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12 Arrested During Demonstration At Salvadoran Consulate In Los Angeles

by Deborah Tyroler

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On July 3, 12 US citizens were arrested in Los Angeles on charges of occupying Salvadoran property and obstructing consulate activities. Along with Catholic priests Luis Olivares and Michael Kennedy, the 12 headed a group of about 100 demonstrators in a protest against the Salvadoran government's appointment of Jose Mauricio Angulo as consul general. The protesters occupied the consulate for 2-1/2 hours. When Angulo arrived at the consulate Monday, his first day on the job, he was met by the demonstrators. Many were clad in torn clothing and daubed with red paint in an attempt to depict a massacre. The crowd chanted slogans against the Salvadoran government and the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA). In a written statement, the demonstrators denounced Angulo, brother-in-law of former major Roberto d'Aubuisson, alleged organizer of death squads responsible for the deaths of thousands of Salvadoran civilians. The 12 persons arrested insisted that Angulo resign. The protesters' statement declared their concern over the upsurge in violence since ARENA's March electoral victory. The communique contained the following record of major human rights abuses: Assassinations March, 113; April, 201; May, 203; first two weeks of June, 67. Disappeared March, 9; April, 21; May, 23; first half of June, 10. Abductions by security agents March, 70; April, 146; May, 109; first half of June, 80. The statement also demanded the immediate release of Israel Hernandez, Inocente Orellana, Mirtala Lopez, Miguel Mejia, and Trinidad and Jorge Olmedo. All are members of the Salvadoran Christian Committee in Support of the Displaced Salvador (CRIPDES). (Basic data from Notimex, 07/03/89)

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