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El Salvador: Opposition Parties Denounce Military Repression Of Political Activists

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 2, El Salvador's six leftist parties denounced the army for "repressive actions" against political activists. The denunciation was motivated by the recent discovery of the mutilated corpse of Camilio Martinez, a Democratic Nationalist Union (UDN) activist, and the illegal detention of two Popular Social Christian Movement (MPSC) activists by soldiers in Santa Ana. Martinez was "disappeared" two weeks after detention by soldiers. According to spokespersons, all opposition parties face the same brutal treatment, despite the fact they are legally registered. Government troops regularly obstruct their campaign work for upcoming national and municipal elections. Examples are military recruitment drives and stepped up military presence in locations where party leaders plan meetings and organizing projects. (Basic data from AFP, 08/03/90)

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