

A RADICAL FAITH: THE ASSASSINATION OF SISTER MAURA

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AMU Room 157



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**MARQUETTE'S OFFICE OF
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EILEEN MARKEY

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On December 2, 1980, Sister Maura Clarke and three other women were stopped by El Salvador's brutal US-trained National Guard at a checkpoint set specifically for them. The women, who'd been providing food, medicine, and rescue to peasants under assault from their government, had recently aroused suspicion at the highest levels of the Salvadoran armed forces. On that night in December, the National Guardsmen kidnapped, raped, and killed them. Their discarded bodies were left by the side of a remote dirt road.

News of their killings shocked the American public and international news community, setting off a decade of debate over Cold War policy in Latin America. But as Congress held hearings, the State Department, CIA and FBI traded memos, and supporters held emotional memorial services, the women themselves became symbols, shorn of context and background: hapless victims.

Author Eileen Markey will discuss this tragedy and its lasting impact.



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