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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-second year

Letter dated 19 May 1987 from the Permanent Representative
of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in order to transmit a communiqué, dated 26 March 1987, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador addressed to the diplomatic corps accredited to our Government. The communiqué denounces some serious acts of violence committed by forces of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional-Frente Democrático Revolucionario (FMLN-FDR) which are a flagrant violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Salvadorian people and, irrespective of political conceptions and ideology, should be made known to the international community and condemned and rejected by it as a means of attaining power.

"Owing to an undeniable political and military setback, and to the increasingly negative attitude towards the FMLN-FDR and its illegitimate status at the national and international levels which has been observed in recent years, the rebels have increasingly resorted to terrorist practices which involve a total disregard for humanity, since they consist of flagrant monstrous violations of the most basic human rights, committed on a large scale against the civilian population.

"Thus the international community recently condemned in Geneva the current practice of indiscriminate use of terrorist mines by the FMLN-FDR, which has caused countless deaths and much mutilation among humble peasants of all ages and both sexes, including principally children, the innocent victims of the most criminal terrorist practice in the history of the continent.

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"Because of the powerlessness of the FMLN-FDR to halt or frustrate the democratic process on which the people and Government have embarked, the FMLN-FDR leaders have decided to step up and intensify their scheme for a 'prolonged people's war' with actions which are essentially the most inhumane terrorism.

"The above facts were revealed by the intelligence service of the Armed Force, which issued a timely warning to the Salvadorian people, urging them to be on the alert against the increase in terrorist actions in the capital.

"Thus, on 23 March, an urban terrorist group attacked a Civil Defence patrol of the Santa Fe community, San Marcos, stealing two G-3 rifles and some hand grenades, and killing two members of the patrol.

"On 24 March, citizens could see for themselves an open act of provocation committed against agents of the security corps engaged in various protection duties in different parts of the capital. The provocative action by the FMLN-FDR, in conjunction with the UNTS, was unsuccessful owing to the professional behaviour of the Armed Force of El Salvador.

"On 25 March, at 9.30 a.m., an urban terrorist group of the FMLN-FDR ambushed a car patrol of the national police at Venezuela Boulevard and Seventh Avenue South, killing two agents. At 10 a.m., another urban terrorist group killed one national Guardsman and wounded another during an ambush in the street leading to El Picacho, the San Salvador volcano.

"At 10.20 on the same day, a terrorist group was distributing FMLN-FDR propaganda in San Jacinto Park, carrying hidden weapons of various calibres. Later they took over the unified co-educational urban school San Jacinto No. 1, where 947 pupils and 27 teachers were taken hostage and threatened with death for several hours, until their release by members of the security corps who were present on the scene in order to provide protection to civilians.

"When instructed to surrender, the two terrorists who had captured the school, handed over their weapons to the agents who had entered the premises. It turned out that they were the G-3 rifles stolen during the attack on the San Marcos Civil Defence a couple of days earlier.

"The terrorist identified himself as Alexánder Vásquez Cadena and was the person who had directed the attack on the San Marcos Civil Defence and a terrorist who had infiltrated the Transmissions Instruction Centre of the Armed Force (CITFA). His true name is Juan Francisco Medrano Iraheta, and he had disappeared three days earlier on learning that the military intelligence was investigating his connections with terrorism. In statements to the national press, the terrorist said that he had belonged to the FMLN since 1981, had asked to go to Nicaragua via Mexico and had issued an appeal to his 'commanders Shafick Handal and Joaquín Villalobos', informing them that the place had been taken with 10 more comrades.

"The woman was identified as Gloria Escóbar Guzmán, pseudonym 'Nena', who is said to have accompanied the terrorist during the actions against the Civil Defence and helped him distribute propaganda in San Jacinto Park.

"The terrorist action in question, which exceeds all limits of civil morality, is a flagrant violation of the most basic human rights by the terrorist groups of the FMLN-FDR, which have no scruples about using defenceless children as shields, placing in imminent danger their lives and physical, moral and psychical integrity. The terrorist action has therefore been the object of national repudiation, as expressed in the voices of condemnation of teachers, fathers, the schoolchildren held against their will and the whole of the Salvadorian people, together with the peoples of the world.

"With this event, the FMLN-FDR has demonstrated its capacity for unbridled violence, owing to its frustration at not being able to achieve its objective of attaining power, since it lacks the assistance of the people to achieve its ends. It thus reveals its determination to attack in cowardly fashion the children of a nation which is struggling to strengthen the democratic process.

"Lastly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs repeats to the diplomatic missions the decision of the Government of El Salvador to intensify efforts to humanize the conflict, notwithstanding the insidious terrorist campaign of provocation against the legitimate authorities and the total disregard for human rights evidenced by the aforementioned events, which are an assault on the most sacred element of our present and future: our children."

We also wish to report on and record acts committed by the FMLN-FDR during the last week of April and in the current month of May, consisting of further acts of kidnapping, murder and intimidation against the non-combatant civilian population, including persons who have been elected by the people to discharge certain functions:

April

Gonzalo Alonso García
Mayor,
Department of San Vicente
Member of the Christian Democratic Party

Kidnapped

Victoriano Martínez Vásquez
Mayor of Mercedes,
La Ceiba,
Department of La Paz
Member of the Christian Democratic Party

Kidnapped

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Carlos Raúl Reyes	Kidnapped
Member of the Mercedes Civil Defence	
Committee,	
La Ceiba,	
Department of La Paz	

May

Victor Manuel Alvarado Lizama	Murdered
Ismael Cruz	Murdered
Salvador Romero Ayala	Murdered
Samuel Góchez Marroquín	Murdered

These murders occurred in San Agustín, Department of Usulután, because of the refusal of the person concerned to collaborate with the rebel groups.

I should be grateful if this information could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 12 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roberto MEZA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
