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ARTICLES

Salvadoran Security Force Members Arrested in Deaths of U.S. Churchwomen

Six members of El Salvador's security force were arrested on suspicion of murder in the deaths of four U.S. churchwomen last December. (See the issue of 10 December 1980.) The suspects, who remain unidentified, are being detained at a military barracks pending collection of further evidence which is needed in order to bring them to trial. (U)

Defense Minister Colonel Jose Guillermo Garcia insists that the men are only being held on suspicion based on the fact that they were at the roadblock near where the women had been driving. The FBI entered the investigation at the request of the Hondurans to aid in the matching of fingerprints taken from the women's van with those of the suspects. The suspects' weapons were turned over to the U.S. Embassy so that the FBI could conduct ballistics tests. Results of the tests have not officially been released. (U)

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