9-2-1992

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On Corpses Found In Rio Grande

by Carlos Navarro

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, September 2, 1992

On Aug. 12 in Mexico City, the Border Studies and Human Rights Promotion Center reported that 367 corpses were found in the Rio Grande between January 1990 and July 1991. The Center's work is reportedly the first formal research effort focused on the problem. According to Center spokespersons, most of the dead were undocumented workers attempting to swim the river, and reported as accidental drownings. The victims carried clothing in plastic bags. Only 195 of the 367 bodies were identified. Nine were Central Americans, and the rest assumed to be Mexican nationals. The Center report indicated that autopsies are generally not performed to ascertain cause of death.

In early August, the local media reported that at least 6 million undocumented Mexican nationals crossed the border in search of employment over the first half of the year. (Source: Chinese news service Xinhua, 08/13/92)

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