

5-8-1991

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Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "El Salvador: Three Convicted In 1985 Slaying Of 13 In Cafe Shooting Incident." (1991).
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El Salvador: Three Convicted In 1985 Slaying Of 13 In Cafe Shooting Incident

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, May 8, 1991

In a May 4 communique, military court officials announced that three persons were sentenced to prison for their roles in a June 19, 1985, shooting incident in San Salvador which left 13 people dead. William Celio Rivas received a 25-year sentence for planning and implementing the multiple murder; Juan Miguel Garcia, 11 years, for participating in the shooting; and, Jose Abraham Dimas Aguilar, four years, for helping plan the assault. The shooting occurred at two outdoor cafes in a wealthy suburb, resulting in the deaths of four off-duty US Marines who worked as guards at the US Embassy; two US businesspersons; one Chilean; one Guatemalan; and, five Salvadorans. Witnesses testified that the assailants wore Salvadoran army uniforms. According to military officers, the three men are members of the Central American Revolutionary Workers Party (PRTC), part of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). Rebel spokespersons have consistently denied any role in the massacre. (Basic data from AP, 05/04/91)

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