



Condemnation from a broad spectrum of Guatemalan society followed the torture and murder of 21 campesinos in El Aguacate, San Andrés Itzapa, Chimaltenango, on November 26th.

According to the *Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA)*, there was strong evidence implicating the Guatemalan military in the massacre. The *Comité* thereby requests, in an open letter to the government of Guatemala and the International Community, that they:

- “be alert to any kidnapping and disappearance of any of the widows or children of the murdered, since armed men in plainclothes have been seen near their houses;
- restrain the military from reprimanding the widows, and telling them, “If you don’t say that the guerrilla did it, you’ll pay for it”;
- not permit the widows to be taken to other countries, even though they are threatened with death if they contradict the army;
- not permit politicians to profit from the pain and suffering of the widows for political gain—it’s an insult to use them as a way to gain sympathy;
- fix responsibility on the army and the soldiers for the death and kidnapping of campesinos in San Andrés Itzapa, since the army has publicly stated their intentions “to get those whose names are on the list.”