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Guatemala: Note On Escuintla Murders

by Deborah Tyrolier
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On Nov. 25, the Mexican government's international news service Notimex reported that Attorney General Acisclo Valladares told members of the Mutual Support Group (GAM) that Capt. Anibal Giron, commander of the Pacific naval base, had acknowledged his participation in the murder of 11 truck drivers and customs agents in Escuintla department last August. Valladares, who initially denied the report, later said that President Jorge Serrano requested that he testify concerning his knowledge of Giron's confession to the crime. In September, Giron was acquitted of involvement in the crime based on lack of evidence. He was subsequently removed from his post, and will be newly prosecuted without the benefit of immunity enjoyed by base commanders.

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