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## **U.S. Organization Announces Fund-raising Campaign To Benefit Salvadoran Rebel War Wounded & Their Families**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On June 26 in Chicago, the Institute for Democratic Development in El Salvador announced the beginning of a campaign to raise \$1 million for a medical assistance fund to benefit wounded guerrillas. Institute executive director Michael Davis said the fund takes the name of Mexican physician Alejandra Bravo Betancourt, who was raped and assassinated in Chalatenango department in February 1989, by members of the Atlacatl battalion. Davis said the monies will be used to construct mobile emergency hospital units and in rehabilitation programs for war wounded of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). In addition, he said, the project includes construction of child care centers for children of FMLN combatants, and for orphans of FMLN members killed in the war. Thomas Gumbleton, auxiliary bishop of the Detroit Catholic diocese and a leader in the fund-raising effort, said international law establishes that all human beings should receive humanitarian aid to alleviate the trauma of war. After mentioning US official aid of \$1.5 million per day to the Salvadoran government dedicated to armaments, he said that the time has come for foreign humanitarian aid. Gumbleton added that the organization's intent is to offer a counterweight to the unjust and multi-million dollar military aid provided by the US government. (Basic data from Notimex, 06/26/90)

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