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Civilian Agents Employed By Army Resign Over Forced Recruitment Of Guatemalan Youths

by Deborah Tyroler
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Cerigua recently reported that civilians working for the military in Chiche, El Quiche department, resigned over forced recruitment methods employed by the military. In a joint statement, the former recruiting agents said, "For some time now [the army] has forced us to recruit young men encountered in parks and traveling on highways. In the last few months, army officers have made us take them from our communities." The civilian agents said they had turned in their credentials and sent copies of their resignations to the Supreme Court of Justice and the Human Rights Attorney General's office. According to the former agents, the army reserve commander in El Quiche accused them of collaboration with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG). (Basic data from Cerigua Weekly Briefs, 11/03-09/91)

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