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## **Salvadoran Human Rights Group Says Mexican Citizen Tortured & Killed By Soldiers**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Oct. 11, the independent Salvadoran Human Rights Commission (CDHES) announced that Mexican citizen Gerardo Mejia, who fought alongside the Salvadoran rebels, was not killed in a firefight with soldiers as reported by the armed forces press office. Instead, Mejia was "tortured by the soldiers prior to being assassinated." According to military sources, Mejia died Sept. 26 in a clash between soldiers and guerrillas in the village of Santa Clara, San Vicente department. CDHES spokesperson Celia Medrano cited statements by witnesses, who said Mejia "was captured alive" on Sept. 26, "and he asked the soldiers not to kill him." The CDHES report coincides with a statement by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) which said Mejia was "captured, tortured and assassinated" by soldiers. The FMLN acknowledged that Mejia had joined their ranks. CDHES investigators visited Santa Clara on Oct. 8, following the exhumation of the corpse by judiciary officials. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 10/11/90)

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