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**DTG**

251342Z AUG 04

**FROM**

(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

**TO**

TO RHEFLGX/SAFE WASHINGTON DC

**CONTROLS**

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SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) CO.

//IPSP: (U)

(b)(2)

SUBJ: IIR (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424 - FARC MASSACRE NINE PEOPLE IN  
NORTHEAST COLOMBIA (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT. NOT FINALLY EVALUATED  
INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 20040812

REQS: (U) (b)(2)

SOURCE: (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, EL TIEMPO, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA, 20040812,  
IN SPANISH. THE PAPER IS KNOWN FOR ITS GENERALLY BALANCED APPROACH  
TO NEWS COVERAGE, IS WIDELY READ, AND IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL  
NEWSPAPER IN THE COUNTRY.

SUMMARY: (U) GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES BLAME FARC 33RD FOR THE  
MASSACRE OF 9 PEASANTS IN THE JUNGLE REGION OF CATATUMBO. THE FARC  
IS ATTEMPTING TO RECLAIM LAND CONTROLLED BY THE UNITED SELF-DEFENSE  
FORCES OF COLOMBIA (AUC) AND BELIEVED THESE 9 PEASANTS WORKED AS  
COCA CULTIVATORS FOR THE AUC.

TEXT: NARRATIVE: 1. (U) THERE WAS A MASSACRE ON 11 AUG 2004 IN  
CATATUMBO (b)(2) THAT RESULTED IN NINE  
PEASANTS BEING KILLED. AUTHORITIES ATTRIBUTE THIS MASSACRE TO FARC  
FRONT 33. THIS CRIME OCCURRED IN CORREGIMIENTO PACHELLY

//GEOCOORD: UNKNOWN//, THREE HOURS FROM TIB (b)(2)

(b)(2) IN THE HEART OF THE CATATUMBO JUNGLE REGION.

AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THE FARC IS ATTEMPTING TO TAKE CONTROL OF LAND  
THAT IS NOW DOMINATED BY THE UNITED SELF-DEFENSE FORCES OF COLOMBIA  
(AUC).

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2. (U) COLONEL JOAQUIN ((HERNANDEZ)), COMMANDER OF THE LA MAZA MECHANIZED GROUP, COLOMBIAN ARMY (COLAR) 5TH BRIGADE, STATED THAT THE MASSACRE OCCURRED AT 0430 AND THAT THE VICTIMS WERE AT BRISAS DE SAN LUIS RANCH.

3. (U) THE 9 VICTIMS ARE IDENTIFIED AS: JOS BELN ((GARCIA)), MIGUEL NGEL ((GARCIA)), LUIS ALIRIO ((PREZ)), EDINSON ELAS ((CELIS)), NELSON ((PAREDOS)), DGAR ((RAMIREZ)), ORLANDO ((SARAVIA)), RODOLFO ((SUREZ)), AND ALFONSO ((VILLN)). THE FIRST TWO INDIVIDUALS ARE THE BROTHERS OF THE LOCAL COUNCILMAN, JOSE DEL CARMEN ((GARCIA)).

4. (U) BY THAT AFTERNOON, NEITHER THE COLAR NOR THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE (CNP) HAD ARRIVED AT THE SITE YET. THE 1100 HABITANTS OF THE AREA WERE IN FEAR AS THE FARC WAS THREATENING TO TAKE OVER THIS AREA. THE GOVERNOR OF NORTE DE SANTANDER, ANDRS ((HOYOS)) PLEADED TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA (GOC) TO HAVE MORE POLICE AND MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA, AS THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITIES TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS STATED THAT THE CITIZENS WERE SKEPTICAL ABOUT RELYING ON THE CNP, AND THAT THIS AREA HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE MERCY OF ANY OF THE ARMED GROUPS.

5. (U) WILFREDO ((CANIZARES)), PRESIDENT OF THE FUNDACION PROGRESAR (PROGRESS FOUNDATION), A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION THAT OVERSEES HUMAN RIGHTS, STATED THAT IN CALENDAR YEAR 2002, FARC ELEMENTS SURROUNDED AND ISOLATED THE CORREGIMIENTO OF PACHELLY AND WOULD NOT ALLOW RESIDENTS IN AND OUT OF THE TOWNSHIP.

COMMENTS: (U) (FIELD COMMENTS) 1. (C) THE ESTADO MAYOR CONJUNTO DIRECCION (JOINT GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE) OR D2, BELIEVE THIS IS A RESULT OF THE AUC PEACE PROCESS. THEY BELIEVE THE FARC IS TRYING TO RECLAIM LAND CONTROLLED BY THE AUC WHILE THE AUC'S LEADERS ARE TIED UP IN PEACE TALKS WITH THE GOC.

2. ~~(C)~~ THE CATATUMBO TERRITORY HAS BEEN IN DISPUTE BETWEEN THE AUC AND FARC FRONT 33 SINCE 1999. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 40,000 HECTARES OF COCA FIELDS IN THIS REGION. INITIAL REPORTING INDICATES THE 33RD FARC FRONT USED THE SAME MODUS OPERANDI THAT IT USED TWO MONTHS AGO WHEN 34 PEASANTS, CALLED RASPACHINES (COLOMBIAN SLANG FOR PEASANTS THAT PICK COCA LEAVES), ARRIVED AT THE LA **GABARRA** FARM, ALSO LOCATED IN TIBU, WERE KILLED. THE COCA LEAF PICKERS WERE KILLED BECAUSE THEY WERE IDENTIFIED AS WORKING FOR THE AUC. THE FARC LEFT SIX PEOPLE ALIVE TO REPORT THE KILLINGS.

3. (U) POL COMMENT: THE AUC NORTHERN BLOC AGREED TO DEMOBILIZE ON 12 AUGUST 2004.

4. (U) SOURCE IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER EXPLOITATION.

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5. (U) FOR ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

**ADMIN**

COLL: (U) (b)(2)

INSTR: (U)

PREP: (U)

ENCL: (U) TO FOLLOW - NONE

ACQ: (U) (b)(2)

DISSEM: (U) NONE.

WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.

DRV FROM: DH HUMINT SCG, SEPTEMBER 2003.

DECL: ~~X1~~.

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