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## **On Prison Conditions In El Salvador**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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On Nov. 1, Justice Minister Rene Hernandez told reporters that the armed forces had agreed to return 16 prisons, currently being used as army barracks, as part of an effort to alleviate prison overcrowding. Hernandez said the jails had been turned over to the army under the previous government because they were considered legitimate military targets by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). At present, said Hernandez, the government administers 13 jails. The Marionna prison in San Salvador, designed for 900 inmates, houses 2,060. Next, Hernandez asserted that the proposed 1992 budget for the prison system is inadequate to cover housing, food and health care costs for inmates. Prisoners, he said, are receiving only US\$0.25 worth of food per day. According to the minister, prisoners are also subjected to physical and sexual abuse and drug peddling. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 11/01/91)

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