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## **Guatemala: Guerrillas Held Responsible For Massacre Of 21 Civilians**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On the evening of Nov. 27, military patrols discovered the bodies of 21 civilians in an isolated area near the village of Aguacate, San Andres Itzapa municipality, Chimaltenango department. The bodies had been placed in several drainage ditches. According to government spokespersons, a guerrilla group the Organization of People in Arms (ORPA) was responsible for the massacre. The episode reportedly began on Nov. 22 when guerrillas abducted Carlos Guerra Callejas, a civilian consultant for the Army. Survivors told the Associated Press that two days later relatives and friends who were seeking his whereabouts entered into contact with the guerrillas. At that time, 20 persons, including evangelical pastor Antonio Olivares, were taken hostage. Army commanders at the Chimaltenango garrison were informed of guerrilla action. Later, soldiers participating in a search party clashed twice with the guerrillas, and discovered the corpse of Guerra Callejas. Among the dead were several persons with the Callejas surname, all relatives of Guerra Callejas. ORPA is one of three rebel armies under the guerrilla coalition, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG). The URNG includes the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP) and the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR). (Basic data from AP, 11/27/88)

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