

11-16-1990

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Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "El Salvador: Notes On Recent Fighting." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4722>

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El Salvador: Notes On Recent Fighting

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, November 16, 1990

Nov. 7: The armed forces press agency (COPREFA) reported that Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) leader Luis Saravia was killed in fighting in Morazan department. According to military sources, FMLN units bombed three telephone booths in San Salvador, causing injury to two persons, and material damage to the San Jose de la Montana seminary buildings. Next, the rebels caused blackouts in the capital after bombing two power sub-stations, and three electricity pylons. Three rebels were injured in fighting in Chalatenango department. Nov. 8: Rebels attacked 1st Infantry Brigade posts in Cuscatlan department. No casualties were reported. Rebels in Sonsonante department downed an electricity tower causing disruption of service to a large portion of western El Salvador. [One civilian was killed and two others were wounded when they inadvertently stepped on mines. Military spokespersons said the mines had been planted by guerrillas.] Nov. 10: Public Alert spokespersons announced that rebels sabotaged eight electricity pylons in several locations in San Salvador causing power outages. COPREFA reported that three explosive devices had been located and deactivated in three locations in the capital. Nov. 9: The FMLN attacked a Civil Defense station in Soyapango. There were no injuries reported. Rebels attacked an army post in downtown San Salvador. No injuries were reported. In an attempt to prevent an FMLN offensive, the army has been conducting house to house search operations in the capital looking for weapons caches. Deputy defense minister Col. Juan Orlando Zepeda announced that despite the 50% reduction in US military aid the armed forces will continue in their "mission to safeguard the nation's sovereignty." Nov. 15: In a Radio Venceremos broadcast, the rebels reported causing 48 casualties to government troops on Nov. 14-15 in Usulután department. Fight continued until noon Thursday in the village of San Agustín, a traditional rebel stronghold. According to the FMLN, 14 soldiers pertaining to the Jucuarán battalion were killed, and 34 wounded. The rebels reported having seized 15 M-16 rifles, two M-60 machineguns, three M-79 grenade launchers, and a rocket launcher, among other war materiel. (Basic data from AFP, 11/07/90, 11/15/90; ACAN-EFE, 11/08/90; Notimex, 11/08/90, 11/09/90, 11/10/90)

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