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El Salvador: Popular Organizations Present Demands To Government

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On June 16 in San Salvador, over 200 people participated in a march protesting the escalation in human rights abuses. The march to the Presidential Palace was called by the Federation of Committees of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, the Disappeared and Assassinated of El Salvador (FECMAFAM), and featured a contingent of children whose parents have disappeared. At a June 14 press conference, the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) demanded jobs, respect for human rights, and land for 600,000 landless families. On the same day, the National Union of Workers and Peasants (UNOC), the Salvadoran Workers Central (CTS) and the General Association of Public and Municipal Employees (AGEPYM) issued a joint document protesting land evictions. The three organizations and the UNTS also demanded the expansion of the agrarian reform program. On June 12, the Salvadoran Communal Movement (MCS) demonstrated in front of government offices in downtown San Salvador to present a list of demands. President Alfredo Cristiani reportedly refused to meet with their leaders. On June 16, the Permanent Committee for National Debate sponsored a meeting in San Salvador to hammer out joint demands to be presented to President Alfredo Cristiani on June 22 following a rally. The list of demands will also be forwarded to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) general command. The Committee, created in 1988, claims to have brought together 59 union, humanitarian, professional and small business organizations. The most important items on the Committee's list are a request that Washington replace military aid with economic and cultural aid packages that will benefit the Salvadoran people, and a demand for public dialogue between the FMLN and the Salvadoran government. Next, the Committee demands that prior to peace talks, President Cristiani must act to dismantle all death squads. (Salpress-Notisal, 06/19/89; Radio Farabundo Marti weekly bulletin, 06/17/89)

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