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## **Colombia: Mechanized Exhumation Of Mass Grave Halted**

*by John Neagle*

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On April 11, at the request of the Association of Relatives of Disappeared Persons (Asociacion de Familiares de Personas Desaparecidas), judicial and police authorities suspended mechanized exhumation of an estimated 100 cadavers at the San Pablo ranch, 150 km. east of Bogota. The dead are believed to have been abducted by death squads. Department governor Carlos Sabogal said excavation operations with the use of heavy equipment were suspended after the Association appealed to the Attorney General in a letter to proceed with the exhumation manually toward preserving "human remains." Chief of the National Security Department, Gen. Miguel Maza, complained that manual excavation is "very complicated because we are dealing with a hacienda of 25,000 hectares." [Basic data from El Nuevo Herald (Miami), 04/12/89]

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