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SUBJ

REF PA040026 PARIS AFP SPANISH 032343 -- EL SALVADOR: GOVERNMENT RELEASES FOUR POLITICAL PRISONERS

SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT FREES REBELS DEMANDED IN KIDNAPPING

PA040349

BUENOS AIRES REUTER IN ENGLISH TO REUTER LONDON 0326 GHT 4
OCT 85

(BY ROBERT BLOCK)

(TEXT) SAN SALVADOR, OCT 3, REUTER -- THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT HAS RELEASED THREE CAPTURED REBELS, INCLUDING A TOP GUERRILLA INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, DEMANDED BY THE KIDNAPPERS OF PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLION DUARTE'S DAUGHTER FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE WOMAN, SOURCES KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS SAID TODAY.

THE SOURCES, WHO SPOKE ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY NOT BE IDENTIFIED, TOLD REUTER THAT THE THREE REBELS FLEW TO AN UNIDENTIFIED COUNTRY FROM THE COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON TUESDAY.

THE REBELS, WHOSE NAMES WERE NOT RELEASED WERE ON A LIST OF REPEAT WERE AMONG 34 REBELS THAT THE KIDNAPPERS DEMANDED TO BE FREED FROM GOVERNMENT JAILS IN RETURN FOR THE RELEASE OF INES GUADALUPE DUARTE DURAN.

DUARTE DURAN, THE ELDEST OF THE PRESIDENT'S SIX CHILDREN, WAS KIDNAPPED ALONG WITH A COMPANION FROM IN FRONT OF A UNIVERSITY IN THE CAPITAL LAST SEPTEMBER 10.

THE KIDNAPPERS HAVE IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS THE PEDRO PABLO CASTILLO GUERRILLA COMMAND OF THE FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN) THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION OF THE FIVE LEFTIST GUERRILLA GROUPS FIGHTING THE U.S.-BACKED GOVERNMENT HERE.

THE SOURCES SAID AMONG THE THREE WHO WERE RELEASED BY THE GOVERNMENT "AS A SHOW OF GOOD FAITH" TO THE KIDNAPPERS, WAS A GUERRILLA KNOWN BY HIS PSEUDONYM OF "FREDERICO", WHO WAS THE TOP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OF THE POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES (FPL).

THE FPL IS ONE OF THE FIVE GROUP WHICH FORM THE FMLN.

THE SOURCES SAID THE REBELS WERE ESCORTED TO THE COMALAPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SOME 40 KM SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL, ON TUESDAY.

THEY SAID THEY WERE RELEASED FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE DUARTE AND THE ABDUCTORS IN THE HOPES THAT THE GUERRILLAS WOULD RELEASE EITHER DUARTE DURAN, HER COMPANION OR ANY OF THE AT LEAST

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23 MAYORS WHICH THE GUERRILLAS HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPING FROM TOWNS IN THEIR ZONES OF CONTROL OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

"THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS SO FAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO GAIN THE RELEASE OF INES OR THE MAYORS," ONE SOURCE SAID.

DIPLOMATS AND GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID THAT NINE OF THE 34 REBELS THE KIDNAPPERS DEMANDED IN RETURN FOR DUARTE DURAN'S RELEASE WERE IN GOVERNMENT HANDS AND THE SOURCES SAID THEY BELIEVED THE NINE HAVE LONG BEEN DEAD.

THE SOURCES CLOSE TO THE INVESTIGATION TOLD REUTERS THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE REACHING A CRITICAL STATE AND THAT THE KIDNAPPERS WERE DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF ALL 34 GUERRILLAS OR THEY WOULD NOT RELEASE DUARTE'S DAUGHTER. THE SOURCES SAID THE GUERRILLAS HAVE ALSO REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE MAYORS.

AT LEAST TWO OF THE THREE REBELS WHICH WERE RELEASED BY THE GOVERNMENT WERE RECENTLY CAPTURED IN SECURITY FORCES RAIDS ON GUERRILLA SAFEHOUSES WHERE THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED DUARTE DURAN COULD HAVE BEEN HELD.

THE REBELS ALSO DEMANDED A HALT TO ALL MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTRY ALONG WITH THE RELEASE OF THE 34 GUERRILLAS.
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