

May 16, 2011

(U//FOUO) According to information from the (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D), suspected members of Los Zetas massacred 27 people on a farm near Naranjo in the Department of Peten, Guatemala. The cause of the massacre was reportedly a dispute between the farm's owner, Otto Salguero, and members of Los Zetas. Although Salguero was not on the property at the time of the killings, a survivor provided authorities with an account of the murders.

(U//FOUO) According to press reports, around 7:00 PM on May 14, 2011, 12 agricultural vehicles with an estimated 50 armed men wearing military uniforms arrived at Los Cocos Finca. At this time, 28 farm workers had gathered in the main house. Upon discovering that Salguero was not present, the men killed 27 of the laborers, decapitating 26 of them and scattering their remains about the farm. One worker survived a stomach stabbing by feigning death and subsequently gave his account to the authorities. It is unknown why only two bodies were not decapitated along with the others.

(U//FOUO) Otto Salguero, a suspected lower level drug trafficker, (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) On May 10, 2011, Luis Carlos Bardales Chacon, husband of Eunice Franco Keiry Salguero (an unconfirmed but presumed relation to Otto Salguero), was kidnapped. His body was found on May 12, 2011. Meanwhile, Bardales Luid Salguero Tobar, the father-in-law of Bardales Chacon, and an associate searched for the missing man. Guatemalan authorities found the body of these two individuals on May 13, 2011. A note was left with one of the bodies stating, "Otto Salguero, I am coming for your head. Z 200." It is not yet known what would make Otto Salguero so important to Los Zetas that they would kidnap and kill his family members and then bring nearly 50 armed men to his farm to kill him.

(U//FOUO) Z 200's name also appeared at the scene of the Los Cocos murders, as two notes were signed in his name on the wall with the blood of one of the victims. Both notes threatened Otto Salguero and were signed by Z-200. Z-200 is purported to be the current leader of Los Zetas in Guatemala, although he has not been fully identified. The crime is certainly in the style of Los Zetas, a cartel which has been tied to high-profile mass murders in Mexico, such as the 200 bodies found in a clandestine grave in San Fernando, Mexico, in April 2011.

(U//FOUO) According to information from the sole survivor gathered by (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) the criminals were led by a person they referred to as "Kaibile." The Kaibiles, an elite force within the Guatemalan Army, are known to have had members defect to Los Zetas.

(U//FOUO) (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(U//FOUO) Despite having the highest homicide rates in the world, decapitations remain shocking to Central Americans, and such acts are generally attributed to Los Zetas or to Zeta-influence. Los Zetas have been present in Guatemala since at least 2008; by December 2010, they had become so problematic that President Alvaro Colom called a two month state of siege in the Alta Verapaz Department in an attempt to reclaim villages from Zeta control. Zetas crimes tend to be high-profile,

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(U//FOUO) On the same day as the murders at Los Cocos Finca, Haroldo Leon was also murdered. Haroldo's two brothers -- Juan Jose "Juancho" Leon and Hector Leon -- were killed by Los Zetas in March 2008 for allegedly stealing a load of cocaine. Haroldo himself was reportedly involved with cocaine trafficking, and it was initially thought that there might be a connection between Haroldo's murder and the Los Cocos murders.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORT

SUBJECT: N/A

EVENT: Massacre in La Libertad, Guatemala on May 15, 2011

DATE OF EVENT: May 15, 2011 and continuing

HOW REPORTED: Firebird with TWX to follow

WHEN REPORTED: May 16, 2011

DETAILS:

On May 15, 2011, the Guatemalan Police discovered 27 decapitated bodies at a coconut farm in La Libertad, Guatemala. Early reports identified the victims as members of the Los Zetas drug trafficking organization (DTO); however, subsequent reporting has identified the Zetas as the attackers in this incident.

The cause of the massacre was reportedly a dispute between the farm's owner, Otto Salguero, who was absent at the time of the killings, and members of Los Zetas. A survivor was able to give authorities an account of the murders.

On May 14th, 12 vehicles pulled up to the Los Cocos Farm with approximately 50 armed men wearing military uniforms. Twenty-eight farm workers had gathered at the end of the day in the main house when the men arrived. Upon discovering that the owner of the Finca, Otto Salguero, was not present, the men began killing the laborers one by one, decapitating them, and scattering the remains about the farm. One worker was stabbed in the stomach, but survived and was able to give his account of what happened to the authorities.

