

Directorate of Intelligence
Office of African and Latin American Analysis

30 November 1988

Mr. Kevin Whitaker
Office of Inter-American Affairs
Department of State

Dear Mr. Whitaker,

Enclosed is the chronology of Salvadoran guerrilla human rights abuses and terrorist incidents you requested on 16 November.

Reflecting our telephone conversations with you, the chronology is presented in raw data format. Each entry is classified and sourced to facilitate extracting unclassified data or pursuing declassification as your needs dictate.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached on [redacted]

Sincerely,

Chief, [redacted]

Enclosure



Directorate of Intelligence
Office of African and Latin American Analysis

30 November 1988

Mr. David Pacelli
Director, Latin American Affairs
National Security Council

Dear David,

Enclosed is a chronology of Salvadoran guerrilla human rights abuse and terrorist incidents in raw data format.

The chronology was prepared at the request of State, but we are forwarding it to you as a supplement to our recent typescript on FMLN Strategy and human rights abuses.

Chief, [redacted]

Enclosure

Approved for Release

NOV 1993

[REDACTED]

CHRONOLOGY OF SALVADORAN GUERRILLA HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES,
TERRORISM, AND URBAN VIOLENCE, 1988

3 Jan: A group of armed men, who identified themselves as members of the FMLN, kidnaped incumbent Mayor Jesus Israel Santamaria of Agua Caliente, Chalatenango Department and mayoral candidate Jose Francisco Echeverria of the same town. The two men were released on 8 Jan. [REDACTED]

10 Jan: Suspected FMLN guerrillas abducted Mauricio Ortiz Mejia, one of the Central Elections Council delegates in Cuscatlan Department. [REDACTED]

14 Jan: A vehicle of the US Embassy's contract security guard company (Wackenhut) patrolling in San Salvador was fired upon by two suspected FMLN guerrillas armed with M-16 and G-3 rifles. [REDACTED]

24 Jan: [REDACTED] unit of the FPL--one of the five factions of the FMLN--entered the [REDACTED] refugee camp in Honduras and abducted and later executed five FPL deserters. [REDACTED]

26 Jan: FMLN guerrillas in Morazan Department executed two peasant brothers, Juan Martinez Portillo and Ismael Portillo, in front of their families and neighbors. Witnesses say the two were killed because--despite guerrilla warnings--they had obtained their "voting carnets" required to vote in the March 1988 elections. After killing the brothers, the guerrillas stuffed the carnets into their mouths and warned the families that they too would be killed if they removed them. [REDACTED]

11 Feb: FMLN guerrillas set off a bomb in a Health Ministry office in the capital; no one was injured. [REDACTED]

12 Feb: A US Embassy (Wackenhut) patrol vehicle operating in the capital was fired upon by two suspected FMLN guerrillas armed with a revolver. [REDACTED]

* * *

* Incidents cited here have been reported either through official [REDACTED] channels or in the open press. Instances of urban violence directed against the Salvadoran Armed Forces specifically have not been included.

[REDACTED]

19 Feb: FMLN guerrillas kidnaped Manuel de Jesus Guardado Mendoza, PDC mayoral candidate for Alegria, Usulután Department. [REDACTED]

19 Feb: FMLN guerrillas abducted Ricardo Battle Araujo, bill collector for the local electric and water companies, from his home in Alegria, Usulután Department. [REDACTED]

19 Feb: FMLN guerrillas unsuccessfully attempted to kidnap Gerardo Salvador Mejia Martinez, ARENA mayoral candidate for Alegria, Usulután Department. [REDACTED]

19 Feb: FMLN guerrillas unsuccessfully tried to kidnap Francisco Rodriguez Medina, postmaster for Alegria, Usulután Department. [REDACTED]

19 Feb: Senior FMLN Commandante Roberto Roca stated in a Radio Venceremos broadcast that US military and civilian advisers were now legitimate targets of the FMLN. [REDACTED]

20 Feb: Following a firefight with FMLN guerrillas, Salvadoran Army troops stationed near the capital recovered four explosive devices concealed in baby bottles. [REDACTED]

