The right to the truth is often invoked in the context of gross violations of human rights and grave breaches of humanitarian law. The relatives of victims of summary executions, enforced disappearance, missing persons, abducted children, torture, require to know what happened to them. The right to the truth implies knowing the full and complete truth as to the events that transpired, their specific circumstances, and who participated in them, including knowing the circumstances in which the violations took place, as well as the reasons for them.

Each year, on 24 March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed.

This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero was born in 1917 in El Salvador. He dedicated his life to the catholic church and became a priest, later becoming a bishop and archbishop.

Romero defended human rights in a time where his country was in a civil war, and was specially against torture , which caused his assassination by the ones he was against.

Thousands came to the funeral. The army fired into the crowd. 30 people died and hundreds were injured. The civil war in El Salvador continued until 1992.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero was considered by some as the most popular member of the catholic church in Latin America, often called the patron saint of the Americas.

He was beatified in 2015 and canonized in 2018.

The United Nations declared 24 of March, the day of his death, as the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.