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At a Nov. 29 press conference, Iqbal Riza, head of the UN observer mission to El Salvador (ONUSAL), and ONUSAL human rights director Philippe Texier said the mission had submitted its second report to the UN Security Council. The report states that the level of human rights violations in El Salvador "continues to be worrisome." Since ONUSAL operations commenced three months ago, the mission has received 1,060 denunciations. Texier cited the following examples of "problems" described in the report: * Forced military recruitment by the army. * Combatants under 18 years of age in the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). * Government officials' "passivity" in response to demands to curtail the use of television and newspapers by ultra-rightwing groups to threaten and intimidate human rights advocates and opposition leaders. * Nine cases of extrajudicial executions committed by police officers. * Failure to arrest murder suspects. * Assassination of a Treasury Police officer by the FMLN. * Rebels' refusal of medical assistance to a soldier who subsequently died. * Forced disappearances. * Bombings of civilian targets. * The FMLN's "war tax." The ONUSAL report said the mission has been unable to reach definitive conclusions on whether the government is involved in death squad killings. ONUSAL noted that death squad activities have taken place for many years and never subjected to systematic investigation by authorities. Consequently, said the report, Salvadorans' general belief that the impunity enjoyed by death squads is the result of "tolerance" by authorities is "understandable." (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, Agence France-Presse, 11/29/91; Spanish news service EFE, 11/30/91)

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