

Salinas

Continued from 1A

ity Program at the University Cultural Center near the ProNaF.

"I'm proud of what has been accomplished here," Salinas told a cheering crowd of about 7,000 Solidarity committee members. "You have taken an exhausted city filled with dust and wooden shacks, without water, light and sewerage, and are slowly turning it around. There's still a lot of work to do but with your help we can make Juarez an example of what a Mexican city should be."

But Ramon Galindo, a state representative for the opposition National Action Party, PAN, said he protested to Salinas in a private meeting about the amount of money being spent just to promote Solidarity.

"Those funds could best be used in Solidarity by the people to improve their living conditions even more," Galindo said at the airport after the president left.

Galindo said Solidarity money has been mismanaged at the local level, with many people paying out of their own pockets for materials that should have been coming from the city administration.

Before his 1 p.m. departure, Salinas visited a school renovated with Solidarity money, city materials and residents' labor at the Colonia Heroes de la Revolucion.



Rudy Gutierrez / El Paso Times

Laura Gaytan, left, Isela Olivas, center, and Eudelia Espinosa, all of Juarez, wore pictures of their sons they say disappeared after being involved in political activism. The women want President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who was visiting Juarez, to help find their sons.

He also saw statistics and graphs showing Solidarity money has been used to pave miles of roads and to bring electricity, water and sewerage to thousands of colonia homes.

"But more importantly, Solidarity has given us the dignity we needed to work together and to get things done together," said Eva Mora Gutierrez, who lives in one of the colonias Solidarity helped. "This is the first time the government has kept its promise and this is the first time that I'm participating in this type of program."

Salinas Tuesday also evaluated the Paisano Program, which is designed to make Mexicans who have left the

country feel welcome when they return. Mexican-Americans have complained of beatings and torture by Federal Judicial Police.

Salinas told a group of about 300 Mexican immigration, customs and tourist service providers at the Historical Museum in Juarez that Mexican-Americans visiting Mexico should be treated with all the respect and attention they deserve.

"The Mexican government must defend the rights of those *compatriotas* that live and work outside our borders," he said. "We can't do very much to protect them where they work, but we can and will protect them against abuses in their own homeland."