

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 492/90 (AMR 34/75/90, 5 December 1990) - Extrajudicial Executions

GUATEMALA: Pedro Damián Vásquez, aged 44
Nicolás Ajtujól Sosof, aged 25
Pedro Mendoza Pablo, aged 29
Gaspar Cos Sicay, aged 18
Pedro Cristal Méndez, aged 13
Gerónimo Sojuel Sisay, aged 10
Juan Ajuchán Nisia (also reported as Mesía), aged 17
Pedro Mendoza Catú, aged 18
Felipe Quiejú Culán, aged 53
Salvador Damián Yaquí, aged 50
Juan Pablo Sosof, aged 20

Amnesty International has learned the names (given above) of 11 of the 15 villagers killed in Santiago Atitlán on 2 December.

According to press reports, Defence Minister General Juan Leonel Bolaños Chávez said on Thursday 6 December that two soldiers, including a former military base commander, have been arrested in connection with the killings. General Bolaños reportedly said that the two soldiers would be tried in a military court on charges related to the killings in Santiago Atitlán. The Defence Minister is reported to have identified the two soldiers as Sergeant Major Efraín García González and Lieutenant José Antonio Ortiz Rodríguez (who had been in command at the Panabaj military base when the killings took place), and to have stated that Sergeant Major García González was responsible for provoking the killings.

Apparently, it has not yet been announced what specific charges have been filed against the men or where they are being held. Amnesty International will continue to follow the case.

Soldiers at the Panabaj military base at Santiago Atitlán, Sololá opened fire on a crowd of unarmed people on the evening of 2 December, killing 15 villagers and wounding 19 others, including a number of children. The government issued a statement lamenting the incident and promising an inquiry.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging that the terms of reference and composition of the investigatory body, that will carry out the inquiry promised by the government, be made immediately public, that its findings be made known as soon as they are available;
- noting that two soldiers have reportedly been arrested in connection with the killings, and urging that any criminal acts found to have been committed be referred to the tribunals;
- asking that steps be taken to ensure that all those injured in the attack at the military base receive adequate medical care;

- seeking assurances that the physical integrity of witnesses to the incident be guaranteed and that the relatives of the victims be offered appropriate compensation.

APPEALS TO:

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and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 January 1991.