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El Salvador: Far Right Group Urges Crackdown On Religious, Labor, Political & Rebel Leaders

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In a paid ad appearing July 3 in Salvadoran daily newspaper La Prensa Grafica, the far-right Pro Peace and Work Crusade called on President Alfredo Cristiani to declare a state of siege and martial law, reinstitute the death penalty and bring to "summary justice" religious, labor, political and rebel leaders described as leaders of "terrorist hordes" who are "responsible for the destruction of the [economic] infrastructure" and a recent wave of killings. Among those designated by the "Crusade" for prosecution are Ignacio Ellacuria, Jesuit priest and rector of the Central American University (UCA); Segundo Montes, also a Jesuit priest and director of the UCA’s Human Rights Institute; Humberto Centeno, Febe Velazquez, Julio Cesar Portillo and Marco Tulio Lima, leaders of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS); Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora, leaders of the Democratic Convergence and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR); Mario Aguinada Carranza, leader of the Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN); and, several commanders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). Another far-right organization, the National Union for Liberty (UNL), and Horacio Rios, a deputy of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) supported the demands, but President Cristiani said conditions were not appropriate for a state of siege. The UNTS warned the far-right demands would encourage more abductions and assassinations of opposition leaders. (La Prensa Grafica, 07/03/89; Salpress-Notisal, 07/10/89)

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