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74 villagers shot by army, El Salvadoran peasants say

United Press International
SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Peasants from a western hamlet told two U.S. congressmen Salvadoran army troops rounded up 74 villagers, tied their hands behind the backs and shot them in the head.

In a meeting Tuesday at the San Salvador archdiocese office, villagers from the Las Hoyas land reform farm in Sonsonate province said on the night of Feb. 22 some 200 soldiers arrived at the co-op and began rounding up peasants.

They told Reps. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., and James Oberstar, D-

Minn., two men, aged 75 and 80, were among 74 peasants taken away by the troops.

"The soldiers returned, but they had no prisoners, and we were very sad," said one man. "We found one friend tied with his hand behind and his head destroyed by bullets. He was 75 years old."

"That's how we found the rest of them, the same, with their heads destroyed and the hands behind them," said the peasant spokesman. He blamed the soldiers for the killings.

There have been no arrests in the killings at Las Hoyas, about 40 miles

west of the capital.

Oberstar said he and Richardson met Sonsonate army commander Col. Elmer Gonzalez Araujo, who claimed the dead peasants were leftist guerrillas killed in a clash with government troops.

"Col. Gonzalez Araujo said, 'A Salvadoran with a machete is a dangerous man,'" Oberstar recalled. "I said, 'No colonel, a man with a machete is no match for a man with a gun.'"

The lawmakers also visited prisons where 645 men and 81 women are jailed under Decree 507 that has sus-

ended most constitutional rights since 1980.

Oberstar, who toured the capital's jail for women, said Decree 507 was a "gross violation of human rights. We will urge the Salvadoran government to take steps to repeal this law."

Richardson, who visited the Mariona men's prison, said he was impressed with the amount of political freedom. Some prisoners keep posters picturing revolutionary leaders like Ernesto "Che" Guevara in their cells. The Committee for Political Prisoners has an office in Mariona.

Election results in jeopardy; three candidates not on ballot

by Robert McGlohon
Battalion Staff

The names of three candidates remaining in student elections were left off the ballot most of Tuesday morning, which may cause parts of the election to be invalidated.

The three candidates whose names were omitted are James C. Becker Jr., candidate for junior yell leader; Chip Heath, candidate for engineering senator-at-large; and Jim Collins, sophomore engineering candidate.

Election commissioner Les Asel said he didn't know how the error had happened. The ballot was proofread several times, but the omission wasn't noticed, he said.

Asel said he didn't know who made the mistake, but as election commissioner he accepts full responsibility.

"It's my error," he said. "I am the sole authority and the sole operator of the elections; therefore, anything that goes wrong is my responsibility."

The errors went unnoticed until

about 10 a.m., when a candidate noticed the omission of Heath and Becker and informed election officials about the mistake, Asel said. Officials quickly corrected the error, he said.

"They got back on the ballot very early this morning," Asel said. "About an hour and a half after the polls opened they were back on the ballot. About 300 ballots had been cast at that time."

The omission of Collins wasn't noticed until after noon, Asel said, but his name had been added to the ballot by 12:30 p.m.

Election results will determine whether the elections affected will have to be repeated, Asel said.

"I've got the ballots isolated that were voted on early," he said. "I will look at those and I will see how many people voted in those races at that time."

"We're going to have to look at the gap between the winners and losers.

We're going to have to see how many votes difference there is. If there's a 200-vote difference, there is really no way that I can say with 300 votes cast: 'Jim got 200.'"

The election will close at 6 p.m. today. Results will be announced shortly after midnight and posted outside the Student Government office at 12:30 a.m. Thursday.

Candidates may appeal the election within 48 hours of the posting.

"Everybody that feels that they didn't get their fair deal is allowed to appeal the election results," Asel said.

Appeals originally are decided by Asel. If candidates are dissatisfied with his decision, they then may appeal to the Judicial Board, which has final authority in deciding election appeals.

