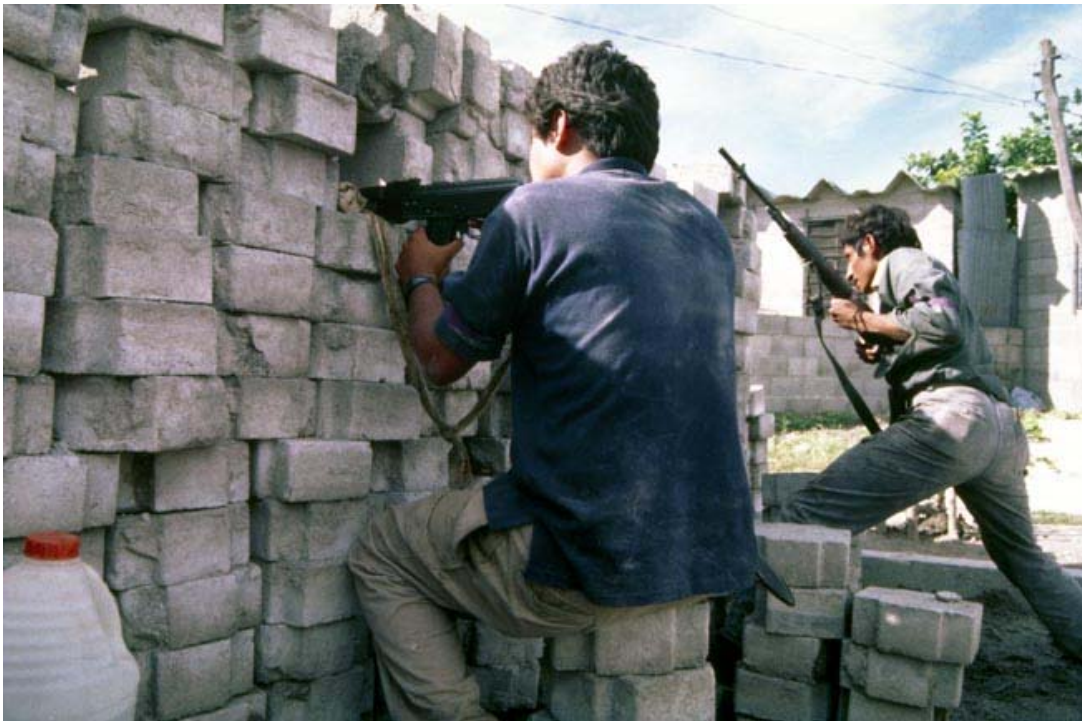


Using Congressman Moakley's Papers to
Understand the Salvadoran Civil War:
Examining the 1989 Jesuit Murders



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Congressman John Joseph Moakley

Biography

Former U.S. Representative (D-MA) John Joseph "Joe" Moakley served Massachusetts Ninth Congressional District for fourteen consecutive terms (1973-2001).



Born on April 27, 1927, his childhood years were spent in South Boston, a tight-knit, blue collar neighborhood of Boston during the Depression. At the age of 15, he altered his birth certificate to enlist in the U.S. Navy and served as a Seabee in the Pacific theater during World War II.

After the war he took advantage of the GI Bill to attend Newman Prep and the University of Miami. Congressman Moakley was a distinguished Suffolk Alumnus (JD '56), recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Public Administration (1977). After serving as a state representative (1954-1960), a state senator (1964-1970), and a city councilor (1971-1972), Moakley defeated incumbent Louise Day Hicks in a closely contested race for Congress in 1972.

In 1973, Moakley started his career as the representative for the Massachusetts Ninth Congressional District, also entering his apprenticeship to Tip O'Neill and the national Democratic Party. Congressman Moakley's interpersonal skills and strong work ethic made him a popular and capable member of the Personnel and Rules Committees. In 1989, he was appointed Chair of the powerful House Rules Committee. Over the next 29 years, his core agenda remained the same: meeting constituent needs, protecting the environment, social justice and creating jobs and housing through government-funded projects.

In the 1990s Congressman Moakley championed his agenda while fighting personal battles, enduring a liver transplant, the death of his wife, Evelyn, and, finally, incurable leukemia. Congressman Moakley died on May 28, 2001 in Bethesda, MD.

Joe Moakley and El Salvador

From 1980 until 1992, El Salvador was ripped apart by a civil war that left more than 75,000 people dead. Starting in the early 1980s, community activists and Salvadoran refugees sought Moakley's help to get political asylum for refugees fleeing the war. He spent six years working to ease immigration restrictions on Salvadorans, and was later chosen to lead a congressional investigation into the 1989 murders of six Jesuit priests and two women at the University of Central America in San Salvador. During this time, the United States, fearing a leftist take-over, had been pouring funds into Salvadoran military operations. When Moakley's probe revealed that the murders had been directed from the upper levels of the Salvadoran armed forces, Congress reduced the military funding. The investigation led to the successful prosecution of members of the Salvadoran military and helped pave the way for peace negotiations in 1992, U.N. peace accord in 1992 and democratic elections in El Salvador.

