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## Retrospective On Journalists Killed During Salvadoran Civil War

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Dec. 1, Eloy Guevara Paez, 27, photographer for the Agence France-Presse, was shot to death while covering fighting in Soyapango, a suburb of San Salvador. According to AP, two reporters at the scene said Guevara was hit by assault rifle fire as he crossed an intersection with three Red Cross workers, and the fire came from the side of the street controlled by air force paratroopers. Rebels had withdrawn from positions on the other side of the street more than an hour before, and military officers on the scene had given the Red Cross workers the go-head to proceed, the witnesses said. Both insisted on not being identified by name for fear of reprisals. Guevara Paez was interred Dec. 3 in his hometown of Lolotique, Usulután department. Guevara studied journalism and photography in San Salvador and also worked for a local radio station. In a Dec. 1 report, Notimex said that 20 journalists, including Guevara Paez, have died in El Salvador since 1980. AP said the toll was 18. On Dec. 14, Notimex reported on a statement by the Committee for Journalists' Protection released in New York saying that it has confirmed the deaths of 40 journalists in El Salvador between 1980 and Dec. 13, 1989. The Committee released an exhaustive account of the journalists' identities, and the circumstances and locations of their deaths. In its statement, the Committee said that in the past few weeks journalists in El Salvador are harassed and intimidated on a daily basis. The Committee said they are targets of beatings, arbitrary arrest, office and home searches at all hours of the day or night, death threats, insults and generalized harassment by security agents in the course of a day on the job. Notimex's description of the cases of 18 journalists killed in El Salvador, released Dec. 1, appears below. \* In 1980, Mexican Ignacio Rodriguez Terrazas, correspondent for Uno Mas Uno, was reportedly the first journalist to die covering the war in El Salvador. \* South African journalist Ian Mates was killed on Jan. 12, 1981, when he stepped on a land mine. \* On Feb. 10, 1981, a reporter for Newsweek died in Miami, result of injuries sustained on Jan. 15, while covering the war. \* On March 17, 1982, four Dutch journalists were found shot in the back in Chalatenango department. Military officers said the journalists were caught in cross-fire. \* Chilean TV cameraperson Carlos Ruz died April 2, 1982, in a San Salvador hospital after being shot during fighting troops and rebels. \* On Feb. 14, 1983, near Suchitoto, Swedish journalists Jean Rydstroen and Thom Philin and US journalist Michel Lujan of The Dallas Morning News disappeared. [Notimex did not mention whether the bodies of the three correspondents were discovered at a later date. The news agency included the three in its tally of journalists killed in El Salvador.] \* Two years after his disappearance in El Salvador, on Feb. 26, 1983, the body of US journalist John Sullivan is identified. \* In early 1984, special correspondent for Newsweek, photographer John Hoagland, died as a result of wounds sustained during a battle in Cuscatlan. \* On the eve of El Salvador's presidential elections in March 1989, three journalists were killed. Salvadoran photographer Roberto Navas, who worked for Reuters, died instantly after being shot by a soldier. TV journalist Mauricio Pineda died in San Miguel, when soldiers opened fire against a vehicle he was traveling in. Dutch cameraperson Cornelio Lagrow died en route to the hospital after being shot from a military helicopter. Lagrow had been traveling in a press vehicle when fired upon. \* On Nov. 17, 1989, British journalist Mike Blundy died after apparently being caught in cross-fire

in San Salvador. \* Salvadoran photographer Eloy Guevara Paez was killed on Dec. 1, 1989, in San Salvador. (Basic data from AFP, 12/01/89, 12/03/89; AP, 12/01/89; Notimex, 12/01/89, 12/14/89)

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