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Guatemala: Arrests Create First Possibility of Justice for Death Squad Dossier Victims

Pre-trial proceedings to occur as Vice President Kamala Harris meets with Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei in Guatemala City on June 7



Washington, D.C., June 4, 2021—Twenty-two years after the National Security Archive published the notorious “Death Squad Dossier” of Guatemala – which chronicled the kidnapping and disappearance of 183 people by government agents over a period from 1983-85 – police have arrested 11 former military and security force officials on varying charges of forced disappearance, torture, rape, and assassination connected to the document.

Today's posting offers key information about the Dossier at the heart of this case and comes as the first week of arraignment hearings conclude.

Pre-trial proceedings are scheduled to continue next week, just as Vice President Kamala Harris meets with Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei. Their discussions are expected to include ways to “strengthen the rule of law and deepen bilateral law enforcement cooperation,” according to a Harris adviser.

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