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Nicaragua: Opposition Rally Ends In Rock-throwing Confrontation

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On Oct. 29 in Jalapa, a northern town located near the border with Honduras, a rally organized by the National Opposition Unity (UNO) ended in a confrontation with supporters of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). According to AP, about 1,500 people assembled at a grass-covered field above the town to hear a speech by UNO presidential candidate, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. As the crowd completed its march onto the field and Barrios de Chamorro was starting to speak, a group of four women and one man at the edge of the crowd reportedly began waving a red-and-black kerchief symbolic of the Sandinista Front. The five began shouting in the faces of UNO supporters. The Sandinista supporters and about 20 UNO supporters walked into a side street, where more Sandinista enthusiasts were reportedly waiting. After more shouting, some of the FSLN backers started throwing rocks, and the UNO supporters ran into the crowd. Both sides then threw rocks at each other for about 10 minutes. Police arrived 15 minutes after the rock-throwing began. UNO vehicles that had come from Managua were pelted with rocks and eggs as they left the town. (Basic data from AP, 10/29/89)

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