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On Dec. 12, forensic physician Patricia Garcia told reporters that remains of three women and four girls, believed to have been murdered by soldiers in 1983, were exhumed from a common grave near Tunaja, Sacualpa, El Quiche department. One of the children was a two-month-old baby. The others were three, five and nine years old at the time of death. Garcia said the victims' bones were "completely calcified," thereby eliminating the possibility they were killed by a grenade explosion. The physician added that the seven had apparently been shot, placed in the grave and then burned. The excavation took place outside Tunaja and was observed by Mutual Support Group (GAM) president Nineth de Garcia and representatives of the Human Rights Attorney General office and the Interior Ministry. A GAM spokesperson said that at the time of the murders, the villages in the area were occupied solely by women. "The men had fled because of the violence," she said. The victims were shot, placed in the grave and then burned. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, ACAN-EFE, 12/15/91)

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