El Salvador: U.N. Secretary General Appoints Members Of Human Rights Investigatory Commission

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On Dec. 10, UN spokesperson Francois Giuliani announced that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar had appointed the following members to the “Truth Commission”: Belisario Betancur, former president of Colombia; Reinaldo Figueredo, former foreign minister of Venezuela; and, Prof. Thomas Buergenthal, a US citizen who is president of the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights and former chief of the Inter-American Court for Human Rights. The Truth Commission was established in accords between the government and rebel negotiators dating from April this year. The commission's mandate is to investigate human rights abuses committed during the civil war. Cases to be investigated include the 1980 assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, the 1989 Jesuit massacre, and the 1989 bombing of National Federation of Sindicated Workers (FENASTRAS) headquarters in which seven people were killed. Under the accord, both the government and the rebels agreed to abide by the commission's findings and comply with its recommendations. The first report is expected six months after the commission begins operations. (Basic data from Xinhua, Associated Press, 12/10/91; ACAN-EFE, 12/11/91)

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