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El Mozote Massacre*, El Salvador

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El Mozote Massacre*, El Salvador

Irma A. Ramos Arreaga

Awakened suddenly by a distant noise
Followed by discomfoting silence
I wondered the whereabouts of my boys
Who didn't realize the dangers of defiance

A soldier violently threw me aside
As I stumbled, I was brought to a halt
Petrified, by my children who lied open eyed
Lifeless; the aftermath of an assault

I could barely see anymore
But the other women's screams were enough
For me to know what we were brought for
Praying God gave me the strength to be tough

I peacefully took my last breath
Knowing I'd reunite with my town after death

* The Massacre of El Mozote happened during the civil war in El Salvador, on December 11, 1981. There were roughly 800 citizens murdered by the death squad, known as the Atlacatl. The Village was targeted by the government because of suspicions of their alliance with the guerillas. This led more citizens to join and help the guerillas against the government.