Guiding Questions on the Jesuit Murders

1. List three or four statements Major Eric Buckland makes in documents di-0390, di-0394, di-0399:
2. The author of di-0387 "Buckland Statement" is not listed, but how many days does he claim Major Buckland recanted his statement after it was given?
3. Moakley requests three things of FBI Director William Sessions (di-0400). In your opinion which of these requests is the most important and why?
4. The author of the "confidential" document (di-0391) is not listed, after reading this document are there any clues as to the author might be? What other sources or places could you go to identify this person and find out more?

Introduction to Archival Research Resource List

Congressman Joe Moakley and El Salvador:

From MS100 Congressman Moakley Papers:

1. Buckland Statement, n.d., di-0387, (MS100/03.04-256)
2. Buckland's handwritten statement/testimony, n.d. di-0390, (MS100/03.04-256)
3. Confidential report regarding Buckland's statement, n.d., di-0391 (MS100/03.04-256)
4. Buckland's typed statement /testimony, 1/12/1990, 1/19/1990, di-0394 (MS100/03.04-257)
5. Buckland's signed statement/testimony, 1/3/1990, di-0399 (MS100/03.04-258)
6. Correspondence from Moakley to FBI Director Sessions, 10/16/1990, di-0400 (MS100/03.04-258)

Want to learn more about Congressman Moakley and El Salvador? Consult the following resources:

- MS100 Congressman Moakley Papers
- MS103 Jamaica Plain Committee on El Salvador Collection
- MS104 Enemies of War Collection
- John Joseph Moakley Oral History Project
- El Salvador: Research Guide: <http://www.suffolk.edu/archive/27370.html>

Interested in Doing Archival Research?

Types of Projects:

- Research papers
- Internships
- Honors thesis

Resources at the Suffolk University Archives:

(more info at: www.suffolk.edu/archive)

Collection information

- The Congressman John Joseph Moakley Papers
- John Joseph Moakley Oral History Project
- The Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America Collection
- Enemies of War Collection
- Gleason L. Archer's Personal Papers
- The Mary P. Burke U.N. Women's Conference Collection
- The Harry Hom Dow Papers
- Suffolk University Oral History Project
- Records of Suffolk University

Research tools

- Bibliographies and indices
- Finding aids: a detailed guide to a collection with descriptions and folder lists.

Research guides: highlight resources in our collections where you can find information on the following topics

SMART Catalog: browse or search through our online catalog available at www.suffolk.edu/archive/smart

Potential Topics to Research

- Busing/Boston Public Schools Desegregation
- Chinese Immigration
- Congress: Leadership, Rules Committee etc.
- Congressman John Joseph Moakley
- Grassroots activism
- History of Suffolk University
- History of radio
- Historic Preservation
- Human Rights
- Immigration Issues
- Consumer Affairs: Fire-safe Cigarettes, Food Labeling Act
- Environmental Issues:
 - Boston Harbor Islands, Boston Harbor Clean-up, Hazardous Waste sites
- Fair Housing - Anti-snob Zoning
- Health and Medical Research: Organ Donation, Food Labeling Act
- Massachusetts politics
- Political Campaigning
- Women's empowerment and equality
- U.S. Foreign Policy towards El Salvador and Cuba

What is an Archive?

- It's the place
- It's the stuff

What are primary sources?

- Unique materials
- Necessary for original research
- First hand account
- Un-interpreted data
- Correspondence, a memo or agenda
- Photographs, video or audio recordings

What is archival research?

- A way to improve critical thinking skills
- An opportunity to add new knowledge to existing scholarship
- An important addition to a resume
- Researcher draws his own conclusions from what he sees

What is different between archives and libraries?

Archives	Libraries
Unique materials	Published materials
Collections organized by creator	Collections organized by subject
Closed stacks	Open stacks
Non-circulating materials	Circulating materials
Primary sources	Secondary Sources



Archival collections:

- Represent the point of view of one person or organization
- Have a hierarchical structure
- Are described by finding aids
- Contain a variety of records, such as, correspondence, news clippings, objects/artifacts, photographs and audio/visual materials

How do I do Archival research?

- Do all secondary source research first, build a knowledge base about your topic
- Investigate what has been written about your topic
 - Use bibliographies
 - Consult a reference librarian
 - Search the Web
 - Use subject guides
- Call the Archives to set up a reference appointment
- Read a finding aid to learn more about a collection
- Search the SMART catalog (www.suffolk.edu/archive/smart)
- Have an Archivist get you started on your research

Contact Us

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