

MASTER EXHIBIT SERIES

EL SALVADOR

**PERSECUTION BY DEATH SQUADS/SECURITY
FORCES**

PLAIN CLOTHES

[ME/SLV/97.006C]

SEPTEMBER 1997

All the sources of information contained in this document are identified and are publicly available.

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EL SALVADOR - 6. Persecution by Death Squads/Security Forces

Focuses on persecution perpetrated with tacit or overt government support (includes six specific categories): C. Plain Clothes - Materials include persecution by men in plain clothes linked in some way with security forces as well as without specific identification with any group.

DISCLAIMER

The July 27, 1990 Regulations, "Aliens and Nationality: Asylum and Withholding of Deportation Procedures," mandated the creation of a new corps of Asylum Officers to provide an initial, nonadversarial adjudication of asylum claims. Asylum Officers use asylum law, interviews with asylum applicants, and relevant information on country conditions to determine the merits of individual claims for asylum.

The Resource Information Center was created to assist Asylum Officers domestically, and Immigration Officers determining refugee status overseas, by collecting and disseminating credible and objective information on human rights conditions. As specified in the Regulations (8 CFR 208.12), as amended, such information may be obtained from the Department of State, the Office of International Affairs, other Service offices, or other credible sources, such as international organizations, private voluntary agencies, news organizations, or academic institutions."

Master Exhibits are one means by which credible information on a given group or groups deemed "at risk" is presented to Asylum and Immigration Officers. Master Exhibits are submitted by private voluntary organizations, law firms, or other groups, which are credited on the title page of the Exhibit. The contents of each Master Exhibit distributed by the Resource Information Center, taken as a whole, meet certain basic standards on credibility, relevance and format, and can provide Asylum Officers with valuable background material for evaluating country conditions.

This Master Exhibit provides publicly available information, analyses, or comment. All sources are cited. Updates to this Master Exhibit may be made from time to time. This Master Exhibit, however, cannot be, and does not purport to be, either exhaustive with regard to the country surveyed, or conclusive as to the merits of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. It is for the Asylum Officer adjudicating a particular case to determine what evidentiary weight to give to the information in this Master Exhibit.

The inclusion of this Master Exhibit in the collection of Master Exhibits compiled by the Service does not constitute an endorsement of the information in this Master Exhibit. *The views expressed in this Master Exhibit, therefore, do not necessarily represent statements of policy of the United States Government, nor does this Master Exhibit reflect foreign policy concerns of the United States Government.*

E1 Salvador - Plain Clothes

"Popular Groups Targetted by Repression," Central America Report, 7 December 1990

"El Salvador: Killings, Torture and Disappearances," Amnesty International AMR 29/27/90, October 1990 (pp.6-9)

"A Year of Reckoning: El Salvador a Decade After the Assassination of Archbishop Romero," Americas Watch, March 1990 (pp.51-54, 59-61, 97-98, 102-109)

"Trade Unionists Targeted by Police," El Salvador On Line, 19 February 1990

"El Salvador: 'Death Squads' - A Government Strategy," Amnesty International AMR 29/21/88, October 1988 (pp.8-12,15-18)

"Disappearance of Three Trade Union Members Following May-Day Demonstrations," Amnesty - International AMR 24/29/87, 10 July 1987

"From the Ashes: A Report on Justice in El Salvador," Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 1987 (pp. 43-44)

"We Always Have a List," The Progressive, March 1986

"El Salvador: Human Rights Dismissed -A Report on 16 Unresolved Cases," Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 1986 (pp.77-84)

"Fear of Torture/Legal Concern," Amnesty International Urgent Action AMR 29/49/85, 13 November 1985

"Disappearance/Fear of Torture," Amnesty International Urgent Action 07/84, 12 January 1984

"Inside El Salvador: January to June, 1983," Washington Office on Latin America, July 1983

"El Salvador: A Gross and Consistent Pattern of Human Rights Abuses," Amnesty International USA Packet 1983

"Report on Human Rights in El Salvador," Americas Watch and American Civil Liberties Union, 20 July 1982 (pp.112-118)