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El Salvador: Union Leader Abducted, National Police Psychologist Killed

by Deborah Tyroler

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On June 12, Jose Tomas Mazariego, an executive committee member of the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), the country's largest labor organization, was abducted. UNTS spokesperson Raul Gonzalez told reporters June 13 that Mazariego was taken away by unidentified men in civilian dress. He said, "We believe Mazariego was picked up as he left the US Embassy. There are witnesses who saw him put in a blue panel truck while another white car waited, and we have the license plate numbers of the two vehicles." Gonzalez said Mazariego had gone to the embassy for a visa to visit the United States at the invitation of US labor groups. US embassy officials told AP said Mazariego had already been issued a visa. Mazariego was to have left El Salvador June 13. Gonzalez said Mazariego was picked up by government security agents in March and questioned for three days. Denys Everingham of Local 1034 of the Communication Workers of America in Trenton, NJ, told AP by telephone that Mazariego, an official of the Salvadoran Telecommunications Union, was scheduled to speak in Philadelphia on June 15. She said he also was to attend a union meeting Monday in New Jersey. Everingham added, "We're not sure if we're going to be having an event or if we're going to be having a memorial service at this point." On June 13, unidentified gunmen killed Miguel Angel Ramirez, a civilian psychologist employed by the security and investigations department of the National Police. Police sources told AP his body was found in the eastern suburb where he lived. Police blamed the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) was blamed for the killing, although no organization has claimed responsibility. (Basic data from AP, 06/13/89)

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