Otto Salguero, is suspected of being a small-time drug trafficker who crossed badly with the Zetas DTO. Salguero's name came to the attention of the authorities when Luis Carlos Bardales Chacon

(b)(7)(C) was kidnapped. Bardales Luis Salguero Tobar, the father of Keiry Salguero, disappeared when he and a partner went to search for his missing son-in-law. Bardales Chacon was found dead on May 12, 2011, and Salguero Tobar and his partner were found dead the next day. A note was left with one of the bodies in the name of Z-200. It is not yet known what would make Otto Salguero so important to the Zetas that they would kidnap and kill his family members, and then bring nearly fifty armed men to his farm to kill him.

Z-200's name also appeared at the scene of the Finca murders. The following message was signed in his name on the wall with the blood of one of his victims: "Que ondas, Otto Salguero, te voy a encontrar y asi te voy a dejar a ti" (What's up, Otto Salguero, I am going to find you and this is how I'll leave you.) Z-200 is purported to be the current leader of the Zetas

in Guatemala, although as of now his identity remains unknown. The crime is certainly in the style of the Zetas, who have been tied to high-profile mass murders in Mexico. This crime bears resemblance to others such as the 183 bodies found in various graves in April, and the murder of 72 migrants in August 2010. This is the first massacre, of this magnitude, by Mexican Cartel members in Central America.

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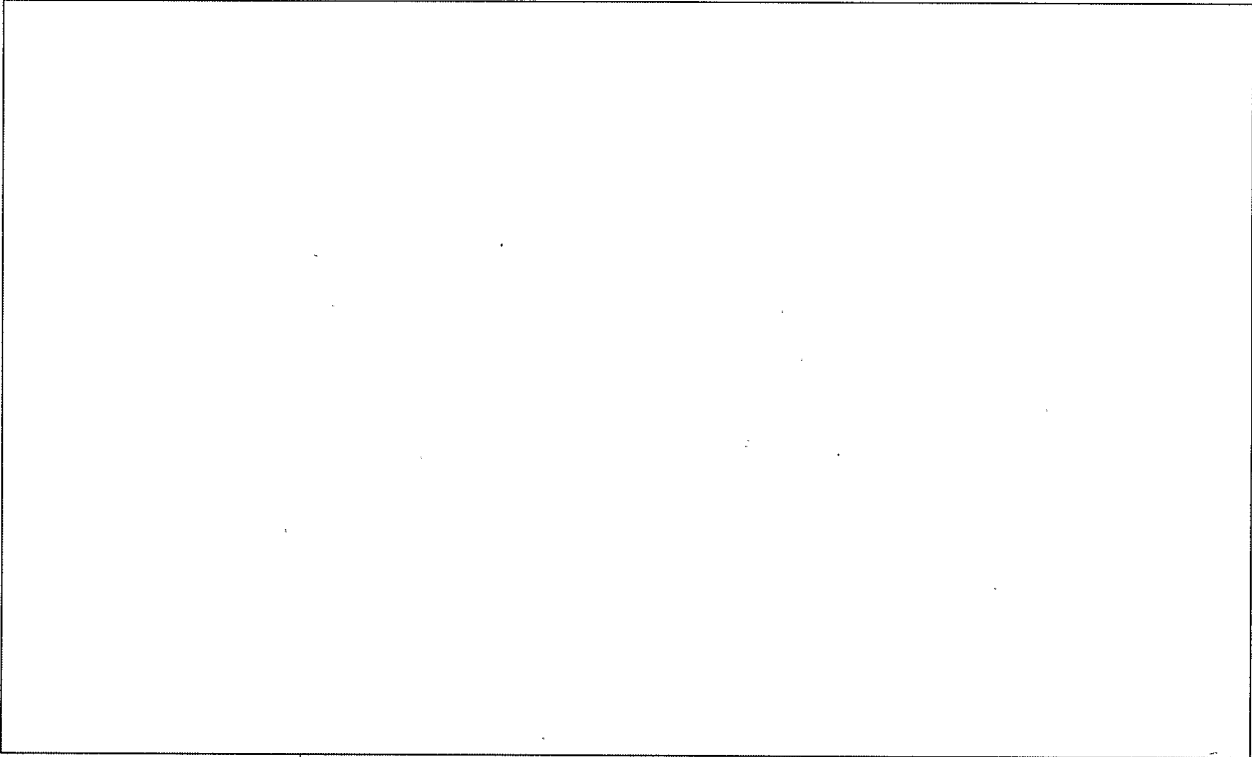
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(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(F)



In May 2011, the Los Zetas DTO was responsible for a massacre in Peten, Guatemala in which 27 farm workers were killed (25 of them decapitated). The Zetas left a message at the scene stating that their target was Otto Salguero and the Zetas true motive remains unknown. As a result, President Colom declared a State of Siege in the Department of Peten and it remains ongoing. During this State of Siege, Guatemalan officials arrested approximately 50 Los Zeta members, including approximately 15 Mexican Nationals.

