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# El Salvador: Report On Recent Human Rights Abuses

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## El Salvador: Report On Recent Human Rights Abuses

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

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Dec. 12: Vladimir Guzman Rosales, Jose Guadalupe Dominguez and Gerardo Hernandez are captured by soldiers in San Salvador, taken to the National Police headquarters, and tortured while in police custody. Hernandez, a baker by occupation, was a resident of the Mejicanos barrio in San Salvador. Argelio Perez, a member of ANDES (national teachers union) is detained, tortured and killed by government soldiers. Perez is found shot through the forehead; his face had been disfigured by acid. Dec. 14: Soldiers capture five agricultural workers from the Lima Ranch in La Libertad. Workers at the ranch had been on strike for several weeks. The five were taken to the Libertad barracks, and released Dec. 19. Dec. 16: While in custody of National Police, Gerardo Hernandez dies in Mariona Prison. Hernandez was captured on Dec. 12 and transferred to Mariona on Dec. 15. The autopsy reveals that his death was caused by severe beating. Dec. 18: Medardo Ceserino Ayala, an employee of the telecommunications workers union ASTTEL, is assassinated by a death squad. Medardo, resident of the Zacamil barrio of San Salvador, is shot at 6:00 am at a bus stop 500 meters from National Police headquarters. Dec. 19: Army troops fire on an ambulance, resulting in the death of two nurses, and 10 persons injured. The attack occurred at 5:45 pm on the highway in the village of Las Isletas, near Zacatecoluca. The victims are members of the STISSS Hospital Workers Union. At 3:45 a.m. a military immediate action squad (ATRA), reportedly on the orders of the Ministry of Justice, entered the political prisoners section of Mariona Prison. Although versions of the incident vary, a report from FECMAFAM (Federation of Committees of Mothers of the Disappeared) claims that the squad entered throwing explosives and machinegunning the walls. The 16 political prisoners at Mariona were rounded up to be separated and moved to other prisons in various parts of the country. When prisoner Manuel de Jesus Araujo Sanchez questioned squad members about why they entered the prison in this manner, he was beaten up and dragged out of the section. Later, his body which appeared to have been thrown from the roof was found on the prison grounds. An autopsy indicated asphyxiation as the cause of death. Dec. 21: National Police anti-riot teams numbering about 200 men attack FECMAFAM members with smoke bombs and clubs. The women had organized a demonstration at the Ministry of Justice headquarters in San Salvador to protest recent police brutality at Mariona Prison. Eight women were injured by blows to the head and body. Later, 100 women staged a sit-in on the steps of the National Cathedral to protest the attack on FECMAFAM members. Dec. 26: Incarnacion Rivera Preza, who reportedly was active in church-related projects, was abducted from his home in the town of Diedra Labrada by members of the First Infantry Brigade. (Basic data from: 01/02/88 newsbrief by CUANES (Christian Urgent Action Network for Emergency Support/El Salvador, Evanston, Illinois); 12/23/87 newsbrief, National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS); 12/21/87 newsbrief, El Rescate (Los Angeles).

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