

PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH (Memo prepared 11/20/89; updated, 11/22/89, 3:00 pm)

CATHOLIC CHURCH

NOV. 13

- Bombing of San Miguel Parish
- Capture of Wounded from same Parish Clinic
- Col. Vargas of 3rd Brigade Refuses to Allow International Red Cross to Evacuate Parish

(Testimony of the parish priest; cannot use name.)

In a parish in the northern part of city of San Miguel, parish priest reports a major army operation that included bombing with planes (rocketing), mortars, helicopter aerial attacks and machine-gunning in area that includes his parish. Attack lasted 6 hours. The priest characterized the bombing of the area, including the parish church as "genocidal" because ... "there was no presence of the guerrillas in this area". The church buildings were partially destroyed. 18 people were present in parish buildings at the time. After attack soldiers of the 3rd Brigade and Arce Battalion came to the church and threatened everyone present. "The soldiers threatened us telling us that they would come later that night for us." They captured two wounded men from the parish clinic, both non-combatants who had been hurt during the attack and were brought to the parish clinic for attention. Their names are:

Manuel Asencio, 24 yrs. old
Catalino (no last name) 16 yrs. old

A member of the church hierarchy from the San Miguel diocese requested that the International Red Cross evacuate everyone from the parish buildings and they agreed. "...but Col. Vargas had said no. Vargas did not permit our evacuation by the International Red Cross. The Red Cross were willing to attend to those needing attention, but the pressure, the repression by the Army was a violation against what they tried to do."

On Nov. 14 all those in the parish buildings were evacuated to the center of the town of San Miguel.

The priest reports that "entire families were killed by the bombing". He says 7 members of one family died when a bomb fell near the school Fe y Alegria in the center of San Miguel. He said 5 colonias in the northeastern section of the town of San Miguel were practically demolished by bombing. "It is completely false that they have not bombed. Colonias are nearly destroyed." (After original testimony

taken, the priest clarified "bombing" to mean rockets and mortars). He states that homes were ransacked and looted by the army after the people evacuated "...right in front of us the army started their house-to-house searches, and they were robbing things, money and other things."

- Soldiers Attempt Entry of Parish - Soldiers shot at feet of church workers in Maria Madre de los Pobres parish in Boyapango after the church workers had told the soldiers they could not enter the parish buildings. (About 40 refugees were inside at the time.)

- Search of Residence of Jesuit Priests in UCA - Priests' rooms and Monsenor Romero offices searched at 7 pm by Armed Forces. Afterwards they searched other offices (dependencias) belonging to the university. Fr. Ellacuria suggested (se ofrecio) that the Armed Forces return the following day to search the offices (dependencias), when there would be light (possibly was a blackout in the area at the time of this search). The soldiers did not return the following day.

NOV. 14

- Robbery, Ransacking of Church - Catholic parish in northern part of town of San Miguel (see entry for Nov. 13) entered by soldiers, took everything, including 40,000 colones in cash belonging to church cooperative, 50,000 colones worth of food to be distributed the following day, all the medicines and instruments from the clinic, an electrical plant, furniture, television, even the windows were removed. The church had been semi-destroyed during the bombing and machine-gunning the previous day.

- Death Threat - Fr. Jim Barnett, a U.S. citizen and a Dominican priest from Ciudad Dredisa parish in Boyapango received a death threat. Leaves country Nov. 20.

- Soldiers Demand Church Refuge Be Evacuated - Maria Madre de los Pobres. Soldiers at 10:30 am told church workers that the area would be bombed in half an hour. At that time between 150 and 200 refugees were inside the parish, including 5 wounded. Later National Police in camouflaged uniforms entered the parish and set up a command post there. When the parish priest attempted to explain the grounds were property of the Archdiocese, a soldier shot at his feet.

- Church Machine-gunned - Archdiocesan workers attempting to deliver food and medicines to the parish of Immaculate Conception in Cuscatancingo arrived to find the church open, no one inside, and the walls and columns full of bullet holes. A soldiers from the 1st Infantry Brigade and a member of the civil defense tried to commandeer their vehicle to use it as a barricade. In the end they were allowed to

leave the materials they had brought at the church and left in their vehicle.

NOV. 15

- Search - Divina Providencia Hospital, San Salvador, by military, "looking for wounded persons". No one captured.

- Search - of Catholic Relief Services office in San Salvador, by uniformed men. No captures, only 1 report taken.

- Confiscation of Archdiocesan Food & Medical Supplies
Detention of Priest & Salvadoran Church Worker

A priest and Salvadoran Archdiocesan church worker en route to deliver archdiocesan aid to Cristo Salvador parish in Zacamil were detained by army soldiers. Food and medicine confiscated. Were let go half an hour later.

