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Panama: Christian Democrat Politician Tortured & Threatened By Security Forces

by Deborah Tyroler

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At a press conference in Panama City on Nov. 9, Guillermo Marquez, leader of the Christian Democrat Party, said he was arrested after returning from the 12th congress of the Organization of Christian Democrats of America (ODCA) in Colombia, and released at 9 a.m. Thursday. Marquez said he was "tortured and threatened with the rape of my wife and the assassination of my two daughters" if he did not sign a document acknowledging the opposition was linked closely with the US government. After the arrest at the airport, Marquez said, he was taken to the State Security offices, "where they threatened to shoot me." He said he was covered with a hood, and beaten about the face with his suitcase to force him to sign the document. (Basic data from AFP, 11/09/89)

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