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On Oct. 10, representatives of the Catholic Church and several popular organizations met with UN special envoy Jose Pastor Ruidrejo to present reports and testimonies on human rights abuses. During a four-day visit, the UN envoy is to meet with government and military officials, representatives of political parties, human rights organizations, and labor union, peasant, student, and civic groups. He will prepare a general report on El Salvador's human rights situation for presentation at the UN in November. Pastor Ruidrejo was told on Tuesday that torture is "part of government policy." Organization representatives told Notimex that the practice of torture has increased to "alarming levels" in the past few months. Gerardo Diaz, member of the executive council of the Salvadoran Workers Union Federation (Federacion Sindical de Trabajadores Salvadorenos-FENASTRAS), delivered reports on four disappeared workers, and the cases of seven women and one man who suffered sexual abuse during detention by security forces in September. Rural residents from eastern El Salvador told the envoy that the army obstructs deliveries of foodstuffs and medicines to their villages. University of El Salvador retor Luis Argueta showed Notimex a list of names of 63 students who were victims of human rights abuses since April. Argueta also had a list of 16 teachers, students and staff members captured by security forces since April. Two of the latter are described as "disappeared." According to a report by the Federation of Committees of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, Disappeared and Assassinated People of El Salvador (FECMAFAM), since President Alfredo Cristiani was inaugurated on June 1, 59 people were assassinated, 61 disappeared, 196 arrested and many more tortured for political reasons. The UN envoy also received a report from the Roman Catholic Church's Tutela Legal denouncing mistreatment of political prisoners during interrogation. Security agents reportedly use family members to pressure prisoners into signing false confessions, in which they claim to belong to guerrilla organizations. Humberto Centeno, a member of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) executive council, said he would give the UN envoy "concrete proof of torture," including scars left on his body by blows and chemicals. He said four union leaders who have been tortured remain in police prisons. On Oct. 9, Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas and Tutela Legal director, Maria Julia Hernandez, told a local radio station that the Church will present a report on El Salvador's deteriorating human rights situation to the UN envoy. Hernandez said that the report reflects "a constant, massive and indiscriminate use of torture, illegal detention and disappearances." More than numbers, she added, the report describes the nature of "typical" abuses that occur "constantly." Also on Monday, the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission (CDHES) opened an exhibit to commemorate the second anniversary of the Oct. 26, 1987 assassination of commission president Herbert Anaya Sanabria. The CDHES says that testimonies collected by the commission indicate Anaya Sanabria was killed by government security forces. (Basic data from Notimex, 09/10/89, 10/10/89; AFP, 10/10/89)