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## **Honduras: Evidence "manipulated" In Riccy Mabel Martinez Murder Case**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Oct. 14, attorney Linda Rivera, representing relatives of murder victim Riccy Mabel Martinez, accused Denis Castro, director of the Health Ministry's forensic medicine department, of caving in to military pressures and "manipulating" evidence sent to US laboratories for analysis. Honduran officials arranged to send blood, semen, pubic hair and urine samples from prime suspects Col. Angel Castillo Maradiaga and Capt. Ovidio Andino Coello to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) labs in Florida for analysis. Local press sources indicate that Castro also sent samples from two other persons to a private US lab. Daily newspaper El Heraldo (Tegucigalpa) reported that the results from the private US lab had been sent to the Honduran Embassy in Washington and relayed to Tegucigalpa through non-official channels. On Oct. 16, Castro said the presiding military court judge in the case instructed him to dispatch the samples to the private lab, and the Supreme Court of Justice was not consulted by the judge. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Eugenio Castro told reporters that US officials had delivered the FBI report to Honduran Embassy officials in Washington. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 10/14/91, 10/16/91)

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