- Search of Parish - San Roque, in San Salvador by uniformed soldiers. The search lasted 2 hours. A young man at the door was beaten. No captures. Books were taken from the priest's room. One of the soldiers said "Foreigners are the cause of the problems here...We're going to get rid of the foreigners."

- Soldiers Order Refugees To Leave Church Refuge - Uniformed soldiers entered parish grounds of Maria Madre de Los Pobres parish in Soyapango and told the people they had to leave. At the time over 300 persons had sought refuge in the childcare center. Some began to leave that same day.

- Soldiers Toss Grenade Onto Roof of Parish Clinic - in Maria Madre de Los Pobres parish. Caused injuries to 2 persons and damage to roof and windows.

NOV. 16

- Assassinations - 6 Jesuit priests and their Salvadoran cook and her daughter were assassinated when 30 uniformed and heavily armed men enter their residence. The names of the 6 priests are:

Ignacio Ellacuria
Segundo Montes
Ignacio Martin Baro
Joaquin Lopez
Juan Ramon Moreno
Amando Lopez

Their cook, Elba Ramos and her 15 yr. old daughter Delina Ramos were also killed.

- Death Threat - Anonymous telephone call to residence of Archbishop Rivera Damas. The caller told the cook who answered: "Tell those priests we are going to come after them."

- Search - of refugee center, Sagrada Familia school. 45 min. search by the about 8 soldiers. No captures.

- Threatening Phone Call - received by nun in church refugee center, Sagrado Corazon school. Told her to get her bags ready because she would have to leave, adding that "Ortega is waiting for you". (about 400 refugees were housed inside at the time.)

- Closure of Church Refugee Center - Maria Madre de Los Pobres. Parish priest and the last refugees are forced to leave by the military.

NOV. 17

- Search - of church refugee center, Sagrada Familia school, for second time, by 20 armed, uniformed soldiers who had threatened to shoot down the door if the nuns didn't open it. No captures and nothing taken.

- Search of Lay Workers' Home - Soldiers lightly searched part of house in San Salvador. Soldiers in Zacamil where the lay workers work are asking for their whereabouts.

- Army Uses Parish Grounds As Military Command Post - The parish priest returns to Maria Madre de Los Pobres to find that soldiers are using the building as a command post. Residents report that soldiers are asking the whereabouts of the parish priest.

NOV. 18

- Attempted Search - of church refugee center, Sagrado Corazon by soldiers. The nuns there refused them entry.

- Treasury Police Arrive at Archdiocese To Offer Protection - Several trucks of police waited outside when one member of the Treasury Police entered the Archdiocese to speak to Monsenor Rivera Damas for 15 minutes, to offer protection. Apparently the offer was refused since there has been no military or security forces present to give protection to date during the daytime hours.

- Church Searched & Ransacked - Cristo Salvador in Zacamil; parish priest returns to find the parish house ransacked. The area had been under military control for several days. A parish youth worker had been detained by army soldiers earlier and his keys to the chapel were taken from him. The office had been ransacked and shot up and pictures of church

martyrs were shot up. Chalice and hosts were scattered on floor.

- Military Surveillance of Wounded in Hospital Rosales - 10 wounded were transferred from the parish clinic of San Francisco, Mexicanos parish to Rosales Hospital by a parish health promoter. She reported they are under heavy military surveillance and no visitors are allowed in. She expresses fear for their safety.

- Soldiers Surround Church - parish in Ilopango of Fr. Fabian Amaya. They do not enter.

- Soldiers Surround School - Colegio Emiliani. Did not enter.

NOV. 19

- Search - of San Roque parish by army soldiers, for 4 hours. Checked ID's of all men present. (About 50 refugees were present at the time). Asked whereabouts of parish priest by his name. He was not present. No captures. Some medicines were taken.

- 2nd Search of San Roque - At 4:15 pm about 10 soldiers returned plus army official. The official claimed that he needed more time to examine the building because ... "a map of this parish doesn't coincide with what I saw. The building has been altered." Nothing taken. No captures. This refugee center was closed at 5:30 pm after a brief six-day existence with three military searches.

- Search & Captures of 5 Church Health Workers and 8 Wounded - San Francisco de Asis parish, Mexicanos. The 5 health promoters were taken from the parish clinic by members of the 1st Brigade (note correction; not Air Force). Apparently after the five health promoters were taken, 8 seriously wounded persons (all men) were taken away from inside the clinic. Their names are unknown. Status is disappeared. Soldiers said it was a 'guerrilla clinic', took medicines.

