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U.S. Religious Groups Organize Hunger Strike To Pressure Washington Into Cutting Off Aid To El Salvador

by Deborah Tyroler

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In Chicago on Jan. 22, Salvadoran Baptist minister, Edgar Palacios, said that 30 persons had initiated a hunger strike to demand suspension of US economic and military aid to El Salvador. US and Salvadoran religious have organized a hunger strike sequence in the United States in which at least 30 persons strike for 30 days, followed by another contingent who then go on strike for 30 days, and so on, until Washington stops aid to El Salvador. Palacios, who also heads the Permanent Committee for National Debate on Peace, said, "The poor of El Salvador are also carrying out a hunger strike to break the chains of oppression, of 10 years of war that are bleeding the country dry." Palacios planned to travel to Europe and Australia, following his visit in the US. The Committee is comprised of over 30 labor, religious, human rights, civic, and peasant organizations in El Salvador. Hunger strike participants include members of diverse religions in the Chicago area and in 20 other US cities, said Palacios. According to Baptist missionary Ronald Schupp, who had signed on for the first 30 days of the strike in Chicago, the US is fomenting a Central American Vietnam, but with the new twist of repression against religious. (Basic data from Notimex, 01/22/90)

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