6-23-1989

Report On Guatemalan Rebel Activities

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According to the Guatemalan weekly Inforpress, in the August 1988-April 1989 period, authorities have reported a monthly average of 41 kidnappings, 72 assassinations and 50 cadavers found bearing signs of torture. Central America Report (05/01/89) said that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) has stepped up military actions in recent months in response to the government's unwillingness to negotiate with the rebels. As of early May, the Guatemalan news agency Cerigua reported 125 insurgent actions thus far in 1989. The URNG claims to have killed a colonel in Huehuetenango, re-established a front in the same area, shot down various military aircraft carrying supplies, reopened an urban guerrilla front in Guatemala City, and carried out actions El Peten and San Marcos departments. On June 19, the Guatemalan army reported that a teenage boy was killed and four people wounded when an estimated 50 guerrillas launched a raid on a police substation in San Miguel Duenas, Sacatepequez department. The attack occurred on June 18. On the same day, the rebels reportedly raided the nearby town of San Juan Alotenango. Meanwhile, the URNG reported carrying out 11 raids, attacking three barracks and fighting two columns of soldiers between June 2 and 12 in El Quiche and Solola departments. The URNG said government troops suffered 16 casualties. On June 20, government sources reported that another guerrilla column attacked a military post on Monday in the village of El Porvenir, San Pablo municipality, San Marcos department. The army said the guerrillas caused the death of a minor and wounded five persons. [Basic data from Latinamerica Press (Peru), 05/11/89; Central America Report (Guatemala), 05/05/89; AFP, 06/19/89; Notimex, 06/20/89]