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Deborah Tyroler

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Guatemala: Police Arrest Two Suspects In Connection With Recent Massacre

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 23, police spokesperson Carlos Wer reported the arrest of Humberto Alvarez and Julio Cesar Hernandez in connection with the Oct. 18 massacre of nine members of an extended family in Volcancillo, Baja Verapaz department. Wer said the two men were arrested after seeking treatment for machete wounds at the general hospital in Salama, capital of Baja Verapaz. Hernandez was identified as a former army intelligence (G-2) member. According to Wer, the murders may have been motivated by a land dispute. The report noted that three persons survived the massacre: Juana Dolores Rosales, 20; her five-year-old niece Hilaria Rosales Garcia; and, Rosales' brother, who was not identified by name. The three were treated at the Salama hospital for multiple machete wounds to the head and face. Rosales told reporters, "My husband and I were in bed when several men broke into the house, asked us where the money was, and then opened fire. [My husband] died in the bed. I was wounded with a machete, but was able to hide myself." Rosales said the assailants stole \$300. (Basic data from AFP, 10/23/91)

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