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El Salvador: Opposition Party Leader Assassinated "death Squad Style"

by Deborah Tyroler

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In statements to a local radio station on Nov. 7, Juan Jose Martel, leader of the Popular Social Christian Movement (MPSC), asserted that party representative in Sonsonate, Cecilio Rivas Rivera, was assassinated Nov. 6 "in death squad style." Martel said that Rivas was captured on Monday and then murdered by members of the sixth military detachment (DM-6). Detachment commander is Col. Juan Armando Rodriguez Mendoza. He added that Rivas was abducted by men in civilian dress who are "known members of DM-6." When residents discovered several corpses in the Sonsonate cemetery, they recognized one of them as Rivas, said Martel. He added that papers attached to the bodies said the victims were "traitors to the fatherland." Martel asserted that in El Salvador "there is no democracy, nor are human rights respected." (Basic data from Notimex, 11/07/89)

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