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Guatemalan Rebels Question Legitimacy Of Elections

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Dec. 10, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) leadership released a communique questioning the legitimacy of the Jan. 6 presidential run-off. The URNG said Guatemala "is far from a valid, functioning and participatory democracy," and that truly democratic options were absent in the Nov. 11 election. According to the communique, the elections took place in an atmosphere of generalized military and state repression. Consequently, the extremely low voter turnout was a reflection of Guatemalans' apathy and rejection of the electoral process. The URNG said it had no intention of attempting to sabotage the January run-off, but sabotage of the nation's electricity grid and telecommunications infrastructure would continue. The rebels asserted that as long as there are no major changes in the "regime of militarization, repression and violation of human rights," conditions in Guatemala will deteriorate. (Basic data from AFP, 12/10/90)

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