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Guatemala: More On Investigation & Prosecution In Murder Of French Nationals

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Jan. 31 in Guatemala City, Attorney General Acisclo Valladares said that if juries turn in guilty verdicts in the murder trials of French nationals Philipe Lucien Andre Biret and Jean Philipe Paul Bernard, he would request the death penalty. Biret and Bernard are charged with the murder of two other French nationals in December. According to Valladares, the premeditated nature of the crime, and the unusual brutality used in killing the victims, merit application of the death penalty. On Feb. 3, Valladares told reporters that the Interior Ministry had requested assistance from Interpol to locate French national Ascione Thierry, wanted in connection with the same murders. Valladares said Thierry is believed to have left Guatemala for the US or France. (Basic data from Notimex, 01/31/92; Agence France-Presse, 02/03/92)

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