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Guatemala: Military Officer Receives Jail Sentence For Role In Santiago Atitlan Massacre

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On Oct. 19, a military court sentenced Sgt.Maj. Efrain Garcia Gonzalez to 16 years in prison for his role in the December 1990 Santiago Atitlan massacre which left 13 civilians dead and 12 wounded. According to Attorney General Acisclo Valladares, "This sentence begins a process of ending [military] impunity in Guatemala, and is in line with President Jorge Serrano's pledge to establish law and uphold the human rights of all citizens." Garcia Gonzalez is the first military officer to receive a prison sentence for murdering civilians since the end of Guatemala's military regimes in 1986. (Basic data from AP, 10/23/91)

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