

Be a Hero for a Better World



"The indigenous peoples understand that they have to recover their cultural identity, or to live it if they have already recovered it. They also understand that this is not a favor or a concession, but simply their natural right..."

Bishop Samuel Ruiz García (1924-)

"We begin to see solidarity between the first world and the third world in the understanding that this world can be changed, that we can build a better society if we work together and that another world is possible and necessary."

Father Samuel Ruiz García helped defend the rights of over 40,000 indigenous Mexicans while serving as a Bishop in the Chiapas region of Mexico between 1959 and 1999. He received the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award ('pacem in terris' is Latin for 'peace on Earth') and UNESCO's Simon Bolivar International Prize for his efforts to resolve conflicts between the Mexican government and the Zapatista National Liberation Army, and for advocating for poor and indigenous Mexicans. He also received the 1997 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders for his "courageous and innovative approaches to combat human rights violations" despite the constant harassments and threats to his own life.

Bishop Ruiz was able to bring international attention to the plight of the indigenous people in Chiapas because of his dedication for decades. After stepping down as Bishop in 1999, because of mandatory retirement rules, Father Ruiz continued to advocate for poor and indigenous peoples in Mexico and Latin America, speaking out against poverty and human rights abuses and for debt-cancellation.

Samuel Ruiz García was born on November 3, 1924 in Irapuato, Mexico

Be A Hero For A Better World!

1. Find out more about this hero
2. Hold an event to raise awareness about human rights issues
3. Contribute to organizations working to defend human rights

Human Rights Organizations

- Amnesty International (amnesty.org)
- Carter Center (cartercenter.org)
- Human Rights First (humanrightsfirst.org)
- Human Rights Watch (hri.org)
- Rights International (rightsinternational.org)
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (ohchr.org)
- Witness (witness.org)
- Women's Human Rights Net (whrnet.org)

For more information: www.betterworldheroes.com/ruiz.htm

BetterWorldHeroes.com

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