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# Bomb Blast Kills 4 in Nicaragua

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SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, May 31 —A bomb exploded last night during a news conference being held by Nicaraguan rebel leader Eden Pastora along the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border, wounding Pastora and two dozen others and killing two journalists, including one American, and two rebels.

Among the dead were Linda Frazier, 38, of Portland, Ore., who worked for the Costa Rican English daily The Tico Times, and Costa Rican television cameraman Jorge Quiros, 26. Officials of Pastora's rebel organization, the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, said a radio operator, Rosa Alvarez, had been killed, and a Red Cross official said a second rebel died.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast, which occurred shortly after Pastora had begun an evening news conference in his jungle headquarters at the Nicaraguan village of La Penca. The remote village, on the banks of the San Juan River, is not reachable by road and the reporters had traveled by dugout canoe from Costa Rica.

"It was a very strong explosion," said Costa Rican photographer Jose Antonio Venegas, who said he had just stepped from the second-floor room of the wooden building where the conference was being held and was unhurt.

"There was a big hole in the floor where everyone had been standing and people were crying, 'God help me. Please help me.'"

Witnesses said the blast seemed to come from the middle of the group of reporters, and there was speculation that explosives may have been placed in a piece of luggage and detonated by remote control.

[Brooklyn Rivera, one of the leaders of the four organizations making up the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, said the bomb apparently was hidden in a journalist's tape recorder, the Los Angeles Times reported. "We don't have all the evidence of what happened exactly, but we have information that one of the tape recorders contained the bomb," he said. He said the perpetrator is believed to have been one of the journalists. "We don't know who it would be, but we have some suspicions," he added.]

An official of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, Adolfo Chamorro, called the bombing a "terrorist act" committed "by either the extreme left or the extreme right."

Early today, as reports of the bombing in the remote area reached here, some Costa Rican officials accused Nicaragua's ruling Sandinistas of responsibility. Leaders of the rebel group initially accused the CIA, which has been at odds with Pastora.

Chamorro, reached at the San Jose hospital where Pastora was taken, said there had been no Sandinista forces in the area of the headquarters recently. When asked if the bomb might have been planted by a separate group of anti-Sandinista rebels, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, Chamorro said only that an intelligence team of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance was investigating at the scene.

Although the Costa Rican government several months ago banned Pastora from the country on grounds that his group's military activities compromised Costa Rican neutrality, officials said tonight that the wounded rebels had been allowed entry for humanitarian reasons.

In addition to the dead, rebel officials and Costa Rican Red Cross and hospital spokesmen said at least 24 persons, most of them journalists, were being treated for injuries.

Among the most seriously injured were Nelson Murillo, 23, a Costa Rican television reporter whose condition was described as grave; Reid G. Miller of The Associated Press,

and British journalist Susan Morgan, 40, a part-time correspondent for Newsweek magazine. Officials said Morgan suffered eye injuries and fractures in the arms and legs.

Immediately following the blast, according to United Press International correspondent William Cepedes, Pastora, 48, was on his feet and walking around the jungle compound supervising the lengthy evacuation of the wounded. According to authorities at San Jose's Clinica Biblica hospital, where he was brought early today, the rebel leader was being treated for first- and second-degree burns on his upper body and face, and shrapnel was being removed from his legs.

Over the past year, Pastora has been under pressure from the CIA and from factions within his own Costa Rica-based organization, known as ARDE, to join forces with the larger Nicaraguan Democratic Force, based in Honduras. Both groups receive funds from the CIA in their separate guerrilla wars against the Sandinistas.

A former Sandinista guerrilla leader, known as Commander Zero during the successful civil war against Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza, Pastora left the Sandinista government and began to fight against it on grounds it had brought the country into alliance with Cuba.

Although other ARDE leaders had supported a unity agreement with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, Pastora had rejected it because the other group's leadership includes former members of Somoza's National Guard.

Last week, Pastora said his funding had been cut off because he refused to join the Nicaraguan Democratic Force. Journalists at the news conference said Pastora had called it to discuss recent reports that he had withdrawn from ARDE because its other leaders had overruled him.