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El Salvador: Defense Ministry Submits Draft Legislation On Military Service

by Deborah Tyroler

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On April 7, Defense Minister Gen. Rene Emilio Ponce submitted draft legislation to the Legislative Assembly on obligatory military service. The bill specifies that males between the ages of 18 and 30 would be required to register for the draft. Actual service is to be determined by a lottery system. Service exemptions would be available for university and vocational school students, and "only sons." The current two-year duty tour is to be reduced to one year. Individuals who refuse to comply with required military service will be refused access to a passport, driver's license, or copy of their police record. (Basic data from Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, Agence France-Presse, 04/07/92)

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