

## MASTER EXHIBIT SERIES

## EL SALVADOR

LACK OF GOVERNMENT LEGITIMACY, DUE PROCESS,  
AND INVESTIGATION/PUNISHMENT

[ME/SLV/97.002]

JULY 1997

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

DISTRIBUTED BY:

PRODUCED BY:

INS RESOURCE INFORMATION CENTER

HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION EXCHANGE

425 1 STREET, NW

(FORMERLY CENTRAL AMERICA RESOURCE  
CENTER)(ULLICO BUILDING, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR)

P.O. BOX 2327

WASHINGTON, DC 20536

AUSTIN, TX 78768

## EL SALVADOR

Lack of Government Legitimacy, Due Process, or Investigation/Punishment

Focuses on ineffectiveness of judicial system, lack of successful prosecution of military human rights abuses, lack of government control over security forces, and extra-judicial confessions and torture of prisoners.

## 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

## Lack of Governmental Legitimacy, Investigation/Punishment, Lack of Due Process and Extrajudicial Confessions

<u>Articles</u>	<u>Page</u>
"Update on Investigation of the Murder of Six Jesuit Priests in El Salvador," Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 2 October 1990	1
"Political Prisoners & Human Rights," Central America Report, 14 September 1990	11
"U.S. Moves to Discontinue Aid to Salvadoran Courts," Austin American-Statesman, 18 August 1990	13
"Soldier Acquitted in Murder of TV Cameraman," Central America Report, 29 1990	15
"Cuanes Alerts," March-June 1990	17
"Most Salvadorans Cleared in Rights Cases," Austin American-Statesman, 15 May 1990	19
"A Year of Reckoning: El Salvador a Decade After the Assassination of Archbishop Romero," Americas Watch Report, March 1990, (ch.V & VII)	20
"Final Report to the Commission on Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in E I Salvador.... "United Nations report, 31 January 1990 (Conclusions)	36
"Salvador Army Upset Over Probe of Priest Slayings," Los Angeles Times, 12 January 1990 (ISLA 50)	40
"Amnesty International Report 1990," (covers 1989) for El Salvador	42
"A Force Unto Itself," New York Times, 10 December 198g (ISLA 2669)45	45
"Underwriting Injustice: AID and El Salvador's Judicial Reform Program," Lawyers Committee Human Rights, 1989 f pp. 12-14,77-79,124-125,152-153,162-163)	49
"Political Refugee Tells of Military Tortures," Valley Morning Star Harlingen, TX), 30 November 1988	59
"El Salvador:'Death Squads'-A Government Strategy," Amnesty International AMR 29/21/88, October 1988 (pp. 1-5,12-14,32-35)	60
"From the Ashes: A Report on Justice in E I Salvador," Lawyers Committee on Human Rights, ( pp. 40 -55 )	75
"Salvadoran Group Finds Torture of Detainees Widespread," National Catholic Reporter, 19 December 1986 (CAM)	86
"El Salvador: Human Rights Dismissed - A Report on 16 Unresolved Cases," Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 1986 (Intro., pp. 17-26)	87

"Prelate Criticizes Legal Inaction in Deaths of 30,000 Salvadorans, " Washington Post, 13 April 1983 (ISLA 1715)	100
"Justice in El Salvador," A Report of a Mission of inquiry of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Preprinted from The Record of the Association of the Bar, March 1983	101
"Salvadorans Have Evidence of Troop Atrocities," Miami Herald, 27 = March 1982 (ISLA 1168).	116