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U.S. TRAINING SALVADORAN FORCES LINKED WITH DEATH SQUADS
WASHINGTON

The U.S. government has been training Salvadoran security forces linked with the death squads blamed for killing thousands of dissidents in El Salvador, The Progressive reported Monday.

The Progressive, a magazine of investigative reporting published in Madison, Wis., said U.S. involvement with the Salvadoran security services started during the early 1960s under the late President John F. Kennedy and included training in torture methods.

The magazine said the Central Intelligence Agency has supplied Salvadoran security forces with the names and whereabouts of political dissidents, some of whom later were assassinated by the death squads.

It said U.S. activities in El Salvador violate the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974 that bars U.S. aid to foreign police forces.

"Early in the 1960s, during the Kennedy administration, agents of the U.S. government in El Salvador set up two official security organizations that killed thousands of peasants and suspected leftists over the next 15 years," the magazine said in an article written by Allan Nairn, a free-lance journalist who specializes in Central America.

"These organizations, guided by American operatives, developed into the paramilitary apparatus that came to be known as the Salvadoran death squads," The Progressive said.

It said that over the past 20 years, the State Department, the CIA and U.S. armed forces:

-Established ORDEN, Salvador's intelligence network described by the human rights group Amnesty International as a movement designed to "use clandestine terror against government opponents;"

-Organized ANSESAL, the presidential intelligence service that gathered files on Salvadoran dissidents;

-Enlisted Gen. Jose Alberto Medrano, founder of ORDEN, as a CIA agent;

-Trained members of El Salvador's Treasury Police, a wing of the security forces, "in methods of physical and psychological torture;"

-Worked closely with Roberto d'Aubuisson, the rightwing presidential candidate often linked to the death squads.

The magazine said its article was based on a four-month investigation of U.S. involvement in El Salvador that included interviews with current and former Salvadoran and American officials.