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Nicaraguan Report On Prison Population, Tally Of Persons Kidnapped By Contras

by Deborah Tyroler

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According to a recent report by the National Permanent Commission for the Protection of Human Rights (CNPPDH), Nicaragua's prison population totals 4,957. Of the total, 1,117 are former contras and persons arrested for collaboration with the contras. Next, 39 prisoners are former National Guardsmen. President of the government commission, Vilma Nunez, said the CNPPDH estimates the number of Nicaraguans kidnapped by the contras at 7,472. Nunez said the Commission is preparing a report on the deaths of contra sympathizers in northern Nicaragua, and has completed investigations of 22 of the 79 cases presented by Americas Watch. Nunez said that as a result of the investigations, 12 members of the Nicaraguan military have thus far been sentenced to prison terms ranging from six to 30 years. (Basic data from Xinhua, 11/17/89)

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