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Deborah Tyroler

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Salvadoran President Claims No Responsibility In Massacre Of Jesuit Priests

by Deborah Tyroler

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In a letter to President Alfredo Cristiani dated July 26, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) called on the president to assume "political responsibility" for the November massacre of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter. The FMLN said Cristiani's admission that he authorized search and seizure at Central American University facilities, including the Jesuits' home, suggested his involvement in the crime. At the very least, said the rebels, it indicated the president's participation in the subsequent cover-up. Cristiani responded on the following day by denying all responsibility for the mass murder. He said that authorization of search and seizure operations at the university campus occurred three days before the crime, but that orders did not derive from the executive office. (Basic data from Notimex, 07/30/90)

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