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Guatemala: New Death Squad

by Deborah Tyroler

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A new death squad calling itself the "El Jaguar Justiciero" or "Doble J" (Double J) has claimed responsibility for the Dec. 13 assassination of merchant Augusto Gonzalez in Guatemala City. The group justifies its existence saying that it is necessary to "combat delinquency." In December, Defense Minister Hector Gramajo justified the existence of Civil Defense Committees in the capital city using the same rationale. In its message declaring responsibility for Gonzalez's death, the "Doble J" said execution of "persons, who under a political or ideological banner, commit crimes against honorable people" was required. [Basic data from 01/19/89 report by the Regional Coordinator Economic and Social Research (CRIES, Managua)]

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