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Four Civilians Massacred In Guatemala City

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Jan. 18, police spokespersons told reporters that armed assailants massacred four indigenous persons in a shantytown on the outskirts of Guatemala City. The victims members of the same family had arrived in the capital 10 days earlier, fleeing violence in San Pedro Jocopilas, El Quiche department. Neighbors told reporters that the killers wore army uniforms. Army spokespersons said no military operations were carried out in the area. On Jan. 21, army press office (DIDE) director Capt. Alberto Rivera told reporters that soldiers Eliseo Suchite Hernandez and Nicolas Gutierrez, on leave from the nearby La Selva military base, were responsible for the murders. He said the soldiers, who were drunk, argued with the victims and then shot them to death. Rivera said the suspects had been arrested and would face charges before a military court. On Jan. 22, Attorney General Acisclo Valladares told reporters that should the two soldiers be found guilty, the government will seek the death penalty. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 01/18/92, 01/21/92; ACAN-EFE, 01/21/92, 01/22/92)

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