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## **El Salvador: Death Squads Threaten Retribution If Soldiers Held In Jesuit Killings Not Released By Easter Week**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On the morning of March 7, rumors swept the capital that leftist politician Ruben Zamora had been assassinated. After his party (MPSC) announced that Zamora was alive and well, rumor had it that Judge Ricardo Zamora had been killed. The judge, in charge of the case against military officers accused of the November assassinations of six Jesuit priests, was also found unharmed. Hours later, a communique from the "General Command of the Death Squads, Aquiles Baires, Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez, Pro-Salvation Committee" was released, threatening "all persons in our out of government involved in the case" unless the officers are released by Easter Week. The statement said, "We are watching the crisis in the Armed Forces and in our beloved ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party...a crisis leading to vacillation and recognition of stupidities like human rights and prosecution of members of the Armed Forces." The press was ordered to publicize the statement "or face the consequences." [Radio Sonora, 03/07/90, from 03/05-12/90 El Rescate Human Rights Department Report (Los Angeles, CA)]

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