22 Feb: Four young women--Xenia Marisol Lopez Molina, 19, Custodia de Jesus Rivas Castro, 22, Rosa Candida Martinez, 22, and Celia Marroquin Lopez, approximately 20--were killed when guerrillas machinegunned a bus carrying 50 textile workers. The bus was hit by over 50 rounds of automatic weapons fire. The incident occurred during an FMLN transportation stoppage campaign. [REDACTED]

24 Feb: [REDACTED] stated that the FMLN leadership has issued orders to identify US military and civilian advisers for subsequent assassination by FMLN "urban commandos." [REDACTED]

4 Mar: A US Embassy (Wackenhut) patrol vehicle operating in the capital was attacked by a suspected FMLN guerrilla using a hand grenade. [REDACTED]

11 Mar: FMLN guerrillas detonated two car bombs in the Zona Rosa district of San Salvador, causing property damage and inflicting minor injuries on two children. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

15 Mar: FMLN guerrillas detonated seven bombs directed against telephone junction boxes and power poles in San Salvador. [REDACTED]

16 Mar: FMLN guerrillas detonated a bomb in the lobby of the Vieytez Movie Theater in San Salvador, destroying one wall of the building. [REDACTED]

17 Mar: FMLN guerrillas kidnaped and later killed Sergio Romero, mayor of Azacualpa, Chalatenango Department and destroyed the town hall. In San Miguel de Mercedes, Chalatenango Department, they burned the town hall, courthouse, and post office. [REDACTED]

14 Apr: Guerrillas abducted and killed Pedro Ventura, ARENA mayor-elect of San Isidro, Morazan Department. Several days later, the FMLN admitted to the killing during a radio propaganda broadcast. [REDACTED]

23 Apr: A US Embassy patrol vehicle reports it "may have" been fired upon by the occupants of a passing vehicle. [REDACTED]

26 Apr: A car bomb exploded near a movie theater in San Salvador. Police discovered other explosive devices near the Sheraton Hotel. [REDACTED]

27 Apr: Police discovered and deactivated an explosive device in a vehicle parked near a San Salvador restaurant. [REDACTED]

1 May: Police discovered and deactivated an explosive device concealed in a stolen vehicle parked near the armed forces commissary in San Salvador. [REDACTED]

11 May: First Military Court Judge Jorge Serrano was shot and killed outside his home as he returned from taking his children to school. Serrano had been reviewing cases against rightwing extremists and FMLN guerrillas. [REDACTED]

11 May: FMLN guerrillas assassinated Terencio Rodriguez, the ARENA mayor of Perquin, Morazan Department. [REDACTED]

c. Jun: FMLN guerrillas assassinated Jose Abraham Rivera and Quijano, both students at the University of El Salvador, for suspicion of spying for the US. [REDACTED] guerrillas on campus [REDACTED] planning to carry out additional punitive killings. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

c. Jun: FMLN Commandante "Rey Pony" killed two civilians accused of collaborating with government forces in Usulután Department. The bodies were left on public display apparently as a warning to other would-be collaborators.

[REDACTED]

13 Jun: FMLN guerrillas publicly executed 23-year-old Noel Campos Moreira, an ex-soldier, following an FMLN-conducted "town meeting" in San Jorge, San Miguel Department.

[REDACTED]

14 Jun: FMLN guerrillas broke into the home of Apolinario Hernandez Rodriguez, Justice of the Peace for Carolina, San Miguel Department, and shot and killed him in front of his nine-year-old daughter.

[REDACTED]

21 Jul: Six well-planned and coordinated pro-FMLN demonstrations in the capital turned violent, leaving six demonstrators and eight policemen injured, 11 vehicles burned, and several businesses. Some demonstrators exchanged gunfire with security police.

[REDACTED]

25 Jul: Suspected FMLN guerrillas took over a San Salvador bowling alley, robbed the patrons, then set the building on fire.

