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Guatemala: New Suspect Arrested In Criminal Investigations Chief Murder Case

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Aug. 28, National Police (PN) director Col. Mario Paiz told reporters that Gonzalo Cifuentes Estrada was arrested in connection with the Aug. 5 murder of Jose Miguel Merida, director of the PN criminal investigations division. (See CAU 08/07/91, 08/09/91, 08/16/91 issues on previous coverage of Merida assassination.) According to Paiz, Cifuentes Estrada killed Merida because of personal differences, and was also involved in other crimes. Police had previously arrested former police officer Alfredo Guerra Galindo on suspicion of involvement in the assassination. Paiz said further investigation led to evidence implicating Cifuentes Estrada. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 08/28/91)

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