

THE FIRST DEFENDER



Dr Alfredo Martínez Moreno with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in El Salvador in 2004. Photo: file

Dr Alfredo Martínez Moreno was a member of the El Salvador delegation to the UN, which was the only one to denounce China's invasion of Tibet in 1950.

The occupation of Tibet takes six decades, one gloss and one year; the occupation of Tibet takes hundreds of thousands of lives lost and a culture on the verge of extinction; the occupation of Tibet conjugates as its main verbs, prohibit, censor, suppress, and disappear.

This occupation began with an invasion that the world was unable to denounce in time. In the newly created UN, the most powerful countries remained silent and India, Tibet's other big neighbour, did not speak out on the subject.

Dr Martínez Moreno was then the deputy director of international agencies in El Salvador and, as such, was present at the UN.

"When China invaded Tibet, there was total apathy, total coldness on the part of the great powers. I think they didn't want to aggravate the Cold War, which was very hot, and took a position - which I called 'hypocritical' - of not taking any action," he recalls.

And he adds: 'The head of the Salvadoran delegation, Dr Hector David Castro, was a very experienced diplomat, our ambassador in Washington and a leading figure in our diplomacy. He Sallanes, A. (2016, September 23). THE FIRST DEFENDER. Retrieved from Tíbet Patria Libre:

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said that this was an invasion against a sovereign country, internationally recognised, because in Lhasa there were consulates and legations of neighbouring countries and this was recognised by great powers such as the United Kingdom and France, but that it was a defenseless country because of its Buddhist religion and its commitment to non-violence. It was therefore a criminal invasion.

The Salvadoran delegation asked to put the aggression of Tibet on the agenda, but their request was not taken into account. Dr Martínez Moreno was sent to the General Committee of the UN General Assembly where he stressed that it was unthinkable that before a violation of the Charter, no action was taken. No action was taken, and that is why there have been years of oppression and suffering in Tibet.

Today, September 23, as Dr. Martínez Moreno celebrates 93 years of a rich and fruitful life, it is a good time to remember his intervention in the distant year 1950, when he raised his young voice to defend a sovereign country against a vile invasion.

Dr Alfredo Martínez Moreno is a lawyer and notary. Professor of International Law. Former Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs. Former President of the Supreme Court of Justice. Director of the Salvadoran Academy of Language. Former President of the Administrative Tribunal of the Inter-American Development Bank. Member of the United Nations International Law Commission. He is also the author of legal, literary and historical works.

By: Aloma Sellanes

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