If Asel or the Judicial Board decide that the early ballots would have affected the three elections, only those elections will be repeated, Asel said. He said the election commission

doesn't have enough money to repeat the entire election.

Collins said he probably will file an appeal.

"I'm not certain yet, but I feel that I probably will," he said. "I've been running my own little survey about penciling in names and I've found that it's often detrimental."

Corrections were made by writing the candidates names on the ballots in pencil.

Even if the election is re-run, Collins said, the results still won't be the same as if the mistakes hadn't been made.

"It's going to be a lot more difficult because a lot of people probably won't be informed about it and know that it's going on," he said. "It probably will be more difficult to get people out because of the fact that the important positions will have already been decided."

Heath said he has not decided whether he will appeal and Becker was not available for comment.



staff photo by Bill Schulz

A view of the Arab world

Ali El-Jeryes, left, a senior mechanical engineering major from Amman, and Jamal Gutierrez, right, a junior civil engineering student from Nablus, wear traditional Arab dress and show hand-crafted objects from Arab countries in the Memorial Student Center. The display is part of International Week at Texas A&M.

Court approves Braniff jet sale

United Press International
FORT WORTH — Bankrupt Braniff International's plan to sell 20 of its idled jets to People's Express will be worth \$140 million to the airline, with most of the money going to secured creditors, a spokesman said.

Approximately \$15 million will be used for continuing maintenance and training by Braniff personnel, said Bob Ferguson, Braniff vice president.

A federal bankruptcy judge Tuesday approved bankrupt Braniff International's plan to sell the jets to People's Express for \$84 million.

The purchase, approved by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge John Flowers, would double the size of the Newark, N.J.-based carrier which currently flies 21 737 aircraft.

Part of the deal includes the lease of a 747 jet to PE for \$50,000 per month for 5½ months and \$250,000 for the next 48 months with an option to purchase the plane for either \$25 million or \$29 million, depending on when the option is exercised, Ferguson said.

He said PE would use the 747 to begin flights between Newark and London, a route already approved by the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Another part of the deal includes the sale of 20 727s for a net price of \$4.2 million each. Braniff will be left with 32 727s once the deal is signed, Ferguson said.

Although the contract does not compel PE to hire former Braniff workers, Ferguson indicated the carrier will look favorably on applications by such workers.

Unlike Braniff's efforts to begin a joint operating venture with California-based Pacific Southwest Airlines, the PE deal met relatively little resistance in Flowers' court.

"There were no competitors who attended the hearings and the various creditor groups resisted until the price was increased and then (they) basically agreed," Ferguson said.

He said Braniff first contacted PE as long ago as August or September of 1982 and "intensive discussions began about three weeks ago."

11,000 Texas farmers face bankruptcy

Hightower says farmers need help

United Press International
AUSTIN — Unless Congress acts to defer foreclosures on government-backed farm loans, Texas agriculture commissioner Jim Hightower says it will be "chopping off the hands that feed us."

Hightower told reporters Tuesday that about 11,000 Texas farm families are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy because they are facing foreclosures on loans from the Farmers' Home Administration.

"We're talking about the farm operators who produce the majority of our food," he said. "These are the hands you and I count on to feed us, and it is suicidal government policy to chop them off."

Hightower said 69 percent — the highest percentage in the nation — of the 16,000 Texas farmers who have loans from the FmHA are on the verge of foreclosure.

There are about 185,000 farmers in Texas.

A bill pending in Congress would defer farm foreclosures by FmHA and make emergency money available for additional loans.

"This legislation is a pragmatic action we can take this year to literally save thousands of farmers," said Hightower. "And we must pass it right now."

Hightower said of the state's more than 6,000 farmers who had FmHA operating loans last year, only about

600 were able to pay off their debts.

"It's important to realize that most farmers who might be considered poor managers were already out of business by 1982," he said. "So those who went under last year and those who are facing the same prospect this year are good, efficient, productive farmers."

Hightower said the delinquency rate in Texas is higher than the national average of 59 percent because the cost of farming is higher. The hardest hit Texas growers are those who produce cotton and rice, he said.

