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Nicaragua: Armed Forces Chief's Bodyguards Suspected Of Killing 15-year-old

by Deborah Tyroler

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At a Sept. 4 press conference, Deputy Hernaldo Zuniga said a report submitted by three Venezuelan experts investigating the Oct. 28 shooting death of 15-year-old Jean Paul Genie states that the main suspects are armed forces chief Gen. Humberto Ortega's bodyguards. Zuniga said the report, which followed a two-week investigation, determined that Genie's wounds indicate he was shot at point-blank range. [According to daily newspaper La Prensa, Ortega's bodyguards shot the boy to death on the outskirts of Managua when he tried to pass them in his vehicle.] The report by the Venezuelan experts said 47 cartridge shells from four different weapons were found at the scene of the crime. The experts also determined that gunshots originated from two separate vehicles. On Sept. 6, Ortega rejected the report on grounds that the findings were "very politicized." (Basic data from EFE, 09/04/91; AFP, 09/04/91, 09/06/91)

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