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El Salvador: Bishop Rosa Chavez On Resurgence Of Death Squad Activity

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 5 in San Salvador during his traditional homily, Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez announced the discovery of two cadavers bearing signs of torture. He said the two were undoubtedly death squad victims. According to the bishop, the bodies were discovered far from where the victims were abducted, "indicating that the perpetrators were allowed to pass through various military checkpoints...[R]esidents of the locales where the corpses were found did not hear any shooting, but did hear the vehicles" which dumped the bodies. Rosa Chavez asserted that the "way in which the victims were mutilated" bears the "ugly signature" of the death squads. The bishop said he was concerned that as peace talks between the government and the rebels proceed, extremist elements will return to methods of "the kind of dirty war so well-known in other times. He added, "We must not be pessimists, but neither should we be naive." (Basic data from Notimex, 08/05/90)

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