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Guatemala: Two Recipients Of Death Threats Seek Refuge In Red Cross Office, Request Safe Passage Out Of Country

by Deborah Tyroler Category/Department: General Published: Wednesday, May 16, 1990

On May 14, Edgar Rene de Leon Vega and Jose Eduardo Davila Rivera two young men sought refuge at the Red Cross office in San Marcos, commenced a hunger strike, and demanded safe passage out of the country. The two men said they had been told to flee Guatemala on the threat of death by a military officer. Leon Vega, a merchant and former teacher supervisor, said the officer had mistaken him for a commander of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) operating in San Marcos department. According to Leon Vega and Davila Rivera, on Sunday evening soldiers under the officer's command threatened them with automatic weapons. After being called communists, they said, the soldiers said that if the two men did not quickly flee the country, they would be executed. (Basic data from Notimex, 05/14/90)

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