotten when specific events occurred and would like a quick reminder. The last appendix is a list of human rights and humanitarian organizations which are active in helping the El Salvadoran people.

The report as a whole is extremely well-written and researched. Even though the majority of the citations are to prior Americas Watch reports on El Salvador, the documentation of the facts is outstanding. The conclusion notes that with the change in the relationship between the superpowers, and the peace talks initiated in January of 1990, military reform and democracy may become a reality for El Salvador. However, the authors caution that major problems remain, such as the lack of press freedom, the...
El Salvador unsuccessfully appealed this decision before the ICJ in 2002. Armando Calderón Sol of Arena triumphed in the presidential election of 1994, and his party also won control of the National Assembly. Indeed, the administration’s most serious challenge was the marked increase in criminal violence, partly due to the large number of weapons still in the possession of many Salvadorans in the aftermath of the war. Flores’s government faced formidable economic and social challenges, including recovery from severe hurricane damage in 1998 and a series of deadly earthquakes in 2001. El Salvador in the 21st century. There have been persistent concerns over human rights in El Salvador. Some of these date from the civil war of 1980–92. More recent concerns have been raised by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. They include women’s rights, child labor, and unlawful killings and harassment of labor union members and other social activists. La Matanza was a suppression of a 1932 peasant uprising which resulted in the death of tens of thousands of civilians and ethnic genocide of indigenous Salvadorans. El Salvador. Peace and human rights: successes and shortcomings of the United nations observer mission in el salvador (ONUSAL). Introduction. Implementation of Reforms on Human Rights. Aside from ONUSAL, the peace accords set in motion numerous other reform mechanisms; two commissions were also set up to provide a better long-term framework for human rights protection in the country. Although not the focus of this report, a discussion of other human rights reform measures helps provide the context in which ONUSAL is functioning.