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El Salvador: Thousands Commemorate El Mozote Massacre

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On Dec. 12, over 4,000 persons participated a 200 km. procession from Arambala to El Mozote, Morazan department, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 1981 El Mozote massacre. Investigations by the Catholic archdiocesan human rights office, Tutela Legal, indicated that soldiers pertaining to the Atlacatl Battalion killed 1,000 civilian men, women, and children over a two-day period. [See CAU 11/15/91 for coverage on Tutela Legal findings.] Most of the demonstrators were residents of resettlement communities, or former refugees who lived in Honduras for nearly a decade. A delegation of human rights organization representatives was detained at a military post in San Francisco Gotera, capital of Morazan, and prevented from participating in the commemoration on grounds that they lacked proper safe conduct authorizations. Tutela Legal director Maria Julia Hernandez told reporters that the Supreme Court of Justice had authorized exhumation of common grave sites in El Mozote to begin in February 1992. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 12/12/91)

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