

8-8-1990

El Salvador: Reports On New Massacre Of Civilians Turn Out To Be False Alarm

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "El Salvador: Reports On New Massacre Of Civilians Turn Out To Be False Alarm." (1990).
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4256>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

El Salvador: Reports On New Massacre Of Civilians Turn Out To Be False Alarm

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, August 8, 1990

Aug. 3: The Agence France Presse reported the brutal murders of five adults and six children, all members of the same family, in La Estancia, Morazan department. The incident allegedly took place on Aug. 2. AFP noted that the massacre took place in an area where the army is conducting counterinsurgency operations. Eusebia Chicas, the sole adult survivor, managed to escape with an infant and a nine-year-old boy. In statements to a local radio station, Chicas claimed a group of "heavily armed men" stormed into the family's home, and started shooting. In a later report, AFP provided additional details. The number of deaths increased to 14, and victims were described as members of two families. The killers wore face paint, and olive-green fatigues. Chicas reportedly told a local radio station that a group of men armed with rifles dragged the victims from their homes one by one and shot them in the street. Military sources said an "exhaustive investigation" was underway. Col. Mauricio Vargas, commander of the 3rd Infantry Brigade headquartered in San Miguel, told reporters that 11 persons had been killed, not 14. He added that while the crime could have been the result of conflict among family members, he would not rule out the possibility of rebel or army involvement. According to AP, the alleged massacre occurred in the town of Cacoopera, Morazan. AP cited Col. Oscar Leon Linares, spokesperson for the San Francisco Gotera garrison, as saying, "There were no such assassinations." The colonel said a woman traveled 10 about 15 km. miles from Cacoopera and told police that six people were killed, then told a radio station 11 had died. At least one newspaper and several radio stations carried the report Friday. AP said reporters spoke with some of the persons who were "supposedly killed," or with their relatives. The woman who reported the crime was described as mentally ill. Aug. 4: AFP reported that the military press office, COPREFA, denied the crime ever took place. Aug. 5: Tutela Legal, the human rights monitoring and defense office linked to the San Salvador Archdiocese, released a statement describing the reported massacre in Morazan department as a false alarm created by a woman "under the influence of alcohol." Tutela Legal investigators visited the locale and recorded statements by persons who had reportedly been killed in the incident. Ms. Chicas, said the organization's statement, was taken to San Salvador for medical treatment at the request of her family. According to Notimex, the alleged massacre occurred in the Tierra Blanca area of Cacoopera, Morazan department. (Basic data from AFP, 08/02/90, 08/03/90; AP, 08/03/90; Notimex, 08/05/90)

-- End --