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AI Index: AMR 34/34/82

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**Massive extrajudicial executions in rural areas
under the Government of General Efraín Ríos Montt.**

**Amnesty International
Special Briefing**

July 1982

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GENERAL BACKGROUND: AI'S LONG-TERM CONCERNS IN GUATEMALA

For many years AI has been concerned at the wide-spread occurrence in Guatemala of "disappearances" and extra-judicial executions. Victims have included people from all sectors of Guatemalan society, including peasants and Indians, trade unionists, religious personnel, political leaders, journalists and the legal profession. Successive governments over a period of nearly two decades have blamed the killings on extremist groups of the left and right which were "out of government control". During periods of insurgency (such as the late 1960s and the present), the authorities have also claimed that some of the victims died in confrontations between the official security forces and guerrilla groups.

AI is aware that the wide-spread "disappearances" and extra-judicial executions of recent years have occurred in the context of civil conflict between government forces and guerrilla groups. It is also aware of reports that in the context of the current insurgency, opposition forces have reportedly executed hostages in their custody, or killed individuals whom they accused of being involved in repression.

However, after studying the occurrence of "disappearances" and extra-judicial executions in Guatemala in detail for many years, Amnesty International has concluded that the vast majority of such abuses in Guatemala are carried out by semi-official paramilitary "death squads", operating under government control or with government complicity.

Most recently, for example, in February 1981, AI published a report saying that the links between "death squads" to whom the government attributed the violence and the authorities had been particularly blatant and explicit during the presidency of President Romeo Lucas García. AI's 1981 report documented its conclusion that there had been during the Lucas García presidency official involvement at the highest level in an orchestrated government program of illegal actions, including wide-scale "disappearances" and extra-judicial executions directed at opponents or presumed opponents of the Lucas García government.*

THE MARCH 1982 COUP AND ITS AFTERMATH

General Efraín Ríos Montt assumed power in a junta with General Horacio Maldonado Schaad and Colonel Francisco Luis Gordillo on 23 March 1982, annulling the results of Guatemala's March elections. In those elections, as had become customary in Guatemala, the man declared victorious (General Anibal Guevara) had served the outgoing President as Minister of Defence and was his handpicked successor. Also following past patterns in Guatemala was the fact that the elections were almost unanimously

* Further background on Amnesty International's long-term concerns in Guatemala are given in AMR 34/26/82, "AI's concerns in Guatemala, as related to the coup in Guatemala of 23 March 1982".

denounced as fraudulent.

Upon taking power, the three-man military junta declared that it intended to ensure a return to the respect for human rights in Guatemala, and announced that a new body had been formed to receive denunciations from relatives concerning "disappearances". Some civilian officials who had been involved in repression during the previous regime were placed under arrest, and the Cuerpo de Detectives (Detective Corps) of the national police, popularly known as the policia judicial (judicial police), repeatedly cited over the years as responsible for large-scale human rights violations including "disappearances" and extra-judicial executions, were declared disbanded. The government called for all guns not in the hands of the official security forces to be turned in and declared that it intended to ensure an end to the killings.

In the immediate aftermath of the coup, death squads killings did appear to decrease in the urban areas, and the unmarked cars known to be used by the judicial police were said to have disappeared from the capital's streets.

However, in succeeding weeks the "judiciales" were reportedly once again back in operation*, many civilians were openly seen to be still armed and persistent reports were received that large-scale massacres of indigenous peasants had been intensified in the countryside. In May, a group of Indians entered the Brazilian Embassy in Guatemala City to call world attention to the massacres, which they said had involved the deaths of hundreds of non-combatant civilians at the hands of the military and massive destruction of crops, livestock and property** since the new government had taken power in March.

A United States congressional fact finding mission that visited Guatemala in May 1982 concurred, stating that "Army massacres of civilians are continuing in some parts of the country despite a sharp drop in security-attributed violence in other areas".

Then, on 9 June, General Efraín Ríos Montt, leader of the new junta, announced that he had dissolved the junta and was assuming the country's presidency and command of the armed forces. The other two junta members, General Horacio Maldonado Schaad and Colonel Francisco Luís Gordillo, were stripped of all of their posts, including their cabinet portfolios (of Minister of the Interior and Minister of Communications, respectively), and it was announced that they had resigned from the junta.

One week later, General Ríos Montt replaced the country's 324 elected mayors with his own appointees. On 29 June he ordered that any official communiques could be issued only by the President's public relations office.

