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El Salvador: Peace Group Denounces Colonel For Abuses Against Members & Foreigners

by Deborah Tyroler

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At a Nov. 6 press conference in San Salvador, spokespersons for the Permanent Committee for the Debate on Peace (CPDN) denounced 4th Infantry Brigade Col. Arnaldo Majano for abuses perpetrated against its members and foreign visitors. The Committee is comprised of over 70 religious, labor, civic and political organizations. According to the CPDN, troops stopped a caravan of members traveling to a village in Chalatenango department to participate in a religious peace ceremony. The soldiers asserted that as per army high command orders, foreigners accompanying the caravan and two journalists were required to return to the capital. Later, on the same road, troops stopped the caravan and photographed participants. At this juncture, Col. Majano joined the soldiers, and asked Protestants in the Committee's group to identify themselves. The colonel said he "hated" Protestants. Next, Majano told a CPDN leader that she would be the first one he would kill, regardless of the fact she was pregnant. He then verbally abused a US citizen, struck her, and told her to leave the country. Also on Nov. 6, members of the Segundo Montes resettlement community in Morazan department called on the military to release Margarita Chicas Argueta. Chicas was recently detained by soldiers, who asserted that she is a member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). (Basic data from Notimex, 11/06/90)

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