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Venezuela: Police Brutality Responsible For Fifty Deaths, First Seven Months 1992

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In an Aug. 15 press conference, Enrique Ochoa Antich, human rights secretary for the opposition Movement toward Socialism (Movimiento al Socialismo-MAS) party, told reporters that fifty Venezuelans were killed in incidents of police brutality during the first seven months of the year. Twenty-nine of the victims were killed in Caracas. He said that several branches of government security forces were responsible for the brutality. Ochoa Antich said the death toll represents an average of one death result of police brutality every four days, compared to an average of one every five days during the last half of 1991. Ochoa Antich said the victims include eight protesters killed during a mass anti-government demonstration in Caracas in March. He called for all deaths to be investigated, and said the government should institute psychological and drug testing and anti-violence training for all security force recruits. (Source: Agence France-Presse, 08/15/92)

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