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El Salvador: Notes On Rebel Actions

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On June 5, local press sources reported that rebel sabotage of the 15 de Septiembre reservoir had caused an electricity blackout throughout eastern El Salvador for most of the day. On the following day, the state-run electricity company reported that national electricity distribution was down by 20%, result of continual rebel sabotage. On June 7, rebels destroyed the offices of the state-run communications company (ANTEL) in Soyapango. On June 10-12, at least eight bank and savings and loan buildings and several other businesses were damaged by bomb explosions, presumably the work of urban commandos pertaining to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). No injuries were reported. Two of the banks affected were a Cuscatlan Bank branch in the Miramonte neighborhood, and a Commercial Agriculture Bank branch in the Ciudad Merliot suburb. Salpress-Notisal reported that the FMLN inflicted 48 army casualties and damaged two army helicopters in fighting on June 14. On June 16, rebel Radio Farabundo Marti reported that in the first two weeks of the month insurgents damaged eight helicopters. According to the report, this record was the worst loss of aircraft engaged in combat experienced by the Salvadoran air force in a 14-day period in the course of the nine-year war. The FMLN took responsibility for the June 13 slaying of Miguel Angel Ramirez, a police psychologist, in a San Salvador neighborhood (see CAU 06/14/89.) In a radio broadcast, the FMLN said Ramirez designed and implemented psychological operations such as application of interrogation techniques involving torture to anyone accused of subversive activities by the military. The rebels charged Ramirez with directing the torture of captured trade unionists. Military sources reported that in May government troops killed 197 rebels and wounded 175. The FMLN claimed 242 government troop casualties from June 4 to June 10. In a June 16 broadcast, the FMLN reported 53 troop casualties during the "past few hours" in Chalatenango department. [Basic data from YSKL radio network, 06/05/89, 06/06/89; Salpress-Notisal, 06/19/89, 06/12/89; Xinhua, 06/16/89; El Nuevo Herald (Miami), 06/13/89; Boston Globe, 06/14/89; El Diario de Hoy, 06/12/89]

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