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El Salvador: Family Of French Nurse Want Soldiers Who Killed Her Tried In France

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 16 in Brest (France), attorney Gilberte de Boisvieux said the family of Madeleine Lagadec, a French nurse killed in El Salvador in May 1989, probably after having been raped and tortured by soldiers, wants those responsible to be tried in France. The attorney, who represents the family, said, "It is obvious there will never be a trial in El Salvador, where it is the army itself" that is in charge of investigating the case. De Boisvieux made her statement the same day Argentine naval Captain Alfredo Astiz was sentenced to life imprisonment in absentia in Paris for torturing two French nuns. The captain has since received amnesty in Argentina. Boisvieux said that, unlike what happened in the Astiz case, the slain nurse's family was filing a complaint alleging torture, assassination and acts of barbarism against a person or persons unknown. She added that she would no doubt "soon request the indictment of persons by name." According to the Salvadoran armed forces, Lagadec, who worked in an area controlled by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, died in an ambush. Friends at the field hospital where she worked said she was executed by the army in cold blood. (Basic data from AFP, 03/17/90)

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