The 5 captured health promoters are:

Miguel Angel Nuila Garcia - released 11/21
Consuelo Elena Buevara Leiva - released 11/21
Ana Veronica Contreras Calderon - released 11/21
David Hernandez - still being held
Esperanza Cuellar - released 11/21

- Parish Priest Leaves Country - Fr. Daniel Sanchez, a Spaniard and the parish priest in Maria Madre de Los Pobres left the country. Two days earlier soldiers had been inquiring about his whereabouts. Earlier in the year, he

was accused of being a member of the FMLN and of participating in an attack against vice-president Merino's house in May of 1989. The accusations were made by Merino and were never publicly retracted.

NOV. 20

- Capture of Dominican Priest - (source El Mundo, 11/21/89)
On Nov. 20 Miguel Francisco Andureza Aramburu was captured by the Second Brigade in the finca Maracy, canton San Juan Buenavista, Santa Ana. The article states he resides in Soyapango, stays in El Rosario Church in San Salvador and occasionally visits this finca in Santa Ana. A church worker stated that Padre Miguel works with a development center and he works with several communities in Santa Ana. Released 11/21 and to leave the country 11/22.

NOV. 21

- Search - of parish buildings of San Roque by the military. (Refugees had been forced to leave on Nov. 19). The military officer in charge of the search called the Archdiocese from San Roque parish to request that someone from the Archdiocese come to the parish to talk to him. A priest from the Archdiocese was sent down but when he arrived the military officer was not there.

- Search & Ransacking of Church - Parish San Francisco, Mexicanos, colonia Delicias de Norte. One of the parish priests returned to the parish to find it had been entered and ransacked sometime between the 19th and the 21st. No one was inside.

- Closure of Church Refugee Center - Sagrado Corazon school refugee center was closed after refugees voluntarily left. There had been heavy fighting in Colonia Escalon and army tanks were near the refugee center. The refugees went to another refugee center.

NOV. 22

- Closure of Church Refuge El Despertar - As a consequence of heavy fighting the evening of 11/21 and morning of 11/22 in San Antonio Abad, refugees and church workers in this refugee center decided to close the center. Approximately 30 refugees had sought refuge in the center.

ASSASSINATIONS: 8 persons
CAPTURES OF CHURCH WORKERS: 6 persons (5 have been released)
CAPTURES OF WOUNDED FROM CHURCH CLINICS: 10 persons
SEARCHES: 14 (Some places searched more than once)
DEATH THREATS: 2

LUTHERAN CHURCH

- Death Threats - Bishop Medardo Gomez has received death threats consistently. Last death threat received 11/21, telephone call taken by a church caretaker in Lutheran church.

NOV. 14

- Death Threat - Against Lutheran pastor Bill Dexheimer, a U.S. citizen, living in Ciudad Credisa parish in Soyapango. Left the country Nov. 17.

NOV. 16

- Captures - of 10 foreigners, all Lutheran church workers and 3 Salvadoran church workers by uniformed National Guard from Lutheran church buildings. Three Salvadoran church workers, including a lawyer, accompanied the foreigners when they were taken and were subsequently detained as well. The names of the Salvadorans are:

1. Salvador Ibarra, lawyer and director of the Lutheran Legal Aid office (Socorro Juridico Luterano). Transferred from National Guard to National Police. Sent word out he is on hunger strike. As of 11/21 we have not been informed of a change in status.

2. Carmen Fabian - released on 11/19 from National Police.

3. Vidalbina Flores de Fitch - released on 11/19 from National Police. Left country on 11/21.

The names of the foreigners are:

1. Tobias Muller
2. Erigit Schwartz
3. Herbert Schmidt
4. Susana Kreiling
5. Simone Menechen
6. Jutta Muller

All are Germans. All left the country on Nov. 18.

7. Thomas Gabriel - left country 11/21.
8. Paula Brentlinger - left country 11/19.
9. Paul Fitch - left country 11/21.
10. Bradley Fields - left country 11/21.

These four are U.S. citizens.

11. Brian Rude - left country 11/19. Canadian citizen.
12. Luis Boigues - left country 11/19. Spaniard.

The 12 foreigners were taken to the Treasury Police from the National Guard. All were released and not formally charged with any crime, but were publicly accused by the Director of the Treasury Police of collaborating with the guerrillas. All were ordered to leave the country.

There were over 300 persons seeking refuge inside the Lutheran buildings at the time of these captures.

- Military Cordon Around Lutheran Offices and Capture Order For Bishop Medardo Gomez and All Internationals In Vicinity of Lutheran Church

Since the captures on Nov. 16, the National Guard has been present around all the Lutheran installations. A foreign journalist who arrived near the Lutheran church on Fri. Nov. 17 for a press conference with Bishop Medardo Gomez (did not take place there) was told by a military officer that there was a capture order out for Bishop Medardo Gomez and for any internationals who they find in the vicinity of the Lutheran offices.

