

VIEWS OF SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES OFFICERS ON POSSIBLE  
ARREST OF LIEUTENANT RODOLFO ISIDRO LOPEZ SIBRIAN

THE ARREST OF SALVADORAN NATIONAL GUARD LIEUTENANT RODOLFO ISIDRO ((LOPEZ)) SIBRIAN IF SUCH AN ARREST ORDER IS RECEIVED FROM THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. AT PRESENT, LOPEZ RESIDES IN THE MILITARY COMPOUND LOCATED AT EL PARAISO, CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT. LOPEZ, ALTHOUGH NOT CURRENTLY UNDER ARREST OR FORCED DETENTION, HAS RESTRICTIONS ON HIS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND IS CONSTANTLY UNDER OBSERVATION BY MILITARY PERSONNEL. COMMENT: LIEUTENANT LOPEZ IS SUSPECTED OF COMPLICITY IN THE 1980 ASSASSINATION OF TWO U.S. OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT (AIFLD) AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE SALVADORAN LAND REFORM INSTITUTE IN THE SHERATON HOTEL IN SAN SALVADOR.

2. DESPITE THE WILLINGNESS OF LEIVA AND HERNANDEZ TO ARREST LOPEZ IF ORDERED TO DO SO, BOTH OFFICERS WOULD PREFER THAT LOPEZ NOT BE ARRESTED OR SUBJECTED TO TRIAL SINCE THEY REGARD LOPEZ AS A GOOD SOLDIER AND BELIEVE THAT A TRIAL WOULD BE MOTIVATED SOLELY BY U.S.-SPONSORED POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, LOPEZ IS WIDELY POPULAR AMONG JUNIOR OFFICERS IN CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT AND MANY OF THEM HAVE FREQUENT SOCIAL CONTACT WITH HIM. THE MAJORITY OF JUNIOR OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT LOPEZ IS SERVING AS A SCAPEGOAT FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES AND RESENT WHAT THEY REGARD AS FOREIGN INTRUSION INTO AN INTERNAL SALVADORAN MILITARY MATTER.

3. ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF SALVADORAN OFFICERS IN CHALATENANGO ARE SYMPATHETIC TO LOPEZ, THEIR SYMPATHY DOES NOT EXTEND TO CAPTAIN EDUARDO ERNESTO ((AVILA)) AVILA, ALSO ALLEGED

