

12-7-1989

# Human Rights Watch Report: Rights Monitors Killed In Colombia, Brazil, Peru & Guatemala

John Neagle

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur>

---

## Recommended Citation

Neagle, John. "Human Rights Watch Report: Rights Monitors Killed In Colombia, Brazil, Peru & Guatemala." (1989).  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/3818>

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 NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu).

## **Human Rights Watch Report: Rights Monitors Killed In Colombia, Brazil, Peru & Guatemala**

*by John Neagle*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Thursday, December 7, 1989*

According to a report by Human Rights Watch released Dec. 7 in Washington, at least 68 human rights monitors were murdered and another 10 "disappeared" in 1989 after they were taken into detention. Next, 16 bystanders died because they happened to be in the company of the victims at the time. Human Rights Watch is an independent organization that documents human rights conditions throughout the world. The report said most of the murders and disappearances, more than double the 1988 toll, occurred in nations described as "democracies." It noted that gathering data on human rights abuses is especially annoying to governments in "superficial democracies," characterized by negligible rule of law and some openness. The worst offender world-wide was Colombia, where 24 killings of rights monitors were recorded. The report pointed out that perpetrators included drug traffickers and mid-level police officers linked to the military. Some 14 human rights workers were killed in Brazil, six in Peru, and two in Guatemala. All of those countries are classified as democracies. The report pointed out that the Cuban government tolerates monitoring, but its control of the media makes domestic publication of such information impossible. The report lists persecution against monitors in 72 countries, including the US, Britain, the Soviet Union, Israel, and a host of African, Arab, and Latin American nations. (Basic data from DPA, 12/07/89)

-- End --