NOV 21

- Search of Bible School of Lutheran Church - Uniformed National Guardsmen entered the Lutheran Bible School in San Miguelito, San Salvador. Office equipment taken.

CAPTURES OF CHURCH WORKERS: 15 (14 released; Salvador Ibarra remains detained).

DEATH THREATS: 2 persons

SEARCHES: 1

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NOV. 19

- Captures -

1. Juan Antonio Berty Quinonez, sub-director of CREDHO (social service program of the Episcopal Church)

2. Francisco de Paz, Episcopal church worker

Both were captured by uniformed National Guardsmen from the home of Juan Antonio Berty Quinonez in Metropolis, San Salvador, in the presence of his wife and children. His home was searched. They were presumably taken to National Guard. (One report that National Guard was denying they had them.)

3. Ana Rivera de Quinonez, the wife of Juan Antonio Berty Quinonez, was captured around noon from her home by National Guardsmen.

NOV. 20

- Captures - at 5:50 am National Guard entered the Episcopal church near Salvador del Mundo and captured 7 foreigners:

1. Francesco Riera, Peace Brigades International
2. Esther Domenech, Peace Brigades International
3. Luis Miguel Perez, Peace Brigades International

All three are Spaniards. They were released same day of capture from the National Guard and ordered to leave the country. They left the country 11/20.

4. Karen Ridd, Peace Brigades International. Canadian. Released late 11/20 and left the country 11/21.

5. Josephine Beecher, Episcopalian lay worker, U.S. citizen. Released late 11/20. She was struck on the side of the head while in the Treasury Police.

6. Marcela Diaz Rodriguez, Peace Brigades International, Colombian. Released late 11/20. Left the country 11/21.

7. Melinton Zea Melendez, Guatemalan man who was in El Salvador visiting his family, and had been brought to the Episcopal church refugee center by the Salvadoran Red Cross several days earlier. Was being held in Treasury Police. Present whereabouts and status unclear.

(As of 11/21, all 9 members of the Peace Brigades International had left the country.)

At 9:00 am the National Guard captured 10 Salvadoran Episcopal church workers from the church. Their names are:

1. Jose Candelario Aguilar
2. Luis Gustavo Lopez Magana
3. Domingo Baitan
4. Randolpho Campos, church attorney
5. Jose Vidal Enemorado
6. Alexander Antonio Tovar
7. Jose Emilio Alonzo
8. Eduardo Castillo
9. Elva Ruth Alfaro de Archila
10. Horacio Guzman

Their present whereabouts and status is unclear.

According to testimony from one of the released Spaniards, the three Spaniards were told in the National Guard: "We

have been notified that foreigners could be subject to attack (sufrir atentados) and it is for that reason that there is concern for your safety". They were made to sign a document that said there had been suspicion of their collaboration with the delinquent terrorists, but no proof had been found. They were told they must leave the country.

As a result of these captures and harassment, this refugee center of the Episcopal church was closed on Nov. 20. About 200 refugees had been inside this refugee center.

CAPTURES: 20 (13 Salvadorans, 7 foreigners. 6 have been released, all foreigners. It is believed that the 10 Salvadorans and the Guatemalan are still being held. Whereabouts unclear.

BAPTIST CHURCH

NOV. 15

- Search - of home of lay-worker of the Baptist Association of El Salvador (ABES) by uniformed soldiers. Nothing taken and no captures.

NOV. 16

- Search - of home of Marina Alcantara de Serrano, a deacon of the Emmanuel Baptist church in San Jacinto. (Her husband is a unionist and was arrested in Sept. 1989 and is a political prisoner.)

NOV. 17

- Search - The offices of Emmanuel Baptist church (SER CDN) and their office CESE were searched for 4 hours by CITFA soldiers from the El Zapote barracks of San Jacinto. An army truck and what sounds like an armored vehicle arrived. The office contained a small amount of medicines and supplies. Nothing taken, no captures. The soldiers wrote down the names and addresses of all the church workers there.

SEARCHES: 3

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

NOV. 21

- Search, Ransacking - of 2 locals of the Mennonite Central Committee by uniformed, armed members of the National Guard; one was a residence and office, the other was a residence. The entire contents of the Mennonite office were taken,

including money, U.S. passports, computer, printer and some personal belongings. The Bible School of the Lutheran church in one of the same buildings was also ransacked.

SEARCHES: 2

SUPPLEMENT TO PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH MEMO (updated
11/23/89 5:00 pm)

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NOV. 20

- Correction: Captures of 10 Salvadoran Episcopal church workers should read 9 church workers. Domingo Gaitan was not captured.

