

1,000 WORDS: OCAMPO, Mexico

# Butterfly activist is mourned



Rebecca Blackwell Associated Press

Mourners pray at the wake of environmental activist Homero Gomez Gonzalez on Thursday. His body was found in a holding pond near the mountain forest reserve where monarch butterflies spend the winter. Relatives of Gomez Gonzalez, who fought logging activities to help protect the butterflies' habitat, do not know whether he was killed or died accidentally. Authorities are conducting tests to determine the cause of death. His death has caused great concern in the region. "Something strange is happening, because they're finishing off all the activists, the people who are doing something for society," said his brother, Amado Gomez. "A lot of the communal land owners fear that with his death, the forests are finished."