

El Salvador: Zamora Argues Economic Reform Necessary For Peace

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On July 23, during an interview with a Salvadoran television journalist, Ruben Zamora, secretary general of the Social Christian Popular Movement (MPSC), said that economic reform is linked to successful peace negotiations. According to Zamora, the government's economic policies are "stretching the Salvadoran people to the limit." Zamora asserted that economic issues should be included in the peace talks because they are as essential to future stability as any other agreements between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). Food prices have increased 900% in the last 10 years while wages remained the same, said Zamora. He added that the effects of this extreme inflation on average Salvadorans have been exacerbated since President Alfredo Cristiani took office in June 1989. Next, Zamora pointed out that in the past year a minority of the rich have become even richer. For instance, he said, a cartel comprised of four persons now controls 64% of sugar production in El Salvador. "Everyone must pay a price for peace...[The rich] must pay by containing their desire to constantly obtain more and by having a little compassion for the poor," Zamora concluded. (Basic data from AFP, 07/23/90)

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