- Addition: Capture of Episcopal Pastor - Rev. Luis Serrano, a naturalized Salvadoran of Spanish origin, who is the pastor of San Juan Evangelista Episcopal church in San Salvador. He was captured from a house in San Salvador by the National Guard. The National Guard has confirmed to the International Red Cross that he and 12 other Episcopal church workers (Salvadorans) are in their custody.

PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH

Supplement (updated 11/24/89 1:00 pm)

CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the small town of Teotepeque where the local Catholic parish has a long history of harassment by civil defense and army troops six parish workers have received a threat in the form of a leaflet accusing them of being "enemies of the people".

NOV 19

- Searches - In the parish of Teotepeque, around eight members of the Civil Defense and one soldier from Caballeria conducted lengthy, thorough searches of homes of 5 church workers from parish of San Pedro, Teotepeque, La Libertad. They confiscated a book (about pastoral work) and some papers (one about Monsenor Romero). No captures.

NOV. 22-23

- Flyers Distributed in Town Threatening Church Workers -

Wed. Nov. 22 a woman from the town of Teotepeque witnessed a uniformed soldier or member of the civil defense drop a flyer in front of her house in the late evening. By morning the flyers had been found distributed about town. The flyer reads:

"ATTENTION ATTENTION"

"Teotepeque and surrounding area - these are the enemies of the people:

Clelia Estrada
Silvia Estrada
Regina Cruz
Guadalupe Recinos
Tulio Melendez
Gloria

directed by the communists, they want to convert you into assassins of your own people, as they did in Chalatenango and Morazan.

"REJECT THEM"

and signed: COMITE PERMANENTE DE SALVACION NACIONAL
(Permanent Committee of National Salvation)

The other side shows a priest holding a rifle, and a town or village under attack and says:

"Inhabitants of Teotepeque

This is the participation in courses"

and below reads:

"To massacre and terrorize the population".

The six persons named are all members of the parish of San Pedro, Teotepeque, La Libertad and active in the pastoral work of the Catholic church. (one health promoter, four work in the promotion of women, with women's groups, one is a musician in the church choir). Three of the six had their homes searched on Sun. Nov. 19 by members of the civil defense and at least one soldier from the Caballeria Regiment.

The parish priest, Fr. Angel Maria Martinez and all the church workers have been subject to severe harassment, accusations and threats since early 1988. This situation has deteriorated markedly in the last several months and in August of 1989 the first of four flyers appeared in the town of Teotepeque and surrounding villages denouncing the priest and all who work with the church as "communists". All the flyers were signed "Permanent Committee of National Salvation". On Nov. 9th, members of Destacamento Militar #6 entered the village of Canoa, Mizata, in the parish of Teotepeque and captured 6 members of the parish. All are members of the agricultural cooperative "La Esperanza" and two of the six are health promoters. One of the six escaped before they were taken away in a truck. The present whereabouts of the other five are unknown.

