

8-23-1989

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Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Nicaraguan Defense Ministry Reports On Recent Casualties." (1989). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/3308>

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Nicaraguan Defense Ministry Reports On Recent Casualties

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, August 23, 1989

According to a Defense Ministry statement released late Aug. 20, a contra unit ambushed an army truck on the Acoyapalas Animas highway, Magnolia, Chontales department on the evening of Aug. 19. Among civil guards and reservists traveling in the truck, two were killed and six wounded. Also on Aug. 19, contras ambushed government soldiers in the Los Gatos area, 20 km. southeast of Acoyapa. One soldier was injured. The Ministry reported that two contras were killed in both clashes, including a commander known as "Mechudo." According to a communique by the Defense Ministry released Aug. 22, clashes between contra units and government troops on Sunday resulted in at least eight dead and two wounded during five separate clashes. Two contras died, including a commander known as Cusuco, in an attack against an army patrol near the village of Santo Domingo, Chontales department, 130 km. east of Managua. Also in Chontales department, near Bocana de Paiwas, 150 km. east of Managua, a group of contras clashed with an army unit. Two contras died, and one soldier was wounded. In another clash, which took place in Tortuguero, South Atlantic autonomous region, a contra commander known as "Aragon," and one soldier were killed. One contra fighter died and a soldier wounded in fighting at Cabecera el Toro, 175 km. northeast of Managua. Finally, contras attacked government troops on Lindavista hill, Jinotega department, resulting in the death of one soldier. (Basic data from Xinhua, 08/21/89; Notimex, 08/22/89)

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