El Salvador: Report On Air War

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.
El Salvador: Report On Air War

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, September 8, 1989

On Sept. 7, the AP reported that the Salvadoran military has stepped up its air war on suspected guerrilla positions near towns in Chalatenango department. Local residents say civilians are terrified because rockets, bombs and bullets have hit homes in the area. For instance, in an Aug. 19 air raid, the village of Las Flores was left with rocket craters, and strafing damage to a dozen homes and other property. Sister Teresa Racia told AP, "Only by the providence of God was none of the children killed." She said more than 200 children were playing around the school building when a helicopter gunship arrived and one rocket crashed into a hillside 60 yards away and a second just 15 yards away. A few minutes after the UH-1M gunship blasted the surrounding cornfields and hills, a C-47 warplane strafed the village with .50-caliber machine guns firing. Rev. Miguel Vasquez, a Roman Catholic priest in nearby Arcatao, said an A-37 dropped four bombs Aug. 20 at the hamlet of Santa Rita, damaging three houses. Peasant farmers Andres Cordova and Felipe Orellana said their hamlet, Los Pozos, was strafed the same day. Orellana said six houses were damaged and everyone was terrified. The military claims air strikes are made only against military targets. In El Salvador, few areas are far from civilians. The danger of catastrophe such as a direct hit on the Las Flores school has reportedly increased because new anti-aircraft weapons acquired by rebels force military pilots to attack from higher altitudes and therefore with less accuracy.

-- End --