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## **El Salvador: Legislative Assembly Remains Closed**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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Salvadoran media accounts this week indicate that the "dialogue" proposed by the FDR-FMLN with representatives of the executive, legislature, and the armed forces, will not be acted upon until the Legislative Assembly opens for business. Col. Carlos Figueroa, of the rightwing Republican Alliance Party (ARENA), told reporters that the Assembly must first enter into session before a possible dialogue with the rebels can be considered. According to the Salvadoran constitution, the Assembly should have entered into session on May 12. Instead, the legislature has effectively been shut down, result of disagreements about the results of the March 20 elections. ARENA claims to have obtained at least 31 seats in 60-seat Assembly, while the Christian Democrat and National Conciliation parties say ARENA has only 30 seats. Negotiations to end the stalemate before May 31 are reportedly underway. (Basic data from Prensa Latina, 05/25/88)

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