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Guatemala: Notes On Recent Human Rights Abuses

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A July 10 report by the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission (CDHG, Mexico City) provides detailed accounts of 12 suspected political assassinations between June 21 and July 2. Corpses in these cases were found in or near Guatemala City (2); Sacatepequez department (5); Jutiapa (4); and San Marcos (1). In the same period, the CDHG recorded five abductions, whereabouts of persons unknown as of July 10. The abductions occurred in Chimaltenango department (1); and, Guatemala City (4). Another report by the CDHG, dated Aug. 8, provides detailed accounts of 10 killings during the July 25-Aug. 1 period. The corpses were found in or near Guatemala City (4); in Sacatepequez department (1); El Quiche (1); Baja Verapaz (3); and, Huehuetenango (1). The report contained accounts of one seriously wounded victim (Retalhuleu department); and the abduction of a union leader in Quetzaltenango department who was released a day later. An Aug. 16 report by the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission/USA (Washington, DC) provides detailed accounts of eight assassinations occurring between Aug. 3 and Aug. 15 (Guatemala City, 1; Retalhuleu department, 2; El Peten department, 5). On Aug. 7 in Guatemala City, a teacher from Solola department was noticed walking down the street by anti-riot police. The teacher was stripped and severely beaten. Two persons were illegally detained in Escomula on Aug. 9, and had not been released as of Aug. 15. On Aug. 15, two teachers were seriously wounded by anti-riot police in San Benito, El Peten. (One of the deaths occurring in El Peten involved a teacher.) Finally, on Aug. 15, one person was detained or disappeared in Escomula.

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