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## **Americas Watch Says Nicaraguan Government Acted To Cease Abuses Of Contra Supporters; Contra Abuses Continue**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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On Nov. 2, Juan Mendes, author of an Americas Watch report on human rights abuses in Nicaragua, said that the Nicaraguan government had acted to halt human rights abuses against contra supporters in northern Nicaragua. Abuses committed by contra fighters, he said, have not been seriously investigated by contra leaders and commanders, and in general have not led to disciplinary action. Mendez said Americas Watch had not received any new reports of abuses by the Nicaraguan military forces since May. At that point, the group had documented 74 murders, 14 disappearances and two beatings of contra supporters from 1987 to early 1989. Mendez said, "We have continued to receive reports of contra violations, perhaps with a certain increase in September and October." Over the 1987 to 1989 period, Americas Watch said its team of investigators documented 23 murders, 39 kidnappings and two attempted murders of civilians by contra forces. Americas Watch said contra leaders did not respond to questions regarding the documented cases. (Basic data from Reuters, 11/02/89)

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