* On 21 April, the junta officially announced that the Cuerpo de Detectives had officially been disbanded; simultaneously, the Policia Nacional (National Police) announced that a new group, the Comando de Operaciones Especiales (COE), had been formed and would serve as a support force in counter insurgency actions. Another new group, to be called the Departamento de Investigaciones Técnicas (Department of Technical Investigations) has also been formed by the National Police. It is believed that it will carry out many of the functions formerly performed by the Cuerpo de Detectives.

** See AMR 34/24/82, Occupation of the Brazilian Embassy, 25 May 1982

In June, the authorities had offered a thirty-day amnesty to opposition groups, calling on them to lay down their arms and abstain from violence. The amnesty offer was to terminate on 30 June; from that date, General Ríos Montt announced that he intended to declare a "state of war" in the departments of El Quiché, Huehuetenango, San Marcos and Quezaltenango. At the same time he has also recently given some indication that he would be willing to negotiate with his opponents. Ríos Montt has also recently announced that the elections which the initial junta had originally promised would take place in a matter of months have now been postponed until 1985; he said that this had become necessary for reasons of national security, as he had learned that "elements linked to the overthrown regime had been plotting against him".

On 1 July, when the announced amnesty expired, General Ríos Montt declared a state of siege, the first in Guatemala since 1978, and announced the following measures:

- under the state of siege provisions, the armed forces are empowered to arrest and hold suspects without charge and without the right of habeas corpus;
- the military can also temporarily take over private homes and vehicles;
- government troops and police will be able to legally break into homes and offices at night;
- all Guatemala's former soldiers under the age of 30 are to start registering at military bases for possible call-up.

In a further decree issued on the same day, General Ríos Montt was empowered to select special court judges empowered to sentence to death guerrillas found guilty of murder, sabotage, terrorism and treason. Any insurgent sentenced to death will have no right of appeal and will not be eligible for presidential pardon. (The Guatemalan Constitution of 1965 provides in Article 54 that "The death penalty shall be considered extraordinary and may not be applied to persons guilty of political crimes".) AI knows of only a few cases in recent years where people have been subjected to the legal death penalty, allegedly on common law charges but actually for politically motivated reasons. The last known execution of this type occurred in 1975.

Finally, in another communique issued by Ríos Montt, which under the state of siege carries the force of an official order, the media were banned from broadcasting any reports about leftist guerrilla activity not issued by the President's public relations office, and all political party activity was banned.

Meanwhile, in response to the continuing reports of massacres in the countryside (see attached list of those reports which have reached Amnesty International) the government has repeatedly maintained that those killed were guerrillas who died in clashes with official government forces or that it is the guerrilla groups who were responsible. On some occasions, according to the official explanation, members of armed opposition groups

have donned stolen army uniforms and carried out killings, in order to convince local and international public opinion that the military is still responsible for repression against the rural population.

The opposition groups as well as campesino organizations, Indian groups and Christian groups such as the Justice and Peace Committee, on the other hand, accuse the government of responsibility for a series of incidents in recent months during which men, women and children have been killed. Detailed reports of killings since the March coup which have been prepared by these groups tell of men being beheaded, women burnt to death and children bashed to death against rocks. Among those who died in incidents in May in El Quiché, for example, were several pregnant women and a number of children including MARTINA XEN, aged 7 months. According to the campesino, church and opposition groups, such killings of obvious non-combatants form part of a stepped-up government counter-insurgency program intended to clear areas in active contention of their civilian population in order to eliminate any possible base of logistical support for the opposition.

Certain areas have already been cleared of their populations. Their former inhabitants have either been killed or have fled either across the borders to Mexico or Honduras, to larger cities in the area or into the mountains or jungles surrounding threatened villages.

As stated, according to the reports prepared by non-government sources, it is the regular military forces or newly-formed government-sponsored civil defence groups who have been responsible for the massacres and massive destruction of crops and property which has led to this exodus.

The Comité de Unidad Campesina (CUC), Committee for Peasant Unity, the Movimiento Indígena, Indian Movement, as well as the Justice and Peace Committee report that the civil defence patrols are nothing more than a new form of paramilitary band, led by soldiers and local military commissioners and spies. They charge that peasants have been told that if they do not join the patrols, they will be killed and all of their property burned. They also allege that the Army has also offered those joining the patrols the lands, harvest, belongings and women of the peasants massacred. Many of the massacres which the government has blamed on the guerrillas have actually been carried out by these new civilian groups, according to the reports received by Amnesty International. During an interview carried out in April by a foreign journalist, a transcript of which is in Amnesty International's possession, civil defence patrol members from Baja Verapaz admitted that they had been involved in such atrocities. They stated that they acted under the orders of military commanders who instructed them to consider as "involved" anyone they found over the age of 12 in areas or houses considered suspicious by the commanders. They were told to seize such people and kill them. Even younger children, if they too were felt to be "involved", were to be summarily executed. The testimony stated that until recently, the women had been left alone in the houses when the men were taken off, but that now women were being routinely raped, even those that were pregnant. One member of the squad told his interviewer that in one case a woman was raped five days after giving birth, when she had left her home to bathe the baby. He also reported having seen people drowned and mutilated

and said he had seen several people's ears being cut off. His brother-in-law had told him of witnessing stranglings by garotte. The soldiers who directed these civilian squads were, according to the informant, also young Indians, obliged by their commanders to order the civilian defence squads to commit such atrocities.

