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Salvadoran Human Rights Commission On Military Human Rights Abuses

by Deborah Tyroler

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On July 25 at a press conference in San Salvador, the independent Salvadoran Human Rights Commission (CDHES) said the "daily practice" of the military includes illegal arrest and detention, intimidation and "disappearance" of rural residents. The military justifies such abuses by claiming that victims are supporters of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). The Commission told reporters of the detention in March of four young people by soldiers pertaining to the 7th military detachment in Ahuachapan department. Military authorities deny they have the adolescents in custody at the detachment's main barracks. One of the adolescents was released in June. The youth told the CDHES that he overheard on several occasions soldiers subjecting the other three young people to interrogation and torture. The father of one of the youths was present at the press conference. He said there is "sufficient proof" that his son is being held at the detachment barracks. He blamed the army for "what can happen to me and my family for having made this [public] denunciation." A CDHES spokesperson said, "This case is one of the armed forces' innumerable acts of impunity." (Basic data from Notimex, 07/25/90)

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