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El Salvador: Summary Of Fighting, April 14 - 27

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April 14: Rebel units attacked the civil defense post in Apopa, located north of the capital. In addition, rebels launched an attack against a power station in Nejapa. April 15: In La Mascota, a barrio located on the eastern side of San Salvador, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) commandos launched a grenade attack on an electricity substation. The damage caused power blackouts. April 17: The FMLN reported during a Radio Venceremos broadcast that rebels launched a rocket attack against the Atonal battalion barracks in the capital city of Usulután. Also in Usulután department, rebels clashed with troops in Santa Helena, and occupied the village of California. According to the FMLN, in the three incidents government troops suffered 20 casualties, and rebel forces, three. Police spokespersons said rebel commandos attacked an electricity substation in northeastern San Salvador, causing blackouts in the capital. No casualties were reported. April 18: A power company spokesperson said rebels dynamited five towers supporting high-tension cables in central El Salvador. The damage caused a nationwide blackout for one hour. Rebels attacked military posts in Ciudad La Libertad, port city and capital of La Libertad department. The armed forces press office (COPREFA) reported that three rebels and two soldiers were killed in the attack. April 19: Police reported that rebels opened fire on a group of police officers in downtown San Salvador, leaving one officer dead and another wounded. Rebels sabotaged high-voltage electricity pylons in Juitapa, 65 km. northeast of the capital. April 20: COPREFA reported that rebels fired on army headquarters in Chalatenango, Chalatenango department, wounding two soldiers and causing serious material damage. Next, rebels blew up electricity transmission structures, resulting in a blackout affecting the entire department of Chalatenango. A group of rebels travelling in a moving vehicle machine-gunned a municipal police unit in San Salvador, killing one officer and wounding two others. Rebels struck police posts in Villa Victoria, Cabanas department. No casualties were reported, although two electricity towers were destroyed in the area. In the town of San Ignacio, located 77 km. north of San Salvador, rebels set fire to a bus. April 21: The FMLN reported that rebels caused 153 government troop casualties in fighting during the past week. April 23: COPREFA reported that units from the fourth military detachment in San Francisco Gotera, Morazan department, were attacked by rebel mortar fire. One soldier was wounded and a barracks was damaged. In addition, one civilian was wounded during the fighting. According to a report by Radio Venceremos, in a clash with sixth infantry brigade troops near Jucuarán, Usulután department, rebels killed three soldiers, wounded four others and damaged an air force helicopter. COPREFA reported that in Las Vueltas, Chalatenango department, four rebels were killed in fighting with army counterinsurgency units. In San Salvador, rebel sabotage caused continued power blackouts. Radio Venceremos reported that rebels destroyed 16 electricity towers near Ilobasco, Cabanas department. According to COPREFA, two rebels were killed and 12 others wounded during fighting with soldiers in Arcatao, Chalatenango. April 24: COPREFA reported that four rebels were wounded in fighting with the Ramon Beloso counterinsurgency battalion in San José Guayabal, Cuscatlán department. Two soldiers were wounded in clashes with rebels in Guatajiagua, Morazan department, and Lolotique, San Miguel department. Radio Venceremos reported that five soldiers were killed and an equal number wounded in a rebel attack against a military post in Morazan. Four civilians, including three minors, were seriously injured when two

bombs exploded in a private home in San Salvador. COPREFA reported that the building was a "safehouse" used by FMLN commandos. Explosives, four AK-47 rifles and other weapons were found in the house. Rebels toppled three electricity transmission towers, forcing the government to limit the use of power to six hours per day in the capital city. April 25: COPREFA reported that five rebels were killed, and 10 rebels and two soldiers wounded in fighting in Guatajiagua, Morazan department. Two FMLN camps in Tecoluca and La Libertad were dismantled by the army. The state-run electricity company reported that service would be suspended for 24 hours in several regions of the country due to rebel sabotage. Police reported that rebel commandos set fire to a Labor Ministry vehicle in downtown San Salvador. There were no casualties. April 27: COPREFA reported that four rebels were killed and three wounded in fighting with government troops in San Jose Guayabal. Three soldiers from the first infantry brigade were killed and two others were wounded in combat with rebels in the same area of San Jose Guayabal. Near San Miguel, San Miguel department, a soldier from the elite Atonal battalion was killed in a clash with rebels. Police reported that rebels attacked military posts in southern San Salvador. There were no casualties. Electricity rationing was implemented throughout El Salvador. COPREFA reported that at least 29 rebels and 10 soldiers were killed, and another 84 persons wounded in fighting during the past week. Four the 10 soldiers were killed when two helicopters crashed in Lake Suchitlan on April 25. April 28: Radio Venceremos reported that FMLN units caused 206 casualties to government troops during the past week. The rebel account described the downing of two helicopters as the FMLN's most important operation of the week. Air force commander Gen. Rafael Villamariona said that one of the helicopters crashed as a result of poor visibility, and the other because of mechanical failure. In the past week, rebels toppled 24 electricity towers and pylons. A spokesperson for the FMLN telephoned a local radio station, reporting that rebels had occupied a section of the coastal highway near the town of Jiquilisco, Usulután department. The same source reported that guerrillas staged a rally and distributed leaflets before clashing with soldiers at the site. During the fighting, two persons were killed, and another wounded. [Basic data from: ACAN-EFE, 04/15/91, 04/20/91, 04/23/91, 04/24/91, 04/27/91; AFP, 04/14/91, 04/15/91, 04/17/91, 04/18/91, 04/20/91, 04/21/91, 04/23/91, 04/25/91, 04/27/91, 04/28/91; AP, 04/19/91; Inter Press Service, 04/20/91; Notimex, 04/28/91; Prensa Latina (Cuba), 04/20/91]

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