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Deborah Tyroler

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## **Protests Against Continued U.S. Aid To El Salvador**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On March 24, protest demonstrations against more US aid to El Salvador took place in many US cities. About 10,000 marched in front of the White House, and 5,000 in San Francisco. Police arrested 83 protesters at the Washington march for demonstrating without a permit and blocking traffic. US military, economic, development and food aid to El Salvador total \$315.4 million this year. President Bush has asked for about \$375 million next year. Critics point out that nearly \$4 billion in aid over the past decade has hardly brought an end to the war closer, while over 70,000 Salvadorans have died. Moreover, the Salvadoran military remains beyond the control of the government, and human rights abuses and death squad activities continue. Members of the House who support aid restrictions are drafting legal language that would withhold half of the military aid \$84.6 million this year, an expected \$90 million next year and make its release dependent on the behavior of both sides in the war. Supporters wish to add their proposal to an \$870 million supplemental appropriations bill for Panama and Nicaragua. (Basic data from AP, 03/24/90)

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