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El Salvador: Copaz Members Send Recommendation For "limited" Amnesty To National Assembly

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On Jan. 23, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) commander Francisco Jovel told reporters that during a National Peace Commission (COPAZ) meeting in Mexico City, rebel leaders and government representatives reached agreement on a limited amnesty to take effect Feb. 1. Jovel said the amnesty, which must be approved by the National Assembly, will allow for legal political participation of former rebel combatants, and permit the return of exiled FMLN leaders. Jovel said that the proposed amnesty would not cover persons responsible for major crimes or massacres (those which have "conmocionado a la sociedad salvadoreña"). The amnesty is to exclude persons already sentenced by civilian court judges for human rights abuses, as well as all future cases recommended for prosecution by the international Truth Commission. The Commission is to review cases of human rights abuses which occurred during the civil war. According to Jovel, military personnel who had faced trial under the military court system would be covered by the amnesty. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 01/23/92)

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