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Chile: Retired Air Force Officer Assassinated

by John Neagle

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On June 9, Roberto Fuentes Morrison, a retired air force officer and former secret police agent, was shot and killed in east-central Santiago. According to the semi-official news agency Orbe, Fuentes Morrison was assassinated by an "extremist commando" who fired automatic weapons from a moving vehicle. Fuentes Morrison was a member of the so-called "Joint Command," formed after the September 1973 coup by members of the three branches of the armed forces and the police to repress leftists. In late 1986, Magistrate Carlos Cerda implicated Fuentes Morrison in the forced disappearance of 13 members of the central committee of the outlawed Chilean Communist Party, who had been arrested by the Joint Command between Dec. 9-20, 1977. Another judge subsequently dismissed the charges against Fuentes Morrison, and the 37 other members of the military implicated in the disappearances. (Basic data from IPS, 06/09/89)

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