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Salvadoran Human Rights Organization Presents Balance Sheet Of Pres. Cristiani's First Year In Office

by Deborah Tyroler

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In a May 29 report on President Alfredo Cristiani's first year in office, the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador (CDHES) emphasized "deficiencies" in the areas of respect for basic human rights, and the government's failure to improve socio-economic conditions for the poorest of the poor. At a press conference, CDHES spokespersons Miguel Montenegro, Celia Medrano and Reynaldo Blanco said that since June 1, 1989, 2,868 persons were assassinated by the army, and 67 executed by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). Next, 180 persons were assassinated by unidentified assailants; 104 died in cross-fire between the army and rebels; and, 66 died in mine explosions. The CDHES counted 1,916 persons as illegally detained by government troops, and 158 by the FMLN. President Cristiani, said the spokespersons, has not fulfilled his campaign pledge of improving living conditions for the poor. They pointed out that between January and March of this year alone, 4,527 public employees were dismissed. Meanwhile, prices on basic foodstuffs have escalated. (Basic data from AFP, 05/29/90)

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