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Salvadoran Rebels Attack 1st Brigade Headquarters In Capital

by Deborah Tyroler

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Early on May 26, army troops and police responded to a rebel attack on the 1st Infantry Brigade headquarters located on the outskirts of San Salvador. Their response consisted of surrounding and searching the offices of unions, human rights advocates and farming cooperatives, described as guerrilla fronts. Soldiers also raided the campus of the Universidad de El Salvador. On May 25, members of the Farabundo National Liberation Front (FMLN) and government troops clashed in some of the heaviest fighting that has taken place in the capital in recent years. Rebels fired rockets and grenades into the barracks during an attack on the barracks which began late Thursday and continued through Friday morning. The guerrilla unit attacking the barracks reportedly consisted of 30 persons. According to the military, six guerrillas were killed, and six soldiers and three civilians wounded. Independent human rights organizations and the FMLN claim that repression has increased since the March 19 elections. Security forces have raided the offices of so-called leftist groups several times. The military press office reported that government troops killed 79 rebels during the week in Morazan department. The FMLN claimed rebels had killed 15 soldiers. In the previous three weeks, the guerrillas mounted several coordinated attacks across the country. They are also operating routinely in San Salvador and other urban areas. (Basic data from Xinhua, 05/26/89; New York Times, 05/27/89)

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