The delinquency rate in some Texas counties that produce mostly cotton and rice is running as high as 85 percent, he said.

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forecast

Cloudy to partly cloudy skies today with showers ending and a high of 72. Winds becoming northerly near 10 mph. Clear to partly cloudy tonight with a low of 49. Mostly clear skies Thursday with a high near 77.

Vote

Polls close at 6

Voting in Student Government elections will continue today at selected polling places on campus. Students may vote at the following places until 6 p.m.:

- Academic and Agency Building
- Academic Building
- Corps Quadrangle
- Memorial Student Center
- Zachry Engineering Center

Preliminary election results will be reported at 12:30 a.m. Thursday on the second floor of the Animal Pavilion. Results will be finalized at noon Thursday.

If available, election results will be reported in Thursday's issue of The Battalion.

Appeals will be accepted beginning at noon Thursday in the Student Government office, 216 Animal Pavilion.

Runoffs will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Women 'just like other cadets'

Editor's note: This is the third part of a five-part series on the Corps of Cadets.

by Melissa Adair
Battalion Staff

Like other cadets in the Corps, they do push-ups, have outfit runs and are subject to all the same rules and regulations. But there is one major difference — they are women.

Women in the Corps are different, but they say they contribute to the Corps just like any male cadet.

Valerie Sperandio, commanding officer of Company W-1, says that when she first joined the Corps, she was extremely apprehensive about it.

"It's real hard being a woman in the Corps," Sperandio says. "You tend to jump to conclusions."

She says she used to think the men in the Corps resented her being there, but now she realizes that she is a part of the Corps just like all the other cadets.

And Sperandio says she has a definite role in the Corps.

"Over the four years I've been here, I've come to the conclusion that my role has been to strengthen the position of women in the Corps — to help women become more a part of the Corps," she says.

Susan Melde, first sergeant for Company W-1, says all the women have contributed to the Corps.

"I think it's important for men to learn how to work with women," Melde says. "If there were no women in the Corps, the men might not see the importance of this."

But the reasons women join the Corps are varied.

Sandra Phillips, a senior flight

officer for Squadron 14, says she became interested in the Corps because she was an alternate for a Corps scholarship. Phillips didn't get the scholarship but decided to join anyway.

She stayed in the Corps because she became friends with the women in her outfit, Phillips says.

She knew one woman who joined just because it was the only way she could get a room on campus, she says. But the woman stayed in the Corps because she also began to make many friends.

Melde says she joined for two reasons. First, she says, she didn't know anyone at the University and joining the Corps seemed like a good way to meet people. Second, she said she thought joining would help her scholastically.

But many female cadets don't stay in the organization just because of friendships. They take the Corps seriously.

Of 13 senior female cadets, 11 are on contract and will enter the armed services when they graduate. Of 12 junior female cadets, 10 are on contract.

Despite their genuine interest in the Corps, the female cadets often are not taken seriously.

Phillips says freshman and sophomore male cadets many times don't respect junior and senior female cadets. But, Phillips says, she doesn't

let that affect her.

"I have realized that the ones (the male cadets) who won't come meet me like they are supposed to are really not worth meeting anyway," she says. "So I don't let it bother me."

Some of the women also say that many male cadets still have misconceptions about the female Corps members.

Phillips says some men don't believe the female cadets work as hard as the male cadets.

"For example," Phillips says, "men frequently ask if we actually do push-ups."

Sperandio says the men don't see all the work the women do because the female cadets are somewhat isolated in their separate dormitory.

Perhaps one of the greatest obstacles for women in the Corps is drawing the line between being a woman and being a cadet.

Phillips says: "You've got to learn to be a lady and play the Corps game at the same time. And that's not always easy."

But the women don't think being in the Corps has damaged their social lives much.

Melde says she thinks she has had more dates because she is in the Corps.

"Wearing this uniform I really stand out," she says. "And so guys