Another member of the patrol told of seeing a man who tried to escape being recaptured. All his muscles were cut and gunpowder placed in his navel and set on fire. The victim's eye was put out, and his skin was then peeled off. The soldiers joked that they were going to have a barbecue.

The testimony also told of civilian defence patrol members being told that they should denounce their fathers, brothers, children or other relatives that they suspected might be mixed up in opposition activities.

The men giving the testimony also spoke of the same soldiers who had carried out atrocities in villages returning to hand out toys to the local children as part of a "civil action" program intended to win support for the government. After giving out the toys, the soldiers then took all the men of the village who had appeared for the gathering to the village clinic. Later, only six bloody ears were found there.

Those that do not want to patrol, they said, were killed. On other occasions, it is reported that the military, acting alone, have carried out such killings while in plain clothes to make their attribution difficult. It is also charged that government representatives have been buying up large amounts of the distinctive indigenous clothing which are usually sold to tourists and have dressed the troops in this clothing prior to ordering such massacres, in order to discredit the opposition groups.

ATTRIBUTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MASSIVE EXTRA-JUDICIAL EXECUTIONS OF NON-COMBATANT CIVILIANS SINCE THE COUP

Amnesty International is unable to verify in each instance who has actually been responsible for particular large-scale extra-judicial executions. However, it is relevant to note various public statements made by current Guatemalan officials concerning the military strategies they are implementing.

When asked during an interview with foreign journalists, for example, about the 1981 Amnesty International report which implicated the former president, General Romeo Lucas García, and the official security forces in civilian massacres, General Ríos Montt denied that any Guatemalan general could order the death of an innocent person. However, when pressed further about reported massacres of civilians, including women and children, since the coup which brought him to power, Guatemala's new military leader replied: "The problem of war is not just a question of who is shooting. For each one who is shooting there are ten working behind him". The President's Press Secretary Francisco Bianchi continued: "The guerrillas won over many Indian collaborators. Therefore, the Indians were subversives. And how do you fight subversion? Clearly you

had to kill Indians because they were collaborating with subversion. And then it would be said that you were killing innocent people. But they weren't innocent, they had sold out to subversion".

Such attitudes are also reportedly instilled in the troops, many of them illiterate conscripts. One young soldier on patrol in a remote mountain village told a foreign correspondent concerning the guerrillas that "There are so many of them. Very few are armed. But we have to kill them".

Following a disputed group of killings which occurred in the middle of May, a former soldier acknowledged to another foreign newsman that the army had burned the village in question and killed many of the inhabitants because "they were subversives".

Amnesty International's 1981 report on Guatemala, already referred to, included the testimony of a former Indian transcript soldier, who told of the ideological training all transcripts were given with respect to the identification of "subversives" and the military's right to kill them.

More recently, post-coup thinking as to how to defeat the opposition was revealed more formally in a confidential four-page document circulated in April by the Guatemalan military called "National Plan of Security and Development", a copy of which has been made available to Amnesty International. This plan stated that "The manpower, armaments and equipment of the Guatemalan army is not adequate to cover the different fronts presented by armed subversion". It declared that "changes in the basic structure of the State" would therefore be necessary, and called for a public campaign of "psychological action at all levels" to win popular support while the junta privately "increased the legal and functional capacity of anti-subversive organisms" and created "at the highest political level, an organism for the direction of anti-subversive functions".

In the succeeding months following the formulation of the plan, the pace of rural massacre increased. The killings seemed to be concentrated in very specific areas where the guerrillas were strongest. Thus, while the level of killings in some provinces, such as those in the far east and far west, actually fell after the coup, in the departments where the opposition had most strength - El Quiché, Chimaltenango, Sololá, Sacatepéquez and Alta and Baja Verapaz - continued reports were received of the raiding and burning of villages and the murder of Indian campesinos, in large numbers. In each of these areas, members of the junta had visited strategic local counter-insurgency bases by helicopter within one week of the coup.

