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Nicaragua: Chronology Of Political Violence & Related Events, December 7 - January 5

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Dec. 7: According to daily newspaper Barricada, a group of recontras led by "El Guapote" assassinated recontra commander "El Campeon." Dec. 9: Daily newspaper La Prensa reported that recontra leader Jose Angel Moran ("Indomable") said he would set fire to any vehicle entering the area in Jinotega department under his control. Dec. 10: Barricada reported several persons wounded during fighting between recontras and recompas near the town of Rio Blanco, Matagalpa department. Next, according to Barricada, Sandinista Popular Army (EPS) officer Sgt. Jeronimo Quiroz Gutierrez was beheaded in Jalapa, Nueva Segovia department. The incident took place during the previous week. Dec. 12: Barricada reported that the mayor of El Rama, Zelaya department, was kidnapped by recompas and released unharmed several hours later. Recontras led by Indomable burned a vehicle in Yali, Jinotega department, and kidnapped the three passengers. Next, a group of recompas occupied the town of Murra, Nueva Segovia department, to pressure the government into taking action against recontras "Chele Rafael," "Mano Negra," and Indomable. Dec. 18: Military sources told reporters that five recontras kidnapped two government officials and a Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) party official in Waslala, Matagalpa department. Dec. 23: In Waslala, Matagalpa, recontras released Waslala police chief Jose Vega, FSLN political secretary Leonel Ortiz Urbina, and Natural Resources Ministry official Oscar Narvaez, kidnapped Dec. 18. Dec. 24: Military sources reported that recompas occupied the towns of Condega and La Trinidad, Esteli department. One person was killed, two others wounded, and several businesses were looted. Dec. 27: Two recontras and one civilian were killed and several other persons wounded during a recontra attack on the Las Vegas Sandinista cooperative, 170 km. north of Managua. Jan. 4: Nicaraguan military sources announced that recontras have begun disrupting traffic and intimidating people in the country's northern mountains. Jan. 5: A military spokesperson reported that an EPS officer and two civilians were wounded during a recontra ambush at La Concepcion, Matagalpa department. Next, recontras ambushed an Interior Ministry vehicle near Jinotega, capital of Jinotega department. (Basic data from La Prensa, 12/09/91; Barricada, 12/07/91, 12/10-12/91; Associated Press, 01/04/92; ACAN-EFE, 12/19/91, 12/23/91, 01/07/92; Agence France-Presse, 12/27/91, 01/07/92)

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