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## **Brazilian Catholic Lay Workers Expelled From El Salvador**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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On Aug. 1, Brazilian Catholic lay workers Maria Beatriz Cola Prieto and Natan Kamliot told reporters in Mexico City that the Salvadoran military regularly harasses foreigners working with San Salvador's Roman Catholic archbishopric to provide aid to civilians suffering physical and material damage in the civil war. Since 1985, both acted as humanitarian aid workers, mainly in the area of health care. They were expelled from El Salvador late last week. Salvadoran authorities accused them of collaborating with leftist rebels. Cola Prieto said, "They never gave us an official explanation. The only thing we know about is the existence of that accusation, which is totally false." According to Cola Prieto, Salvadoran security forces launched a "fierce" campaign a year ago against all foreigners working for the Catholic Church, accusing them of providing aid to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). She said she had no hope of returning to El Salvador to continue her relief work. (Basic data from AFP, 08/01/89)

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