

4-7-1989

## Guatemala: More Evidence On Military Cover-up Of November Massacre

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

---

### Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Guatemala: More Evidence On Military Cover-up Of November Massacre." (1989).  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/2920>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu).

## **Guatemala: More Evidence On Military Cover-up Of November Massacre**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Friday, April 7, 1989*

Recent evidence on the questionable nature of the official version of the massacre of 22 peasants near El Aguacate in November, 1988, was summarized by the Christian Science Monitor in its February 14 edition. \* According to relatives of massacre victims, two "witnesses" sent to testify before the US Congress in December were military informers who did not witness the massacre. \* On Feb. 7, the Center for the Investigation, Study, and Promotion of Human Rights in Guatemala published a report that blamed the Army. Center director, Factor Mendez, has since received death threats, and the group's office was strafed by machine-gun fire. \* On Feb. 9, six survivors of the massacre were summoned to the Chimaltenango Army base where, according to fellow villagers, they were urged to publicly denounce the guerrillas for the massacre. Helicopters have also rained leaflets on nearby villages which read: "You know the delinquent terrorists killed your relatives. Don't be deceived by organizations that only try to tarnish the prestige of the Army." \* The government human rights attorney, Gonzalo Menendez de la Riva, has yet to even meet with "witnesses" or survivors of the massacre. His two visits to the area "were more like a tourist trip than an investigation," says former adjunct attorney Arturo Martinez Galvez, who resigned in protest in January. "We didn't even open a file on the case," he said. As of mid-February, the US government was the only government to have publicly endorsed the Army's version of the massacre. According to army spokesperson Col. Luis Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez, further investigation is unlikely. He said, "We can't adorn our story any more. We know the area very well, so we don't have to investigate very much...We know that ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms] was operating in the area." Meanwhile the government, with the cooperation of a local mayor who donated municipal land, is building new houses in San Andres Iztapa for the massacre victims' 21 widows and their 54 children. "The Army told us to abandon El Aguacate," says one woman who lost several relatives in the massacre. "We don't have any water or electricity, but it's better here. We're not so scared anymore." (Summarized by Central America Resource Center, Minneapolis, Minn.)

-- End --