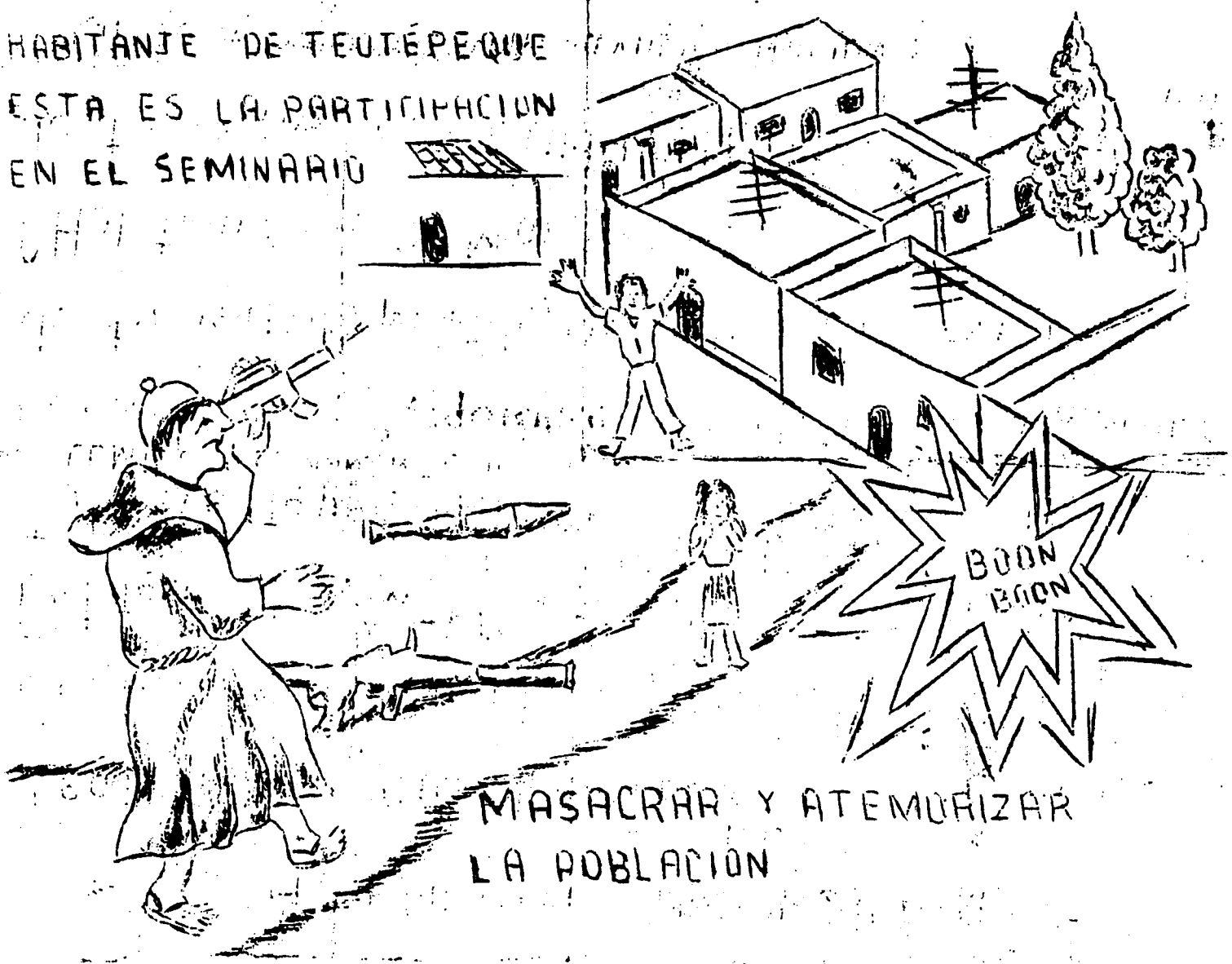
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NOV. 20

- Correction: Captures of 10 Salvadoran Episcopal church workers should read 9 church workers. Domingo Gaitan was not captured.

- Addition: Capture of Episcopal Pastor - Rev. Luis Ber rano Laurenta, a naturalized Salvadoran of Spanish origin, who is the pastor of San Juan Evangelista Episcopal church in San Salvador. He was captured from a house in San Salvador by the National Guard. The National Guard has confirmed to the International Red Cross that he and 12 other Episcopal church workers (Salvadorans) are in their custody.

HABITANTE DE TEUTÉPEQUE
ESTA ES LA PARTICIPACION
EN EL SEMINARIO



MASACRAR Y ATEMORIZAR
LA POBLACION

' ' ATENCION ATENCION ' '

Teatepeque y sus alrededores estos son los
enemigos del pueblo: Clelia Estrada, Silvia
Estrada, Regina Cruz, Guadalupe Recinos,
Tulio Melendez, Gloria; dirigidos por los
Comunistas te quieren convertir en, asesinos
de tu mismo pueblo, como lo hicieron en
Chalatenango y Morazan.

RECHAZALOS ' '

COMITE PERMANENTE DE SALVACION NACIONAL

SUMMARY - Nov. 11-24

1) CATHOLIC CHURCH

ASSASSINATIONS: 8 persons
CAPTURES OF CHURCH WORKERS: 6 persons
5 released
CAPTURES OF WOUNDED FROM CHURCH CLINICS: 10 persons
Whereabouts unknown
SEARCHES TO DATE: 19 searches
14 sites (some places searched more than
once; churches, refuges, homes)
DEATH THREATS: 2 persons

2) LUTHERAN CHURCH

CAPTURES OF CHURCH WORKERS: 15
14 released
Salvador Ibarra detained in
National Police.
DEATH THREATS: 2 persons

3) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CAPTURES: 20
6 released
(12 Salvadoran church workers and Rev. Luis
Serrano still being held in National Guard.
Whereabouts of Guatemalan unknown.)

4) BAPTIST CHURCH

SEARCHES: 3

5) MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

SEARCHES: 2

PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH

Supplement # 2 (Updated 11/25/89 4 pm)

NOV. 24

- Aerial Attack Against Resettlement - Copapayo, Cuscatlan.
9:00 am 3 helicopters and 2 "avispas" (small helicopters) attacked and "rocketed" the resettlement of Copapayo. This community receives pastoral support as well as food aid from the churches. It is located on the edge of the Embalse Cerron Grande and is only accessible by water. Three of the four boats of the community which were docked in Copapayo were destroyed in the aerial attack. There are houses of the community very near to where the boats are docked. Rockets were directed against a group of women who were cutting sesame at the time. There were no injuries. Five homes in the community were hit and damaged during the attack.

