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El Salvador: Rebels Confirm Suspension Of Peace Talks

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Nov. 6, after a meeting with President Oscar Arias in San Jose (Costa Rica), Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) commanders Mercedes Letona and Salvador Samaayoa confirmed that the rebels have suspended the next round of peace talks scheduled for Nov. 21-22 in Caracas. They reiterated that the "dialogue" would be resumed when and if the Salvadoran government and armed forces cease redoubled efforts at repression of labor unions, opposition political parties and other elements of the "popular movement." Samayoa said, "The FMLN has not unilaterally withdrawn from the talks, but rather has suspended its participation at the meeting in Caracas." He added that the attacks in San Salvador last week on a human rights organization, and a labor union federation headquarters were egregious examples of an escalation in repression which has effectively closed the "political space" for dialogue. Letona said the FMLN plans to discuss its demands with the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Salvadoran Catholic Church in order to avoid a definitive breakdown in the peace talks. (Basic data from Notimex, 11/06/89)

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