Guatemala: Rash Of Bombings & False Alarms

Deborah Tyroler
Guatemala: Rash Of Bombings & False Alarms

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, August 11, 1989

Since mid-July, numerous explosions and a wave of false alarms in Guatemala City have caused the deaths of two persons, injuries to many others, and generalized panic. On July 26, Notimex reported that a dynamite explosion had destroyed a transmission facility belonging to TV channel 7, and caused the death of an employee. Television station managers had received threats warning them not to broadcast an interview with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, part of a series on the 10th anniversary of the Sandinista revolution. Unidentified persons tossed fragmentation grenades at the automobile of Texaco executive Orson Lou Franco, and at the home of businessperson Jaime Arimany. A bomb exploded in the main parking lot of the Francisco Marroquin University. No injuries were reported as a result of these three incidents. On the evening of July 27, a fragmentation grenade exploded inside an evangelical church in Zone 10 of the capital city. Three women were injured. Between July 18 and July 28, the local media reported nearly 100 false alarms, and that police had deactivated at least four bombs, including one planted in a branch office of the Bank of the Army, another close the Army's honor guard barracks, and in one of the capital city's major hotels. On July 31, six persons were wounded by a fragmentation grenade tossed from a passing vehicle into a crowded shopping area at the corner of 4th Avenue and 3rd Street, Zone 1, in Guatemala City. On Aug. 1, the local media reported a total of two dead and several persons injured in fragmentation grenade and dynamite explosions. [Basic data from Notimex, 07/24/89, 07/28/89; AP, 08/01/89; 08/04/89 report by Comision de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala, Mexico City]

-- End --