9-29-1989

Guatemala: White Hand Circulates Death List; Tourists Abducted

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: White Hand Circulates Death List; Tourists Abducted

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, September 29, 1989

On Sept. 27, rightist death squad White Hand (La Mano Blanca) distributed a death list, containing the names of some 100 people, including Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle and Defense Minister Gen. Hector Gramajo. White Hand first emerged in the 1970s, and was responsible for the torture and deaths of numerous popular organization leaders. The death list circulated in Guatemala City contained the names of government officials, politicians, business sector leaders, military officers, and journalists. White Hand’s statement blamed the government, army, courts and certain businesspersons Guatemala’s "wave of delinquency... and corruption," and said that "once again, we are obligated to take justice into our own hands." The death squad called on the Guatemalan national congress to investigate the deputies named on the list. The government was ordered to rid itself of "corrupt thieves," and the army to rid the country of "delinquents" by killing them. The White Hand also condemned trade with Nicaragua, and asserted that it will continue adopting "radical measures" as necessary. Deputy Interior Minister Gen. Carlos Augusto Morales Villatoro said appropriate authorities were investigating the origins of the document. He denied that death squads had made a reappearance in Guatemala. On Sept. 28, government officials said three tourists from Italy, Spain and France were seized by armed gunmen at their hotel at Tecun Uman, 200 km. west of Guatemala City, and bundled into a van. (Basic data from Notimex, 09/27/89; DPA, 09/28/89)

-- End --