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Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

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Withheld under statutory authority of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C., section 403g)
AMERICAS

Colombia: Paramilitaries Blamed for Massacre

The mayor of Puerto Asis in southern Colombia claims that an illegal paramilitary group led by Carlos Castano—Colombia's most notorious paramilitary leader—killed 38 people near his town during the past two weeks, according to press reports. Witnesses said the heavily armed and hooded killers worked from a list of about 250 people suspected of collaborating with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas.

— Castano's group carried out a similar massacre of civilians in Mapiripan last July. E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)

— The mayor also charged that some of the killers were transported in Army helicopters, a charge vehemently denied by Army Commander Galan. E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c) Galan—who is sensitive to accusations of cooperation between the Army and paramilitary groups—has traveled to southern Colombia to conduct his own investigation, as have judicial authorities. Since late last year, Army troops have flooded into western Putumayo Department in search of 18 soldiers captured when the FARC overran a military base in neighboring Narino Department.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)