[REDACTED]

21-22 Aug: Guerrillas kidnaped, severely beat, and later executed Dolores Molina, PDC mayor of Lolotiquillo, Morazan Department. The FMLN took credit for the killing in a subsequent Radio Venceremos radio propaganda broadcast.

[REDACTED]

25 Aug: Two National Police bodyguards for retired Colonel Majano, a noted leftist, were assassinated as they drove the colonel's car through San Salvador. [REDACTED] later admitted that his FMLN urban cell was responsible for the killing, and described the planning and preparation for the crime in detail.

[REDACTED]

4 Sep: A bomb exploded at the YKK zipper factory in Zacamil, near San Salvador, causing minor damage to the building.

[REDACTED]

6 Sep: Two car bombs were detonated and a third deactivated in front of the Ministry of Health in downtown San Salvador.

[REDACTED]

13 Sep: Pro-FMLN demonstrations in San Salvador and Santa Ana turned violent, as demonstrators in both cities directed gunfire at security police. In San Salvador, one policeman

[REDACTED]

was killed and three were wounded; in Santa Ana, four members of the armed forces and one civilian child were wounded. Police confiscated firearms, grenades, molotov cocktails, and other weapons from marchers. [REDACTED]

27 Sep: FMLN guerrillas kidnaped two Salvadoran employees of World Relief, a private voluntary organization that assists displaced persons. One of the employees was released later that day. [REDACTED]

27 Sep: FMLN guerrillas seized and destroyed the Administration for Telecommunications (ANTEL) office in Antigua Cuscatlan, near the capital, in the fifth successful attack on an ANTEL office by the guerrillas in the course of a month. [REDACTED]

27 Sep: [REDACTED] FMLN guerrillas in San Miguel Department killed a family of four--Esteban Martinez, 34, his wife Santos Angelica Alvarado, 28, and their daughters Reyna Martinez Alvarado, 12 and Ana Graciela Martinez Alvarado, 9--for refusing to cooperate with the FMLN. [REDACTED]

5 Oct: Members of an FMLN student front group beat another student to death on the campus of the National University. The victim was accused of being a police informant. They later wrapped the body in a plastic bag and dumped it along a street several blocks away. [REDACTED]

6 Oct: Suspected FMLN guerrillas fired an East-bloc RPG-2 at an entrance to the Legislative Assembly Building in San Salvador. FMLN "urban commandos" later claimed credit for the incident. [REDACTED]

7 Oct: Suspected FMLN guerrillas in the capital attacked an administrative vehicle belonging to the Wackenhut Corporation, which provides additional security guards for the US Embassy on a contract basis. [REDACTED]

c. 9 Oct: FMLN guerrillas executed Ricardo Soto, a PDC official in Masahuat, Santa Ana Department. [REDACTED]

12 Oct: FMLN bombs damaged the La Torre de Cristal building in San Salvador. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

12 Oct: FMLN guerrillas blew up the administrative offices of a seaside resort in La Paz Department. [REDACTED]

14 Oct: A group of 40 FMLN guerrillas in Morazan Department abducted ten peasants for forced labor in building a new camp. [REDACTED]

14 Oct: Men dressed in camouflage and claiming to be members of the 1st Infantry Brigade forcibly removed four male civilians from their homes north of the capital and executed them with pistol-fire. Cartridge cases found at the scene indicate that the murder weapon was a Soviet-designed Makarov pistol. The 1st Brigade launched an investigation, as did the Catholic Church. On 23 Oct, Tutela Legal, the Catholic Archbishopric's Legal Aid and Human Rights Office, blamed the FMLN for the killings. [REDACTED]

15 Oct: FMLN guerrillas informed the civilian population in Perquin, Morazan Department that all men in the area between the ages of 13 and 35 would begin receiving military training immediately. The guerrillas also forced local residents to purchase various materials used for the construction of homemade explosives. [REDACTED]

17 Oct: At least seven people were injured when an explosive device was thrown at the Mejicanos town hall, located north of the capital. [REDACTED]

17 Oct: A bomb was detonated at the ARENA party headquarters in Santa Tecla, on the outskirts of San Salvador. A security guard was wounded. [REDACTED]

