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Guatemala: Clandestine Cemetery Discovered In El Quiche

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 4, local press sources reported that during the weekend a clandestine cemetery containing 15 cadavers was discovered in the village of El Pericon, Uspatan jurisdiction, El Quiche department. Remains of three of the 15 were identified as relatives who had been "disappeared" by the persons who found the burial pit. Dr. Edgar Cancinos, chief of the Uspatan health center, said in a preliminary report that the victims had died in 1982, result of beatings and "other types of violence." Leaders of the Mutual Support Group (GAM), an organization representing relatives of disappeared persons, claims that dozens of clandestine cemeteries (mass graves) throughout Guatemala were created during the reign of terror in the late 1970s and early 1980s. (Basic data from Notimex, 03/04/90)

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