6-7-1989

Guatemala: Notes On Human Rights Abuses

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.
Guatemala: Notes On Human Rights Abuses

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, June 7, 1989

* Leaders and members of the Mutual Support Group (GAM) continue to be victimized by death threats, and other forms of intimidation. GAM president Nineth de Garcia has received several death threats. On May 19, an incendiary device was thrown at Garcia's home. The GAM president has been under constant surveillance for several weeks. GAM leaders Blanca Rosa Hernandez and Miguel Morales Morales have been targets of continual harassment and intimidation. GAM members Raquel Juan, Tomas Chumil Mendez and Salvador Chumil Coc, residents of Chontola and Supuluc, Chichicastenango, have been subjected to death threats by the local military detachment commander and civil patrol leaders. The three are accused of being guerrillas and told they would be assassinated unless they terminate participation in GAM. * On May 11, Pedro Chavez Gomez, resident of La Emboscada, San Miguel Siguila municipality, Quetzaltenango department, was abducted by unidentified persons. On May 26, Juan Jimenez Perez, a friend of Chavez Gomez, was abducted by unidentified persons in two pickup trucks without registration plates in the village of La Emboscada. Jimenez, 27, is a participant in Catholic Church activities for the San Juan Ostuncalco parish. On May 24, mechanic Julio Roberto Flores Estrada was abducted in Guatemala City by persons driving two automobiles equipped with polarized windows. According to witnesses, the abductors were clad in civilian dress, with the exception of one who wore the uniform of the National Police 5th Corps (previously known as the Special Operations Resistance Brigades). As of June 3, the whereabouts of the three men were unknown. * On May 17, 100 soldiers marched into the village of Santa Maria Caba, Chajul municipality, El Quiche department and assassinated Manuel Cobo and an eight-year-old child. Three adults and a child were reportedly taken to the El Pinar military barracks, Uspantan municipality, El Quiche. Later in the day, the soldiers destroyed crops and nine homes. Survivors of the army attack fled to the mountains. On May 23-25, soldiers stationed at the San Francisco finca, San Juan Cotzal municipality, El Quiche department, fired 16 105 mm shells at the village of Los Cimientos, San Miguel Uspantan municipality. On May 24-25, soldiers from the Chajul municipality barracks fired six 105 mm shells at residents of the village of Juil while they were at work in their fields. (Basic data from 05/26/89 and 06/03/89 reports by Guatemalan Human Rights Commission/USA, Washington, DC)

-- End --