18 Oct: Government security forces discovered and deactivated two bombs placed in cars belonging to the Ministry of Public Works. The cars were parked in front of the Polytechnic University in San Salvador. [REDACTED]

18 Oct: A bomb went off outside a bakery in northern outskirts of the capital. The explosion resulted in property damage, but no injuries. [REDACTED]

18 Oct: A bomb destroyed a van parked in the capital, about one and one half miles northwest of the US Embassy. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

18 Oct: Police deactivated a bomb found approximately one mile from the US Embassy; the bomb reportedly had been thrown from a passing bus. [REDACTED]

18 Oct: Suspected FMLN guerrillas detonated two car bombs, that left nine people injured and damaged a restaurant and shopping mall. [REDACTED]

19 Oct: FMLN Commandante [REDACTED] ordered [REDACTED] families in [REDACTED] Chalatenango Department to leave their homes [REDACTED] or face execution. The families' names were on a list of suspected government collaborators or those deemed anti-FMLN. [REDACTED] guerrillas killed a farmer who defied the order; during the month of October, at least five other civilians were killed by guerrillas for similar reasons. [REDACTED]

21 Oct: Police deactivated an explosive device located six blocks south of the US Embassy. FMLN propaganda leaflets were found near the device. [REDACTED]

25 Oct: FMLN guerrillas abducted and killed Lucio Salvador, the physically-handicapped ARENA mayor of Sociedad, Morazan Department. [REDACTED]

27 Oct: The US AID building in San Salvador was struck by a US-made LAW rocket. [REDACTED]

30 Oct: FMLN guerrillas abducted Jose Alberto Lopez Lopez, PDC mayor of Guatagagua, Morazan Department, and later executed him. [REDACTED]

31 Oct: FMLN guerrillas assassinated Jose Ulises Hernandez, ARENA mayor of Nueva Granada, Usulután Department. [REDACTED]

1 Nov: Suspected FMLN guerrillas bombed the Quezaltepeque chapter headquarters of ARENA and the PDC. [REDACTED]

3 Nov: Two people were injured by shrapnel from an FMLN bomb planted at a San Salvador electrical power station. [REDACTED]

5 Nov: Suspected FMLN guerrillas fired a US-made M-72 LAW at the Sheraton Hotel in San Salvador, site of the OAS General Assembly meeting Nov 13-19. The rocket struck a service area on the second floor; at the time, over 1,000 people were attending receptions in two ballrooms located

[REDACTED]

below the point of impact. There were no reports of injuries. [REDACTED]

19 Nov: FMLN attacks partially destroyed the mayor's office and the telephone exchange in San Buenaventura, Usulután. [REDACTED]

22 Nov: During an attack on the town of Colon, La Libertad Department, FMLN guerrillas destroyed the mayor's office, telecommunications office, and a gas station. [REDACTED]

24 Nov: Suspected FMLN gunmen fired on the US AID building in San Salvador. [REDACTED]

24 Nov: A civilian, Orlando Guillen, was injured by the impact of one of three propaganda bombs planted around San Salvador. [REDACTED]

24 Nov: FMLN guerrillas used bombs to destroy six government cars parked in a San Salvador garage. The owner of the garage was injured in the incident. [REDACTED]

25 Nov: Guerrillas abducted and later executed Napoleon Alexander Villafuerte, ARENA mayor of Sesori, San Miguel Department. The FMLN took credit for the killing in a subsequent radio propaganda broadcast. [REDACTED]

25 Nov: Three people were wounded in a bomb attack on the home of Daniel Antonio Rivera the ARENA mayor of Mejicanos, a suburb of San Salvador. [REDACTED]

26 Nov: The daughter of an official of the National Conciliation Party was wounded when suspected FMLN guerrillas threw four grenades as they drove through a San Salvador neighborhood. One grenade exploded near the US Deputy Chief of Mission's home. Remnants of the grenades recovered the next day indicate they were Soviet-made. [REDACTED]

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