

has been attributed, in part, to right-wing and military opposition to the Peace Accord and the resurgent electoral strength of the rightist Republican National Alliance (ARENA) party. It has also been attributed to a strategy by the left to escalate the level of violence in order to undermine the presidential elections. This situation of instability has been exacerbated by an apparent loss of control and influence by President Duarte and his administration and by the illness of the President himself. By no serious analysis, however, is El Salvador returning to the level of massive killings and abuses of the late 1970's/early 1980's.

CANADIAN POSITION:

Canada is concerned about the reported increase in violence in El Salvador, from both sides to the civil conflict in that country. Recent reports by Amnesty International and Americas Watch have been carefully studied, and their findings taken into account in our ongoing assessment of the human rights situation in El Salvador. The Government has taken every opportunity to express concern to the Government of El Salvador about the current situation. Our Ambassador to El Salvador has raised the matter with the Salvadoran authorities, and meets regularly with Salvadoran human rights organizations to hear their views. Senior Canadian officials visited San Salvador in mid-November, and again registered Canadian interest at the most senior levels of the Salvadoran government. Canada's concerns about the situation were also voiced in the recent UN debate on Human Rights. This complex question, will continue to be subject to careful monitoring and appropriate interventions.