With respect to evaluating the likelihood of responsibility for specific massacres, it is also relevant to note that on a number of occasions testimonies received by Amnesty International from surviving relatives of murdered Guatemalans indicated that the military had been responsible for particular killings; press reports, however, gave the government version - that guerrilla groups had been responsible.

On other occasions, editorials in Guatemala's leading newspapers have

indicated belief that the authorities lay behind the continued killings; according to the New York Times of 3 June 1982, even General Ríos Montt acknowledged that one such editorial carried in El Gráfico on 17 May 1982 laid the responsibility for the post-coup wave of massacres at the door of the government.

In no case known to Amnesty International has a campesino who has succeeded in reaching comparative safety abroad in either Honduras or Mexico supported claims that opposition forces have been responsible for massive extra-judicial executions of non-combatant civilians. On the contrary, many who have spoken to foreign journalists outside of Guatemalan territory have indicated their knowledge or belief that the atrocities which they have witnessed or survived had been perpetrated by government or government-supported groups.

Former high officials in the Guatemalan government have likewise testified of government responsibility. Two such officials who served under previous administrations are General Lucas García's Vice-Presidential running mate, Francisco Villagrán Kramer, who eventually left the country and went into exile in protest at the continuing violence, and the dismissed former head of the National Police Detective Corps, Jesús Valiente Téllez, also in exile after an internecine police feud during which several members of his family were killed. Both men have unequivocally stated that killings in the past were carried out on orders from the highest levels of the Guatemalan government and then officially blamed "on extremist groups of the left and the right".

In a recent taped telephone conversation from his place of exile, a transcript of which has been made available to Amnesty International, Valiente Téllez said he wanted to return to "denounce those assassins who subjected our country to a bloodbath, and tried to make governments around the world believe that the guerrillas were responsible".

After the March coup, Valiente Téllez offered to return to Guatemala to give evidence concerning attacks in which he had participated or of which he had been victim, but a public announcement was made by the authorities that he would be arrested if he tried to enter Guatemala.

Amnesty International's 1981 report itself included other such testimony given by Elías Barahona y Barahona, press representative of the Ministry of the Interior until his defection in September 1980. Barahona confirmed that the so-called "death squads" on whom the government blamed much of the killing were actually part of a program of pacification carried out by the Guatemalan security forces.

Opposition groups have alleged that the government troops or paramilitary units under their command had carried out atrocities while in plain clothes, or while wearing indigenous clothing, in order to support their allegations that guerrilla groups were responsible for specific atrocities. This corresponds to previous testimony received by AI. Prior to the March coup, survivors of attacks on villages who have reached Mexico told of having been taken into custody and tortured while others were killed by men in plain clothes who later changed into uniform. The

former Indian conscript whose testimony was included in AI's 1981 report also told of occasions when he had been sent out on patrol in plain clothes to attack villages and then later told to change into uniform in order to return to the same villages and "investigate" such attacks. Both in 1980 and 1982, AI also recorded the testimony of relatives who spoke of a variant of this tactic, whereby young men who had been kidnapped were later found dead dressed in combat fatigue-type clothing which was not their own, in order to support government statements that the dead men were guerrillas who died in combat with regular security forces.

IN CONCLUSION

There have been consistent reports of massive extra-judicial executions in Guatemala since General Efraín Ríos Montt took power in March 1982. Following a pattern not significantly different from that implemented under previous governments, Guatemalan security services continue to attempt to control opposition, both violent and non-violent, through widespread killing including the extra-judicial execution of large numbers of rural non-combatants, including entire families, as well as persons suspected of sympathy with violent or non-violent opposition groups. As under previous governments, the majority of extra-judicial executions have been reported carried out in isolated rural areas, particularly those in which guerrilla groups have been active. Information available to Amnesty International, including press reports, testimonies of witnesses and official government pronouncements, repeatedly identifies the regular army and civilian army auxiliaries organized as "civil defence" units under the Ríos Montt government.

APPENDICES

A list of the large-scale massacres reported to Amnesty International since the March coup is attached. Note is made of those occasions when the government attributed blame to the opposition groups, along with the differing version of events given by other sources when available.

Also attached is the testimony of a young Indian woman who survived an April 7 attack on the hamlet of Chirrenquiché, Cobán, Alta Verapaz, during which almost her entire family died and which, she says, was carried out by the army.

APPENDIX I

GUATEMALA: MASSIVE EXTRA-JUDICIAL EXECUTIONS IN RURAL AREAS UNDER
THE GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL EFRAIN RIOS MONTT

NOTE

Note that there are slight differences here in names and dates of massacres as compared to the list which accompanied AMR 34/24/82, "Occupation of the Brazilian Embassy". These differences reflect the fact that different sources have reported the data with slight variations.

