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Armando Rodriguez, chief cook at the El Trompillo immigrant camp, took over the public address system on the morning of 24 November 1948 when the Venezuelan Army seized the Government and issued a call for all Spanish members to assemble in front of one of the barracks. At the assembly point, he and two aides distributed machetes and other instruments after checking each identity card. He ordered the group to march on the electric light plant in near-by Guigue, but before they could leave the camp the Army appeared to arrest Rodriguez and several others. Most of the Spanish Republicans fled and have not returned to the camp or been located since that time.

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