



AP/Wide World Photos  
A Salvadoran soldier fights fatigue during last winter's guerrilla offensive. Rumors of a high-level military shakeup are now circulating as an investigation into the murders of six Jesuit priests continues.

## Reports say shakeup hits Salvadoran army

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — While a Salvadoran government spokesman said President Alfredo Cristiani expects results within 90 days in the investigation into the murder of six Jesuit priests, rumors circulated of a major shakeup in the Salvadoran military high command.

But Salvadoran newspapers have reported no shakeup is under way and a Mexican newspaper, *La Jornada*, said Salvadoran armed forces press spokesmen would neither confirm nor deny the reports.

According to foreign news reports, Cristiani government spokesman Mario Sandoval announced May 1 that within 90 days criminal charges will be filed against military personnel believed responsible in the Nov. 16 murders. The announcement comes in the wake of revelations in Washington that the Cristiani government faces a possible 50 percent reduction in U.S. military aid if the killings are not resolved.

According to one report, a top army official has apparently fled the country in the wake of persistent rumors that a high-level shakeup is under way in the military.

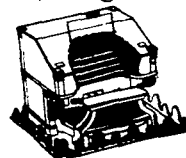
Col. Juan Orlando Zepeda, the vice minister of defense whose name has frequently been mentioned in press reports as a possible suspect in the planning of the Jesuits' murders, reportedly left San Salvador unexpectedly April 30 with his family and a large number of suitcases on a commercial flight bound for Miami.

Shortly after Zepeda's departure, said

the report, rumors began to circulate about the restructuring of the army high command. According to the rumors, Col. Rene Emilio Ponce, military chief of staff, will substitute for Gen. Rafael Humberto Larios as minister of defense.

In addition, Col. Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, commander of the Third Infantry Brigade, will take over as chief of staff. Col. Francisco Elena Fuentes, commander of the First Infantry Brigade, has been singled out as the successor to Zepeda as vice minister of defense.

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## Court favors women's 'bodily integrity'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The District of Columbia Court of Appeals ruled April 26 that a pregnant woman has almost unlimited rights to decide medical treatment for herself and her fetus.

Her right to "bodily integrity" permits her to refuse Caesarean delivery, even if that refusal may increase the fetus's risk of harm or death, the court said.

If the woman is no longer competent to decide, "the court must ascertain as best it can what the patient would do ... In virtually all cases the decision of the patient, albeit discerned through the mechanism of a substituted judgment, will control," the court said in a 7-1 ruling.

The lone dissenter, Judge James A. Belson, said the "very limited view" of the majority failed to address "the state's interest in preserving human life and the viable unborn child's interest in survival."

The ruling came in the appellate court's review of a 1988 case in which a District of Columbia Superior Court judge had ordered a Caesarean section on a pregnant woman, Angela Carder, who was dying of cancer and carrying a fetus slightly more than 26 weeks old. The baby died less than three hours after delivery. Carder, who before surgery had been expected to live 24 to 48 hours, died two days later.

Helen M. Alvare of the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. Catholic Con-

ference, said the language of the ruling "is so sweeping as to make the value of unborn life almost null."

Alvare, co-author of a friend-of-the-court brief that the USCC had filed in the case, said the appellate court judgment went beyond the framework of *Roe vs. Wade*, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion throughout the United States.

Even that Supreme Court decision "recognized a compelling state interest (in the life of the fetus) after viability," she said.

The Carder case has been watched closely by the medical and legal community throughout the country because it addressed two difficult issues that courts may increasingly be caught up in — often in emergency situations.

These, in the words of the majority opinion by Judge John A. Terry, were: "Who should decide the medical treatment of a mortally ill woman carrying a viable fetus? And how should the decision be made when the patient's own desires cannot be known?"

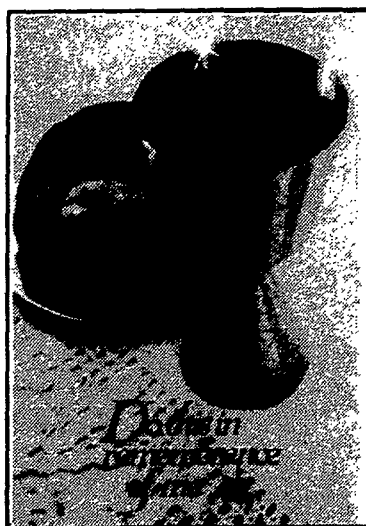
Although the appellate court's ruling is not binding outside its own jurisdiction, courts in other jurisdictions are expected to look to it for legal guidance because it is the first appellate court to review some of the legal issues that the case raised.

While the USCC had filed a brief backing the original court decision, a number of other organizations urged the appeals court to overturn it. Among those were the American Civil Liberties Union and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

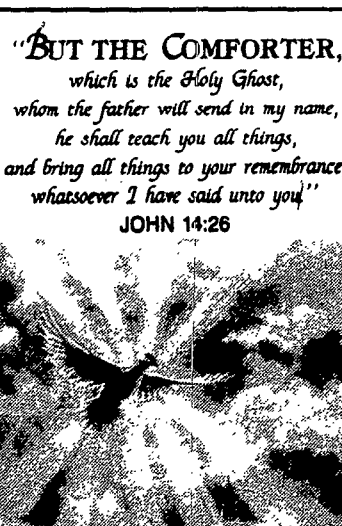
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"BUT THE COMFORTER,  
which is the Holy Ghost,  
whom the father will send in my name,  
he shall teach you all things,  
and bring all things to your remembrance,  
whatsoever I have said unto you"  
JOHN 14:26

### Marriage Encounter plans annual weekend campout

DANSVILLE — The annual Memorial Day weekend campout for Marriage Encounter couples, their families and friends will take place at Skybrook Campgrounds from May 25-28.

Those couples that can't make the entire weekend are welcome to attend the Mass and other activities on May 27. Call Bernie and Barb Helfert, 716/247-8720, for information.



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