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## **Guatemala: Soldier Captured, Treated For Wounds & Released By Guerrillas To Face Desertion Charge In Military Court**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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In early August, Army spokesperson Col. Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez announced that Carlos Perez Lopez, a soldier who had been captured, given medical treatment and then released by Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) forces, will face charges in the military courts. Rodriguez said that any soldier who "disappears" for three days or more is treated as a deserter, and that Perez was a "fugitive from justice." Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini of San Marcos has called on the government and the military to ensure fair treatment of Perez. The soldier's father had requested assistance from the bishop to locate and release his son. Perez Lopez has completed 11 months of his obligatory service in military zone 18, San Marcos. (Basic data from Teleprensa, 08/04/89, in 08/16/89 report by Guatemalan Human Rights Commission/USA)

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