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El Salvador: Two U.S. Journalists Injured In Mortar Attack

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 30, US journalists Thomas Long and Daniel Alder were injured during a mortar attack outside San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango department. Long is a stringer for the New York Times and the Miami Herald, and Alder works as a United Press International (UPI) reporter. In an Aug. 31 broadcast, Radio Farabundo Marti reported that the mortars were fired by the army on rebel positions. The rebels said soldiers then fired on the vehicle the journalists were using to leave the area. In a telephone interview, Long told ACAN-EFE that he and Alder briefly sought refuge in a civilian home and then departed for the capital. He said they were detained en route at a military post where an officer accused them of being "guerrillas." Long added that the officer persisted in his accusation, "even though he saw that we were injured, our vehicle was registered and we carried news reporting equipment." The US Embassy and the armed forces press office (COPREFA) did not release statements on the incident. (Basic data from AFP, 08/30/91; ACAN-EFE, 08/31/91)

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