It is also possible that certain of the events detailed here overlap, as some of the reportage on these killings did not give the exact date of a particular massacre; in other occasions, killings occurred over a period of several days but were grouped into reporting on one date by some sources and not by others.

As only a portion of the killings occurring in Guatemala are reported to AI, it should also be noted that this list must be considered as only a partial listing of massacres which have occurred in Guatemala since the March 1982 coup.

Finally, readers should note that as stated above, AI cannot confirm in each instance the information given in reports but has noted, when available, conflicting information which it has received from opposing sources.

MARCH

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 24 March | The villages of Sacataljé, Crumax, San Isidro and Samuc de Cobán, in the department of Alta Verapaz were all reportedly burned to the ground. Casualty figures are not clear. |
| 24-27 March | The villages of Las Pacayas, Cistram (or Cisirau), El Rancho Quixal and Chiyuc, in San Cristóbal Verapaz municipality, Alta Verapaz department, were bombed leaving 100 people dead. |
| 26 March | Nine entire <u>campesino</u> families, totalling 54 people, were killed and 3 <u>campesinos</u> kidnapped by plain-clothes soldiers who entered the village of Pacoj in the department of Chimaltenango. |
| 31 March | 15 <u>campesinos</u> were shot dead and 4 burned to death in the village of Estancia de la Virgen, San Martín Jilotepeque municipality, Chimaltenango department, by heavily armed men who pulled them out of their homes. Most of the huts in the village were burned to the ground. <u>Campesino</u> groups blamed the army for these killings. |
| 30 March/
3 April | 55 people were killed in the village of Chinique, El Quiché department. The authorities described |

the killings as an encounter between guerrillas and a civil defence patrol.

APRIL

2 April Some 250 soldiers and paramilitary entered the village of El Adelanto, Concepción municipality, department of Sololá, kidnapping 10 women and killing them. They then set fire to their homes.

On/about
2 April Armed men entered the village of Ximbaxuc, Chinique, Quiché, robbing, burning and killing 40 campesinos, including men, women, the elderly and children.

On/about
3 April 13 campesinos were shot dead in the village of Nicabaj, Rabinal, department of Baja Verapaz. They were:

Francisco Sis Osorio	(16)
Félix Jerónimo Tecú	(60)
Rosalfo Jerónimo Tista	(32)
Paulo Pangay	(30)
Bernabé García	(70)
Mario Valey	(17)
Miguel A. Valey	(14)
Juliana Osorio	(52)
Fulgencia de Paz	(31)
Julián Mendoza	(50)
Silvestre Tecú	(57)
Julián Jerónimo	(58)
Arturo Jerónimo	

3-5 April 29 peasants were burned alive in their homes in the villages of Chocorales and Semejá I, Santa Cruz del Quiché municipality, El Quiché department.

5 April About 100 people were killed in the village of Mangal, still others in Chel, Juárez and in Amachel in northern Quiché. In one of the villages the army reportedly forced the entire population into the courthouse, raped the women, beheaded the men and battered the children to death against rocks in a nearby river. Thirty-five more people were killed on the same day on the Covadonga

finca, Chajul municipality, in the department of Chimaltenango. Campesino groups charge the army with responsibility.

- 6 April In the village of Palamã, San José Poaquíl, department of Chimaltenango, army troops murdered a 100-year-old woman.
- 7 April Soldiers killed at least three women after attacking the hamlet of Chirrenquiché, Cobán, Alta Verapaz. The following day soldiers returned to the hamlet and machine-gunned an entire family, including a one-year-old boy. (See attached testimony of a survivor of this incident - Appendix II).
- 12 April In the village of Santa Rosa, Chubuyub, El Quiché, 12 people are massacred.
- 15 April Soldiers returned to the village of El Adelanto, Concepción and machine-gunned or hacked to death with machetes 30 more people from the village, including 15 women, 5 men and 9 children between the ages of 6 months and one year.
- 15 April Campesino groups charge that the army attacked the village of Semejá I in Chichicastenango; they report that 20 villagers were tied to the poles of their houses and burned alive. On the same day, in the village of Chocorrales, Santa Cruz, Quiché, an army patrol beheaded 9 peasants, among them a nine-year-old girl, as the family was praying. Six were named:
- Isaías Vicente Pérez
Vicente Pérez
Abelino Marroquín Xiquim
Víctor Tzoy Tiu
Mateo Tun
Juan Chio Itzay
- 15 April Campesinos killed in the village of Agua Caliente, San José Poaquíl municipality, Chimaltenango department. An army report says that the campesinos were killed by guerrillas who went from house to house asking for food and clothes; that they harrassed some of the women, whereupon the villagers shot 2 guerrillas. Then the guerrillas shot the campesinos. (The army report speaks of 14 campesinos killed; other sources report that 23 died).

