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Guatemala: Riot Police Oust Squatters

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Nov. 26, riot squad police ousted 128 families from a squatter village in "Zone 12" of Guatemala City. The police had reportedly been requested by the owner of the property to take action against the homeless persons. The squatters were charged with usurpation of land, which carries a maximum three-year prison term. According to Leticia Guajaca, a spokesperson for the squatters, prior to occupying the area, the squatters had received a pledge from the state-run housing bank, BANVI, that they would be resettled elsewhere. She said that since the Nov. 11 elections, the pledge has been forgotten. (Basic data from Cerigua Weekly Briefs, 11/25-12/01/90)

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