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Deborah Tyroler

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Guatemalan Army Kills Nine Members Of Civilian Self-defense Patrol In Case Of Mistaken Identity

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 19, the local news media reported that Guatemalan troops had killed nine members of a civilian self-defense patrol after mistaking them for guerrillas. The civilians were reportedly tracking rebels from the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG) Aug. 17 in the northern department of Alta Verapaz. A military patrol detected their presence and opened fire. In addition to nine dead, three members of the civilian patrol were wounded, two seriously. (Basic data from AFP, 08/19/89)

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