SHARE FOUNDATION
Fundación SHARE

**FREQUENLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR**
**"EL MOZOTE MASSACRE 45 YEARS LATER"**

*As in the times of old, the people walk together, building from a deep legacy of life upon the land and of suffering and restoration, with faith in the God of history, love, justice, unity, and of the poor, towards new life.*

1. **Who is inviting?** SHARE extends the invitation from the Committee of Relatives of the Victims of the El Mozote Massacre, from the Christian Base Communities in El Salvador, and other groups defending human rights and the rights of the land in El Salvador. Our organizing team is made up of several people in the United States with decades of presence and leadership in the solidarity movement, as well as of several community and human rights' leaders in El Salvador.

2. **What are the dates?** December 7 to December 15, 2026.
   El Salvador December 7 to 15, 45 anniversary of massacre of El Mozote

3. **What does "delegate" mean?** A delegate is someone sent out by their community, their church, their organization to be a solidarity presence among the people in El Salvador and part of a temporary community, which is the delegation.

4. **What will our main activities be?**
   On each of four mornings, we will join together in the embrace of solidarity, to witness and take part in four community's acts of commemoration, at locations where the massacre took place, to hear testimonies and directly experience the lives and hopes of the people.
   The commemorations will end with lunch each of the four days. In the afternoons and evenings, we will have times of individual and group reflection, conversations with smaller groups and community leaders, a visit to at least one local museum of recent history, times for rest, and for a walk in the mountains or a dip in a crystal-clear mountain stream.
   To know a little about current realities, we will spend a day visiting with people have been deported from the United States and visiting relatives of people now imprisoned under the current State of Exception in El Salvador, which has suspended much of due process and continues now after more than four years.
   We may be spending our last night together at a beach house near the airport.

5. **What are the objectives of the delegation?**

a. To support the goals of the communities to build historic memory from the bottom up, to empower the people in their quest for justice and reparations, and to walk in faith towards a dignified future for the rural poor. We seek to sow new seeds of hope, both in their land and in ours, as we embrace a God of love and liberation who unites us in common cause.

b. To witness, hear testimony, and directly experience the lives and hopes of the people.
c. To return to the U.S. to continue planting the seeds of solidarity.

We hope each delegate will become a promoter of solidarity, carrying out activities such as: organizing presentations to share their story, educating their elected officials in Congress, hosting a guest from El Salvador visiting the US, and raise funds to support SHARE's partners in El Salvador.

6. **What is the Cost?** The cost for the full delegation is $1,250, plus airfare. This includes housing, food, translation, in country transportation, partner honoraria, and organization of events.

7. **How do I apply for a partial scholarship (up to 50%)?** Please send a letter to Jose@share-elsalvador.org. We have many ideas and suggestions on how to fundraise for this trip, please contact Jose at 510-848-8487, or Paul at 202-379-5890.

8. **What airport do I fly to?** Arrive in El Salvador's Monseñor Oscar Romero Airport (airport code SAL) anytime on December , and departing December 14th from El Salvador

9. **When do I pay?** A non-refundable deposit of $100 on or before September 1st. Second payment on or before November 1st. Please make out a check to SHARE Foundation, memo line: El Mozote 45, and send to SHARE Foundation, 2425 College Ave. Berkeley CA 94704; or on line at share-elsalvador.org plus a 3% fee.

10. **I wish to join the delegation but I cannot go to El Salvador. Are there other ways to participate?** Yes, there are several ways to take part:
    a. Join the virtual delegation to receive before, during and after emails with pictures, reflections and invitations to zoom on activities. Register HERE.
    b. Sponsor a delegate with a donation or frequent flyer miles.
    c. Join the organizing team to help plan the delegation.

11. **Are children and youth welcomed?** Yes, minors are welcomed as long as they are accompanied by a relative or guardian. Pilgrims in their 80s and plus are also welcomed and we will accommodate any mobility needs they may have.

12. **Where will we stay?** We will stay in humble guest house or hotels in El Salvador. Meals are simple and healthy and we will have access to purified water at all times.

13. **Who should come to this delegation?** Young and old, women and men, elected officials and their aides, journalists and people working in the media, artists, and religious leaders. Younger folks, women and people of color are encouraged to join. People working with justice issues such as immigration, land and water defense, women etc.

14. **Are there concerns about safety?** Even as El Salvador has a long history of violence, conditions have improved, especially in the rural areas we will visit. Our itinerary is developed in close collaboration with community leaders who aware of the risks and mindful to reduce them in every possible way. We will be lodged in secure locations and will not be traveling at night, and being part of a group provides added safety. We will not participate in demonstrations or knowingly enter situations that would put us at risk. This delegation is one of accompaniment and we encourage participants to consider both the risks and the rewards of this form of activism.

SHARE has sponsored delegations for several decades following very strict security measures and, thanks to God and our martyrs, with zero incidents. People who are still concerned about safety should consider not going on this delegation. El Salvador is currently classified, at state.travel.gov, at the lowest risk level.

15. **What are the expectations for preparation and follow-up for this journey?** Some weeks before the program begins, you'll be asked to engage with study materials that will help you understand the people and places we will visit, as well as the long history of US intervention in the region. You will be provided with a list of what to bring, health matters and other practical details will be covered. On your return home, we hope you will find many ways to share your experience and all that you've learned with your community and engage with your local congressmembers. We will support you with ideas and resources for action and advocacy. Those with particular skills will be asked to organize presentations, blog, write and conduct media. There will be 3 required preparatory Zoom meeting for Delegates: the first Thursday of September, October and November at 4 pm PST/7 pm EST.

16. **Do I need a passport or a visa to travel?** A valid passport with an expiration date no less than 6 months from the date you are returning is necessary for travel. U.S. citizens do not need a visa.

17. **Do I need to speak Spanish?** Spanish is not necessary for participation. Interpretation will always be provided.

18. **Are there any cultural issues or group norms to be aware of? YES:**
    a. Wearing modest clothing is most appropriate. Women in El Salvador do not usually wear shorts. Skirts, capris and long pants work best. Men often wear longer shorts in informal situations.
    b. Alcoholic drinks will not allowed in the community gatherings we will participate in, and we will be sensitive to be drinking elsewhere, in the context of so much suffering in the communities we visit.
    c. It is possible that particular people may approach you personally for financial help of some kind. Please know that SHARE offers support to organizations not to individuals, this is the best way to be in solidarity. We ask that you not to give any person-to-person financial assistance if approached.

19. **When is the deadline? How do I sign up:** Deadline is November 10th. Please apply HERE

    **Please send us any additional questions to Jose@share-elsalvador.org, and cc Paul at fitchflores@verizon.net**