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Guatemala: Notes On Political Assassination Death Toll

by Deborah Tyrolet

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In a recent interview with the Washington Post, Factor Mendez Doninelli, head of the Center for Investigation, Study and Promotion of Human Rights, said, "Human rights continue to be disrespected in a brutal and dramatic manner. This includes murder, kidnappings, disappearances and torture. In general the population sees a climate of violence and uncertainty." According to Mendez, 82 persons were killed for obvious political reasons or suspected political reasons in February, compared to 78 in January and 57 in July 1988. The military, he said, was largely responsible. The Center was machine-gunned on Jan. 21. Mendez Doninelli said, "There are groups that still see things in black and white in this country. If you do not agree with them, you are a subversive, trying to destabilize the country, or a communist." (Basic data from Washington Post, 04/18/89)

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