

MEDIA ADVISORY

Remembering Bishop Samuel Ruiz

For Immediate Release

Thursday, February 23, 2012

(Toronto) On January 24, 2011, Mexican Catholic Bishop Samuel Ruiz died at the age of 86. He had been a bishop for 51 years, including 40 years in the Diocese of San Cristóbal de Las Casas in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas. With his death, the Mexican church lost a great leader. The Indigenous peoples of Chiapas lost an advocate and tireless defender of their rights. The international ecumenical community lost a faithful friend and ally.

WHO: Father José Avilés, Vicar for Justice and Peace in the Diocese of San Cristóbal, Mexico
Bishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop for the Anglican Church of Canada

Canadian Jesuits International
Development and Peace
Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice
KAİROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (Anglican Church of Canada)
United Church of Canada

WHAT: ***Remembering Bishop Samuel Ruiz: A commemorative service and public event***

- Ecumenical Memorial Service followed by:
- Public event with keynote address by Jesuit priest José Avilés, Vicar for Justice and Peace in the Diocese of San Cristóbal
- Father José Avilés will speak about the current situation of injustice in Mexico and reflect on the model of church that Bishop Ruiz promoted. Father Avilés will focus particularly on the situation facing migrants and Indigenous peoples.
- Bishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop for the Anglican Church of Canada will act as a respondent to Father Avilés, drawing links between Canada and Mexico.

WHERE: Loretto College, 70 St. Mary St., Toronto, Ontario

WHEN: Wednesday, February 29, 2012
Ecumenical Memorial Service: 5:15PM
Public event: 7PM

WHY: Bishop Ruiz's ministry was a model for church leadership, for justice and for Indigenous rights that extended well beyond Mexico. He had a profound impact on the ecumenical,

social justice and human rights communities here in Canada. The ecumenical service and public event are an opportunity to celebrate his life and reflect on Bishop Ruiz's legacy.

Please note: Father José Avilés is also available for media interviews on Thursday, March 1 and Friday March 2, 2012.

- 30 -

Media contacts:

Adiat Junaid

Communications Program Coordinator

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

ajunaid@kairoscanada.org.

(416) 463 5312, ext. 223

Rachel Warden

Latin America Partnerships Coordinator

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

rwarden@kairoscanada.org

(416) 463-5312, ex.242