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El Salvador: Three Members Of Popular Social Christian Movement Assassinated

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Nov. 7, three members of the Popular Social Christian Movement party were assassinated by heavily armed men in civilian dress in western El Salvador. Their bodies indicated that the three men had been tortured. Party spokespersons blamed the military for the murders. (See also CAU 11/08/89.) The Movement, a small leftist party that has legal status, is headed by Ruben Zamora. The party pertains to the Democratic Convergence coalition. Guillermo Ungo, leader of another party within the Democratic Convergence, urged the government to implement a purge of the armed forces to rid the military of officers committed to continuing the war, and who have been linked to death squads. The coalition also called on both sides to resume the peace talks. Ungo said the government should clean up the military, reform the judicial system toward institutionalizing respect for human rights, and establish necessary conditions for resumption of the talks. The political leader said that the wave of terrorism against labor unions and opposition parties has further damaged the international image of President Alfredo Cristiani. The Convergence has accepted the government's invitation to participate in the investigation of the FENASTRAS headquarters bombing. (See CAU 11/01/89, 11/03/89, 11/08/89.) In a press briefing on Nov. 8, the US State Department condemned the killings of the three Movement members. (Basic data from Notimex, 11/08/89)

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