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Guatemala: Army Officers Accused In Murder Of U.S. Citizen

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Sept. 27, the Mutual Support Group (GAM) charged two army officers with participating in the murder of US citizen Michael Devine in June. After meeting with a UN representative who was given a list of human rights abuses, GAM spokespersons told reporters that Col. Mario Garcia Catalan and Nito Cabrera were involved in the killing. On Sept. 26, AFP quoted unidentified officials as saying that four soldiers had been charged with Devine's murder, but that they had not yet been arrested because police expect the armed forces to deliver them. The soldiers pertain to the army's Kaibiles contrainsurgency unit. The Kaibiles operate in the northern jungles, where Devine was kidnapped, tortured and killed. Unidentified police spokespersons were quoted by AFP as saying that arrest warrants were issued for the soldiers, but were promptly quashed because it was up to the army to surrender the suspects. (Basic data from AFP, 09/26/90, 09/27/90)

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