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El Salvador: Notes On Recent Rebel Activities

by Deborah Tyroler

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Aug. 12: Unidentified officials told Notimex that rebel commandos had destroyed 13 buses and mini-buses during the previous week to protest the government's fare hikes announced Aug. 1. The Association of Bus Entrepreneurs (La Asociacion de Empresarios de Autobuses) criticized sabotage by urban commandos of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), arguing that such actions had little impact beyond creating more indebtedness for bus owners. The FMLN has said that sabotage of public transport vehicles would continue until the government rescinds the decree authorizing the fare hike. General director for the capital city's electricity company (Compania de Alumbrado Electrico de San Salvador- CAES), Miguel Sandoval, said rebel sabotage had caused nearly \$250 million in damages. Aug. 14: Close to midnight, 25 urban commandos pertaining to the "Modesto Ramirez" rebel unit attacked San Salvador's police academy with rifle fire, rocket launchers and grenades. Some 50 cadets were reportedly in residence. Early reports indicated that seven persons were wounded, and material damage was extensive. In a telephone call to a local radio station, a person identified as the "metropolitan correspondent of Radio Farabundo Marti" identified the rebel unit responsible for the attack. Aug. 15: Notimex reported that rebel commandos had destroyed two buses in San Salvador. In the past two days, said the report, the FMLN had set fire to nine public transport vehicles. (Basic data from Notimex, 08/12/89, 08/15/89)

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