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Only one U.S. semiconductor firm, Texas Instruments (TI), operates an assembly plant in civil war-torn El Salvador. Until a few years ago, TI employed 500 workers at Soyapango. When that plant closed, the company retained its factory at Ilopango, which currently has about 1,000 workers.

As in other countries, ninety percent of the workers are women. All supervisors are men. All top managers, engineers, and trainers are from the U.S. Reports the *People's World* (March 26, 1983), "In 1980 the average wage for production workers was \$4 a day." Union workers in other industries earned \$6 a day. At such low pay, many TI workers live in cardboard houses. In desperate need for work, some have reportedly been forced to sleep with supervisors.

In 1975 workers at Soyapango formed a union. TI, which is non-union throughout the world, refused to recognize it. The union grew despite repression by company security forces, and in March, 1980 workers participated in a general strike. The company fired 40 workers, and troops shot two sympathetic workers from a neighboring plant. Since then, government troops have bombed every office of the electronics workers' union and killed or driven into exile its leaders, virtually destroying the union.

For more information about the labor situation in El Salvador, contact the *Comite de Sindicalistas Salvadoreños en el Exilio*, Box 5533, Los Angeles, CA, 90055.