- 16 April In the village of Covadonga, Barillas, Huehuetenango, 35 people were massacred.
- 17 April 14 campesinos were killed and their homes burned in San José, Poaquíl, Chimaltenango.
- On/about 17 April An unknown number of campesinos were killed in Agua Escondida, Chichicastenango, Quiché, and their homes burned.
- 17-22 April 67 peasants killed in the villages of Xasic, Choacama, Chitatul, Tabil and Cahjpal, in the department of El Quiché.
- 19 April 13 people were murdered during the night in the villages of Tziquinay and San Martín Jilotepeque in the department of Chimaltenango.
- 20 April 20 peasants were killed in the village of Pojujel, Concepción municipality, Sololá department.
- 21 April 11 campesinos were killed by hooded men who attacked the village of Agua Caliente, Comalapa, Chimaltenango, forcing the victims from their homes and killing them.
- 22 April An entire family, including two children aged 4 and 6, was murdered in the village of San Nicolás, Chiantla municipality in the department of Huehuetenango.
- On/about 22 April Thirty armed men entered the village of Macanché, Flores, in the Petén department, forced the inhabitants from their homes and shot them. The 15 campesinos killed were:

Natalio Alonso Castañeda	(80)
Vilma Posadas Alonso	(22)
Gonzalo Posadas Alonso	(12)
Elías Posadas Alonso	(7)
Julio A. Rodríguez López	(40)
Macedonia Solís	(40)
César Augusto Solís	(23)
Adela Solís	(14)
Antonio Solís	(9)
Elena Solís	(6)
Olivia Solís	(12)
Marco Tulio Solís	(3)
Mario Posadas	(24)
Demetrio Ortega	(48)
Gilberto Posadas Alonso	(24)

25 April

In the village of Varituc, San Martín Jilotepeque municipality, department of Chimaltenango, 13 peasants were killed.

On/about
25 April

12 campesinos died as a result of a bomb attack upon the lorry in which they were travelling in Cantón Namaj, Santa Rosa Chujubuj, Quiché. 8 of those killed were named:

Gonzalo Quiñones Sical	(45)
Floridalma Quiñones	(56)
Odete Quintana	(16)
Blanca de León	(22)
Mercedes Reyes	
Celedonia Urizar	
Santos Urizar	
Víctor Urizar	

26 April

The army is cited as responsible for killings in the hamlet of Chitnij, municipality of San Cristóbal Verapaz, department of Alta Verapaz. (See 6 June)

20 people burned alive in their homes in the village of Chipiacul (or Chipun), Patzún, Chimaltenango. Survivors blamed the army. Those killed were:

Bernardino Xínico Saquec	(47)
Ventura Xínico	(35)
Balbino Chuc Ajú	(23)
Francisco Ajú	(16)
Carlos Enrique Ajú	(25)
Francisco Chonay Basibal	(43)
Ricardo Ajú Sicajaú	(50)
Alberto Ajú Sicajaú	(37)
Pedro Marcelino Yaquí Mos	(44)
Daniel Yaquí	(23)
Alberto Yocón Chuc	(18)
Sabino Ajú Sipac	(45)
Teodoro Xínico	(17)
Nicolás Baján	(26)
Martín Xínico	(27)
Nicolás Chonay	(74)
Adrián Yaquí	(44)
Merlinda Xínico	(17)
Olivio Jocholá	(19)
Basilio Ajcalón	(18)

26-27 April

32 campesinos were murdered in different communities in the departments of El Quiché and Chimaltenango.

During the latter half of April, 27 people were strangled in the villages Estancia de la Virgin, Tioxia, Chuatalún and Chicocón, San Martín Jilotepeque municipality, department of Chimaltenango.

MAY

2 May . Several families were killed in the village of Chjocon.

3 May 15 peasants murdered in Parramos, Chimaltenango, reportedly by the army. The army, however, said the deaths had occurred when troops clashed with guerrillas.

An estimated 500 people killed over the last two months in the villages of Parraxtut, El Pajarito and Pichiquil. Some of these villages are now deserted as survivors have all fled the area.

