

# The Subversive Cross

The Subversive Cross was created in 1989 during the Civil War in El Salvador (1980 - 1992) and is prominently displayed at Resurrection Lutheran Church in San Salvador. This humble cross of cardboard was labeled as subversive by the authorities who felt that advocating for human rights and speaking on behalf of the poor was a communist agenda. Today it stands not only as a symbol of suffering but as a call to transform injustice.

The words that were hand painted on the cross lift up the sins of the country as named by the Lutherans experiencing the grim reality of a brutal civil war at that time.

## Left Arm (Injustices and Sins):

- **Dolor, envidia, rencor, avaricia** (Pain, envy, rancor/resentment, avarice/greed)
- **Registros/Allanamientos** (Police/military raids against the church)
- **Calumnias a la iglesia** (Slander against the church)

## Right Arm (Persecution):

- **Persecución a la iglesia** (Persecution of the church)
- **Reclutamiento** (Forced military recruitment)
- **Discriminación contra la mujer** (Discrimination against women)
- **Hambre** (Hunger)

## Center and Body (Systemic Sins):

- **Injusticia social** (Social injustice)
- **Abuso de poder** (Abuse of power)
- **Violación de derechos humanos** (Violation of human rights)
- **Muertes injustas** (Unjust deaths)
- **No más masacres de campesinos y niños** (No more slaughters of farmers and children)
- **Ambición de poder** (Ambition for power)



The Cross at Resurrection Church

## Prayers and Hopes (Also Inscribed):

- **Queremos paz con amor** (We want peace with love)
- **El Salvador es fiel a su pueblo** (El Salvador is faithful to its people)
- **Anunciar el año de gracia y el reinado de justicia** (Announce the year of grace and the reign of justice)

To read more about the significance of the cross: <https://www.elsalvadorperspectives.com/2009/11/subversive-cross.html?m=1>



**The Rev. Christian Chavarria Ayala explaining the meaning of the cross during an accompaniment trip.**