

JOSE EDUARDO LOPEZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

José Eduardo López
Memorial Scholarship Committee
201 - 158 Hester Street
Hamilton, Ontario, L9A 2N8
Tel: (905) 730-1078
beca_jel@hotmail.com

Charitable Registration # 81235 3688 RR0001



José Eduardo López
1946 – 1984



Amnesty International's Monument to Missing
Persons
Sculpture by Marf (Ghent, Belgium)

2011-12 Members of the JOSE EDUARDO LOPEZ Scholarship Committee: Nora Melara-López, Cesar Rodriguez, Osiris López-Chevez, Thayra Marting, Sophia Roldán Montalvo, Oliver López and Natalia Bravo Cifuentes

JOSE EDUARDO LOPEZ was a freelance journalist and human rights activist in Honduras. He was detained and tortured in August 1981. In 1982, he fled to the United States after receiving repeated death threats. He was forced to return to Honduras, after his application to Canada for refugee status was denied. On Christmas Eve 1984, he was abducted by armed men. He was never seen again - he "disappeared". In 1993, the Honduran Commissioners of Human Rights published the report *The Facts Speak for Themselves*, which confirmed that Eduardo had been abducted by the security forces of the Honduran government, tortured, executed and buried in a clandestine cemetery. His remains were never found.

In Ghent, Belgium, in 1996 Amnesty International group # 160 and the Honest Art Movement with financial support of the local, regional and federal government erected a human rights monument to honor Jose Eduardo and “missing” persons around the world.

In Honduras, ACCESO INTERNATIONAL (a Canadian organization) established education projects in memory of José Eduardo López. Eduardo sought to overcome poverty and to improve education and health care for the people, and especially for the children of his country. ACCESO INTERNATIONAL commemorated the 20th anniversary of his disappearance in 2004 by establishing projects that reflect Eduardo's original vision and efforts. <http://www.accesointernational.ca/english/projects/honduras.html>

In Canada, the José Eduardo López Memorial Scholarship was launched in 2009. In the absence of a grave, Eduardo’s family and their friends decided to honor his memory and legacy by starting this memorial scholarship. It provides financial support to youth aged 17 to 24, of Latin descent with an academic average of 80% who have already been accepted in a post-secondary institution.

In 2010, Marf the Belgium artist who created and built the Human Rights Monument in Ghent, donated the original model to the Lopez’ family. He also authorized the used of the monument’s picture as the official logo of the JEL memorial scholarship.

2009 scholarship winners: Ana Maria Olivares \$ 2.000; Johana Pezzo Pasos \$ 500; and Johan Martinez \$ 500

2010 scholarship winner: Natalia Bravo Cifuentes, \$ 2.000.

2011 scholarship winners: Yajaira Esperanza \$ 2.000 and Melissa Cirielo \$ 1.000.00

**THIS PROJECT IS POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF
COMMUNITY MEMBERS, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND LOCAL BUSINESS**

The JEL memorial scholarship is in the process of applying to acquire charitable status. All donors will receive an acknowledgement of their donation, an annual report and financial statements.

Please send your donations to:

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