On/about 7 May A family of four were machine-gunned and hacked to death with machetes in San Pedro Jocopilas, Quiché. Unidentified armed men kicked down the door while the family slept, dragged them from their beds and killed them. The victims were identified as

Juana de Alecio
Santiago Alecio
Arnoldo Alecio
Candelario Alecio

8 May 15 peasants burned alive in the village of Chamaxú, Huehuetenango department. They include:

Fidelino Pérez
Valdemar Galicia R.
Rudy Galicia R.
Fidencio Galicia
Manuel Galicia Recinos
Antonio Galicia
Saúl Galicia
Byron Hernández
Miguel López
Emilio Alba
Arturo Galicia
Mateo Galicia
Margarito Galicia

6 men, 15 women and 23 children killed in the village of Saquixa II, Chichicastenango, El Quiché.

10 May 20 people killed in the village of Salacuín, near Cobán, Alta Verapaz department. The authorities accuse the guerrillas of being responsible.

- 14 May Gildardo, Angel, Miguel, Antonio and Santiago López Velásquez - five brothers shot dead in the village of El Granadillo, Colotenango, Huehuetenango department. All were campesinos.
- 14 May 3 women (Dolores Jon, Marcelina Gualín and Matilda Caal and one 12-year-old girl, Marcelina Yac Jon, killed in the village of Najtilabaj (also given as Tilabán), San Cristóbal Verapaz, Alta Verapaz department. They were killed whilst asleep at home.
- 3 women and one man found killed, hacked to death with machete and showing signs of torture, in San Ildefonso Ixtahuacán, Huehuetenango.
- 15 May 3 men were shot dead in the village of Covadonga, Santa Cruz Barillas, Huehuetenango department.
- 8 campesinos killed in Cantón Semejá II, Chichicastenango, Quiché. They were identified as:
- | | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Sebastián Canil Huescas | (45) |
| María Huescas | (42) |
| Manuel Canil Vargas | (25) |
| María Cipriano Chun | (23) |
| Sebastián Canil | (16) |
| Manuela Canil | (9) |
| Miguel Canil | (8) |
| Tomás Canil | (1) |
- The following 5 campesinos were killed at Los Brillar Sta. Cruz Mulúa, Retalhuleu:
- | | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Angela Ventura | (55) |
| Enrique Morales Ventura | (22) |
| Ana Marcos Ventura | (16) |
| Francisco Marcos V. | (14) |
| Irma Judith Alvarez | (18) |
- 17-18 May Some 70 people reportedly killed (including pregnant women and children) in San Juan Cotzal and Saquilá, Quiché department.
- 18 May 25 children between the ages of 4 months and 14 year 15 women (some pregnant) and 3 men killed in Saquilá II, Chichicastenango, Quiché department, by armed men going from house to house*.

*Note: These killings may be some of the same ones reported above,

18 May 6 men killed in the village of Chillel, San Gaspar Chajul jurisdiction, El Quiché.

A clandestine cemetery found in the village of Chuatalún, San Martín Jilotepeque municipality, Chimaltenango. There were 84 bodies, including men, women and children. Dogs and coyotes were devouring them.

19 May Between 20 and 30 peasants killed in the village of Sacualpa, Quiché department.

On/about 19 May 14 campesinos were machine-gunned and hacked to death by unknown men who attacked the village of Batzul, Chajul, Quiché.

On/about 20 May Armed men attacked and killed families and burned their homes in Patzibal, Quiché. The 16 campesinos killed were named as:

Miguel Xen	(75)
Martina Xen	7 months
Micaela Pansay	(48)
Sebastián Xen	
María Pol Pacajoy	
Sebastián Chicoy	(11)
Sebastián Calguá	
Miguel Mejía	(3)
Micaela Pansay	(8)
Tomás Canil	(10)
Micaela Panjoj	
José Xen	(2)
Tomasa Mejía	(30)
Juana Esquilá	(45)
Juana de Balán	(19)
Juana Mejía	(5)

21 May 5 bodies found in Patzibal, 7 in Matzul and 1 in Pocoil, municipality of Santo Tomás, Chichicastenango, Quiché department.

On/about 22 May 3 campesinos killed by armed, masked men in the village of Najtilabaj, San Cristóbal Verapaz, Alta Verapaz department. The victims were:

Roberto Caal Mis
Virgilio Yuc Caal
Manuel Coc

24 May 10 people, including 6 children, were killed when some 30 armed men burst into a small leather factory near Santa Cruz del Quiché, El Quiché department.

