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## **El Salvador: Military Occupation Of University Ends**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On June 5, the Salvadoran army ended its seven-month occupation of the University of El Salvador (UES). Military control of the campus was imposed Nov. 11 during a major rebel offensive. UES rector Luis Argueta rejected military officers' frequent claims that the university is a "guerrilla sanctuary." He added, "The university is a peace zone that must be respected by the armed forces." Col. Francisco Elena Fuentes, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, who directed the military occupation of the campus, said that soldiers and rebels clashed Nov. 11 on university grounds. He said that in the fighting, eight rebels died, 15 were captured, and troops seized several AK-47 and M-16 rifles, 60mm mortars and fragmentation grenades. The colonel denied that troops had looted or destroyed teaching materials and laboratory equipment during the seven-month occupation. At a press conference, university officials said the destruction of university buildings, and the "disappearance" of equipment, books, and other instructional materials are evident. AFP mentioned observing wrecked buildings and vehicles, and that piles of ash and rubble are all that remain of the university administration's archives. Equipment donated last year to the engineering department by the European Economic Community has been totally destroyed. In addition to ending the occupation, the army withdrew surveillance checkpoints surrounding the campus in place since Dec. 23, 1988. (Basic data from AFP, 06/05/90)

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