The persons from this community who gave this testimony believe the boats were targetted with the probable aim of cutting off their only source of transportation. (The fourth boat belonging to the community was not docked there at the time and escaped damage.)

Around 10 pm the previous night, Nov. 23, 2 homes of the community were damaged in a rocket attack. No injuries were reported.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Searches - On Nov. 24, at 6 am around five or six soldiers (Artilleria) entered and did a superficial search of "El Despertar", San Antonio Abad, San Salvador. (This had been a refugee center until Nov. 22). Around 8:00 am about 20 uniformed soldiers from the Bracamonte Battalion entered and searched the place again for half an hour, entering all the rooms that were unlocked. They said they would return later. There were no captures and nothing was taken. At the time of the searches about five people were present in El Despertar, including several priests.

- Soldiers Enter Parish - San Francisco de Asis, Mejicanos, two soldiers enter, saying maybe the guerrillas had left a bomb in the church.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NOV. 24

- Capture - of Margarita Gomez, Episcopal church employee, Salvadoran, who works in the accounting department of CREDHO

(social service program of the Episcopal church). She was captured at her home at 6 pm by National Guard.

At the time of this capture the National Guard also asked for Roberto Melchor, who is the CREDHO accountant. Friends have been unable to locate him today and he is feared missing.

Ana Emilia Gomez, the diocesan treasurer for the Episcopal diocese, and the sister of Margarita Gomez, was at her sister's home at the time of her capture. Ana did not show up for an early appointment today and is feared missing.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOV 25

- Update on Salvador Ibarra - lawyer and director of Socorro Juridico Luterano (the legal aid office of the Lutheran church) who was captured on Nov. 16, was released today from the National Guard.

SUMMARY - Nov. 11-25

1) CATHOLIC CHURCH

ABBASSINATIONS: 8 persons

CAPTURES OF CHURCH WORKERS: 6 persons

5 released

CAPTURES OF WOUNDED FROM CHURCH CLINICS: 10 persons

Whereabouts unknown

SEARCHES TO DATE: 21 searches

15 sites (some places searched more than
once; churches, refuges, homes)

DEATH THREATS: 2 persons

2) LUTHERAN CHURCH

CAPTURES OF CHURCH WORKERS: 15 persons

15 released

DEATH THREATS: 2 persons

3) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CAPTURES: 21

6 released

(13 Salvadoran church workers and Rev. Luis
Serrano still being held in National Guard.
Whereabouts of Guatemalan unknown.)

4) BAPTIST CHURCH

SEARCHES: 3

5) MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

SEARCHES: 2



COMISION ARQUIDIOCESANA DE PASTORAL DE LA SALUD

C. A. P. S.

Arzobispado de San Salvador, 4a. Planta, Avenida Las Américas, Calle San José,
Urbanización Isidro Menéndez — TELEFONO: 26-1943 Ext. 9

MEMORANDUM

PARA : [REDACTED]
DE : [REDACTED]
ASUNTO : INFORME DE CAPS SOBRE HECHOS EN LA COMUNIDAD CANOAS.
FECHA : 10 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 1989.

El día jueves 9 de noviembre de 1989, a las 5:00 p.m. fue invadida la comunidad de Canoas, atendida por la parroquia de Teotepeque, La Libertad, por tropas del Destacamento Militar Nº 6 al mando del teniente Juarez del Cuartel de Sonsonate.

Sacando de sus casas de habitación y alrededores de la comunidad a 6 miembros, siendo ellos:

- 1- Luis Reyes, Promotor de Salud y celebrador.
- 2- Guadalupe Casco Alas, 31 años, Promotor de Salud, cooperativista y miembro del consejo parroquial.
- 3- Miguel Alvarenga, presidente de la cooperativa.
- 4- José Abel Peña, socio de la cooperativa.
- 5- Francisco Casco Alas, 55 años, tesorero de la Directiva comunal.
- 6- Santos Tobar Escobar, socio de la cooperativa.

El señor Santos Tabar Escobar logró escaparse en el camino. Posteriormente los demás conducidos, vendados en un camión particular rumbo al cuartel de Sonsonate, según lo que dijo el teniente Juarez a los familiares.

...

Como CAPS notificamos que ellos son personas con quien trabajamos desde hace 4 años y su labor es para el bien de la comunidad.

Como iglesia nos sentimos en la obligación de dar nuestro apoyo y acompañamiento en esta situación y por eso solicitamos a usted su valiosa orientación y apoyo.

Le pedimos que este informe sea del conocimiento de Monseñor Rivera. Agrademos de antemano su fina atención.