On/about 25 May In the village of Los Cerritos, Chiché, Quiché department, 5 campesinos, including a 5-year-old girl burned to death when armed men attacked them with machetes and set fire to their homes. The victims were:

José Joaquín Morales
Julio Morales
Tomás Morales
Juan Manuel Morales
Tomas Ignacio (5)

On/about May 28 4 campesinos were killed in Cantón Chocacruz, Sololá. Their bodies, taken to the hospital morgue, showed gunshot wounds and signs of torture. 3 were identified:

Jesús Lajuj
Pedro Morales
Inesario Morales

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8 June 9 people, including 3 children and 2 elderly people, were burned to death on a road leading to San Pedro Carchá, Alta Verapaz department. Some 30 armed men in small cargo vehicles forced the victims out of their homes, placed them together, threw petrol over them and set them on fire, according to an eye-witness report.

About 5-6 June The bodies of 10 peasant women were found near the village of Nahtiliabaj (also given as Najtilabaj), Alta Verapaz, showing torture marks and gunshot wounds. Authorities and guerrillas accuse each other as responsible.

6 June Army again cited as responsible for massacres in Chitnij, municipality of San Cristóbal Verapaz. In all, 16 women and 6 children were reported killed in the hamlet in the course of the 26 April (see above) and this 6 June incident.

7 June The bodies of 16 campesinos are found in two places in northern Guatemala.

11 June 15 campesinos, including 8 women and 3 children, were killed in the village of Las Pacayas, San Cristóbal Verapaz jurisdiction, Alta Verapaz department

Guatemalan authorities stated that the guerrillas were responsible. It was also reported that Indians, speaking in their native language to foreign journalists, accused the army of responsibility for the killings, but the civil defence corps member who translated their statement into Spanish for foreign newsmen gave a diametrically opposite translation.

The following day, the army reportedly attacked a guerrilla camp in the area, killing 8 guerrillas.

14 June Over 100 campesinos killed in the Nebaj area, Quiché department. Authorities blame guerrillas.

15 June Army statement says that that day 112 people were killed and 43 injured in the village of Chacalté, municipality of Chajul, El Quiché, by members of the Ejército Guerrillero de Los Pobres (EGP), the Guerrilla Army of the Poor. Other sources allege official responsibility for the incidents.

17 June 20 campesinos killed in the village of San Marcos, Alta Verapaz department.

14-23 June 14 people were killed in Chinique, El Quiché, and an unknown number in Morales, Izabal.

On/about
22 June 11 people killed in Quiché department, including 3 in Chichicastenango by the name of Lastror Morales and the entire campesino family Pérez Guarcas from Cantón La Vega. Guerrillas and authorities blame each other for the killings.

Last week of
June More than 80 campesinos killed in the villages of Las Pacayas, El Rancho and Najtilabaj, San Cristóbal Verapaz municipality, Alta Verapaz department, reportedly by the army and members of the civil defence groups. Majority of the victims were women and children.

In the village of Pampacché, Alta Verapaz department, all the men were dragged out of their homes by some 300 soldiers. A few days later, more than 70 tortured corpses were found near the village of Tactic, Alta Verapaz department.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF KILLINGS: 2,186 (The possibility of some duplications, as noted above, as well as the likelihood of under-reporting should be taken into account).

APPENDIX II

TESTIMONY RE: ARMY ATTACK ON A VILLAGE IN ALTA VERAPAZ IN APRIL 1982

The speaker is a Kekchi Indian, 17 years old, from the hamlet of Chirrenquiché, Cobán, Alta Verapaz. She was hacked with machetes by the army during an army incursion into that hamlet on 7 April. The girl received machete wounds in the neck, a deep slash in the head, a wound in the foot, and one hand was almost amputated. Her young brother, Ramos, a Kekchi child of 13 years of age was also seized and wounded by the army. Of their entire family, only the two of them remain alive.

She is now in hiding. In a testimony given to AI by a foreign journalist, the young Indian girl stated:

"The soldiers came; we went to the mountains; there we found tree trunks and stones where we hid. A group of soldiers came from behind, they came in behind us. They seized three of us; they took them to the mountains; they tied them up in the mountains and killed them with machetes and knives. There they died. Then they asked me which ones were the guerrillas, and I didn't tell them, so they slashed me with the machete; they raped me; they threw me on the ground and slashed my head with the machete, my breasts, my entire hand. When dawn came, I tried to get home. By then I could hardly walk. I came across a girl from our village, and she was carrying some water. She gave me some and took me to her house.

"The army also seized my 13-year-old brother Ramos and dragged him away, and shot him in the foot and left him thrown on the ground. My brother and my parents and my other brothers and sisters had been in the house. The soldiers said 'They are guerrillas, and they must be killed'. My brother saw how they killed my parents, my mother, my brothers and sisters and my little one-year-old brother; the soldiers machine-gunned them to death when they arrived in the village. Only my brother, Ramos, and I are alive. Our friends are giving us injections and medicines. We can't go to the hospital at Cobán. I think they would kill us there."