

UNCLAS 6F

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EL SALVADOR: JESUIT LINKS DEATHS TO ROMERO KILLING
PA1711032289 PARIS AFP IN SPANISH 0028 GMT 17 NOV 89
BY ARTURO GUDINO

EXCERPTS NO DATELINE AS RECEIVED -- THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF SIX MEMBERS OF HIS ORDER, INCLUDING IGNACIO ELLACURIA, RECTOR OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA), "ARE THE SAME ONES WHO KILLED MSGR OSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO, ARCHBISHOP OF SAN SALVADOR."

"I DO NOT WANT TO ACCUSE ANYONE, BUT IT IS OBVIOUS WHERE THE FACTS ARE POINTING," JOSE MARIA TOJEIRA JESUIT PROVINCIAL SUPERVISOR STATED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE HELD THIS AFTERNOON IN THE UCA CHAPEL, ONLY A FEW METERS FROM WHERE THE JESUIT PRIESTS AND TWO DOMESTICS WERE KILLED THIS MORNING.

THE PRIEST RECALLED THAT OVER THE WEEKEND THE GOVERNMENT RADIO NETWORK "LAUNCHED FIERCE ATTACKS AGAINST THE WORD INDISTINCT, SAYING THAT A FEW PRIESTS HAD TO BE KILLED IN THIS COUNTRY OR THAT THEY HAD TO BE PLACED IN FRONT OF THE CATHEDRAL SO THAT THE PEOPLE COULD KILL THEM BY SPITTING AT THEM," TOJERA NOTED.

ALSO, HE ADDED THAT ON MONDAY ARMED FORCES MEMBERS RAIDED THE HOMES OF ELLACURIA AND COMPANIONS. "ON THAT OCCASION THEY WERE QUITE CORRECT, ACCORDING TO WHAT FATHER ELLACURIA TOLD ME," ADDED TOJEIRA, WHO WAS QUITE UPSET DURING THE NEWS CONFERENCE.

"APPARENTLY THE MEN SAID THEY HAD REPORTS THAT THERE WERE WEAPONS IN THE RESIDENCES. OF COURSE THEY FOUND NOTHING, AND FATHER ELLACURIA INVITED THEM TO RETURN ON TUESDAY AND GO THROUGH THE UCA CAMPUS, BUT THEY DID NOT DO SO."

ALSO, TOJEIRA CONFIRMED THAT ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING THERE WAS TIGHT SECURITY IN THE VICINITY OF THE UCA IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE CAPITAL.

"I DO NOT KNOW IF THE SOLDIERS LEFT THE PLACE LATER, BUT UP UNTIL 2200 ON WEDNESDAY, HOURS BEFORE THE HORRIBLE MASSACRE, THE SOLDIERS WERE THERE," TOJEIRA ADDED.

"THESE ARE THE FACTS. THEREFORE, WE SHARE THE OPINION OF ARCHBISHOP ARTURO RIVERA -- THAT THE ONES RESPONSIBLE ARE THE SAME ONES WHO ASSASSINATED MSGR ROMERO," HE ADDED.

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