ANTECEDENTES

Desde 1988 han comenzado las amenazas y hostigamientos a la parroquia de Teetepque, a todos los que trabajan en la pastoral, a beneficiarios de Cáritas, en todas las comunidades que atiende esta parroquia. Los sargentos de Mizata y Teetepque han levantado una campaña de desprestigio en contra del párroco y sus feligreses.

ULTIMOS SUSESOS:

Julio 89

- Presidente de la cooperativa de Ulata - Francisco Murcia - detenido por caballería, le preguntaron sobre la cooperativa y si el cura apoyaba y colaboraba en la cooperativa.

Julio 89

- De caballería llegaron a la comunidad de San Pedro, cateando las casas, pidiendo nombres, preguntaban si iban a misa. Sugirieron que no fueran a misa ya que el cura era comunista al igual que algunos miembros de la cooperativa.

Agosto 89

- El comandante del Pital se reunió con 4 miembros de la comunidad de Canoas, que están promoviendo un proyecto de Agua potable. El comandante dijo que la ayuda del Arzobispado es ayuda de los comunistas de Rusia y que no trabajaran con el padre y que no agarraran ningún proyecto ya que trabajar en proyectos era comunismo al igual que el Arzobispado. Dijo: "Si un día llega a pasar alguna cosa, el padre y ustedes tendrían la culpa", "Para que nada les pase, vayan a trabajar en sus milpas y nada les va a pasar, aquí nadie se ha muerto de desnutrición".
- Las autoridades también han amenazado a las madres de los niños que participan en el coro de la iglesia para que no los manden.

El 9 de agosto 89

- En Teotepeque, tiraron hojas volantes, difamación en contra del sacerdote de Teotepeque y de la comunidad en general. En total tiraron 4 diferentes hojas tanto en el pueblo como también en algunos cantones.

Agosto 1989

- Fueron detenidos 2 miembros de la cooperativa de Teotepeque (Uno de San Pedro y otro de Teotepeque) . Fueron interrogados sobre la cooperativa, el Padre y el trabajo de la Iglesia, los llevaron dos días después para repetir las mismas preguntas. Los hermanos son: Humberto Vasquez y Manuel Mejía. El comandante dijo que veía más el trabajo del párroco y de los proyectos del S.S.A.

Agosto 1989

- Catearon las casas en un barrio de Teotepeque, donde viven 1 s personas que trabajan más en la parroquia, y preguntándole donde vivían los demás que trabajan en pastoral.

Septiembre 1989

- El día 4 y 5 de septiembre se realizó un encuentro de 2 días y análisis y reflexión del trabajo Pastoral que realizan los consejos de cada comunidad y consejos zonales, directivos de los proyectos zona de Mizata, dichos proyectos son coordinados por el Arzobispado. Los días se tuvo presencia militar, el último día de la jornada llegó el teniente Juárez; pidió hablar con los líderes que habían llegado de afuera. Hilda Luz de Romero como encargada de Pastoral Social del S.S.A; hablo con el teniente presentandose como trabajadora del Arzobispado explicándole que el trabajo que se estaba realizando es Pastoral y que no existe nada clandestino

Como el asegura sino que el trabajo es abierto y por esa razón se le invito a los soldados a pasar adelante.

- En esta ocasión el teniente Juarez manifesto que pertenecia a caballeria y que estaban alli para cuidar el orden y poder repartir medicina y ropa, aparentemente le quedó claro que nuestro trabajo no tiene nada que esté en contra del orden de de las leyes del País.

El 30 de octubre 89

- Llegaron a Canoas el rector, vice-rector de San José de la Montaña, 25 seminaristas para una misa de despedida de año, el hijo de Luis Reyes el seminarista, se hicieron actos culturales, alguna gente despues dijo que esto era comunismo y dijeron que esta gente había traído las armas para Canoas.

El 31 de octubre 89

- Llegaron dos investigadores de DM-6, vigilando a Luis Reyes. se pregunto a donde habian ido los muchachos (los seminaristas) y quienes eran.

El 3 de noviembre 89

- 25 personas de la comunidad incluyendo Celebradores de la Palabra, del Consejo Pastoral, Promotores de Salud y musicos. Se reunieron con uno de los investigadores que vive en el canton, para preguntarle porque estaban vigilando ahí. El se nego que estaba en servicio, ellos lo responsabilizaron a él si le sucede algo al ellos.
Debido a estos rumores de que los seminaristas han traído armas a la comunidad, 5 familias han huido de la comunidad.
- Ultimamente en algunos cantones, incluyendo Canoas, las autoridades han dicho que esta prohibido cualquier reunión si no se pide permiso antes a las autoridades, tambien en Canoas las autoridades pidieron nombres de los de la Directiva pero no se los dieron.