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Guatemala: Summary Of Recent Rebel Activities

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Dec. 9: According to Cerigua, Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) rebels caused 14 troop casualties in Escuintla department. Military spokespersons denied the report, and asserted that the rebels have lost international support and their actions are "isolated and desperate." Army sources say URNG combatants number "no more than 800." Dec. 11: Military spokespersons reported 10 soldiers killed and 15 others wounded during an ambush of a truck in San Marcos department. Jan. 1: In a communique, the URNG reported on rebel activity in the June 1-December 26, 1991 period. The rebels claimed 838 troop casualties in 292 rebel operations in Escuintla, Quiche, Peten, Sacatepequez, San Marcos, Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango departments. In addition, rebels attacked army installations on 33 occasions, and destroyed or damaged 10 helicopters. Jan. 16: URNG spokespersons reported 10 troop casualties at Chajul, El Quiche department. Next, rebels damaged an air force plane near Flores, El Peten department. The army press office (DIDE) reported one soldier killed and two others wounded at Puente Xalbal, El Quiche department. According to military sources, at least four rebels were killed and several others wounded in Chajul, El Quiche. [Guatemalan human rights organizations say at least 100,000 people have died over the past 30 years of hot and cold civil war. In addition, 1 million persons have been displaced, and 45,000 obtained refugee status in Mexico and elsewhere.] (Basic data from Cerigua Weekly Briefs, 12/22/91- 01/04/92; Agence France-Presse, 01/11/92; ACAN-EFE, 01/16/92)

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