MASTER EXHIBIT SERIES

EL SALVADOR

INABILITY TO STAY NEUTRAL

[ME/SLV/97.011]

OCTOBER 1997

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

DISTRIBUTED BY:

INS RESOURCE INFORMATION CENTER 425 1 STREET, NW (ULLICO BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR) WASHINGTON, DC 20536

PRODUCED BY:

HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION EXCHANGE (FORMERLY CENTRAL AMERICA RESOURCE CENTER) P. O. BOX 2327 AUSTIN, TX 78768

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.

EL SALVADOR - 11. Inability to Stay Neutral

Articles focus on circumstances in which individuals are forced to align with one side or the other, including peasants and civilians living in conflictive zones.

E1 Salvador - Inability to Stay Neutral

"Guerrilla Offensive Punishes Civilian Salvadoran Bystanders," Washington Post, 26 November1990 (ISLA 1864)

"A Year of Reckoning: E1 Salvador a Decade After the Assassination of Archbishop Romero," Americas Watch, March 1990 (pp.43-49)

"Clergy, Church Workers Keeping Low Profile - Harassment Continues in E1 Salvador," Baltimore Sun, 8 February 1990

"Final Report to the Commission on Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in E1 Salvador," United Nations, 31 January 1990 (pp.13-14)

"Court Urges Asylum for Salvadoran in Unusual Case," Los Angeles Times, 25 August 1989 (ISLA 799)

"Salvadoran Society Polarized, Confused by Wave of Slayings," Los Angeles Times, 13 August 1989 (ISLA 782)

"Salvador's War Gets Dirtier; Civilians Forced to Take Sides," New York Times, 5 March 1989 (ISLA 1256)

"A Dirty War Gets Dirtier - Death Squads Duel Guerrillas in E1 Salvador," NewsWeek, 2 January 1989 (CAM)

"Terror's Toll Builds Again in E1 Salvador," New York Times, 20 December 1988 (ISLA 3093)

"Guerrillas Kill Mayor, Ambush Soldiers," Miami Herald, 29 November 1988 (Central America News Pak 73)

"Political Refugee Tells of Military Tortures," Valley Morning Star (Harlingen, TX), 30 November 1988

"10 People Slain Near Salvador Village," New York Times, 24 September 1988 (ISLA1404)

"Salvador's Civilian Toll Reflects War's Injustice," Los Angeles Times, 1 August 1987 (ISLA 694)

"El Salvador: Recent Incidents of Apparent Human Rights Violations," Amnesty International AMR 29/25/87, 18 June 1987

"Military Roundup in E1 Salvador," In These Times, 14 January 1987 (CAM)

"Salvadoran's Futile Bid to Break Free," New York Times, 6 June 1986 (ISLA 2900)

"Salvador Builds Fortified Towns to Block Guerrillas," Los Angeles Times, 29 January 1985 (ISLA 76)

"Neutrality Held Valid Basis for Political Asylum," Washington Post, 29 December 1984 (ISLA 2887)

"Witness to Political Violence in E1 Salvador: Testimonies of Salvadoran Refugees in the United States,"

Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN), June 1984 (pp. B-11)

"The Color Gray Does not Exist -- There is no Center in E1 Salvador," Pacific News Service, 30 December 1983 (CAM)

"U.S. to Probe Report of Salvador Killings," Los Angeles Times, 8 March 1982 (ISLA 1160)

"Death in E1 Salvador, Becoming Commonplace, Still Terrifies," Washington Post, 13 July 1980 (ISLA 96)