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Panama: Attorney General Temporarily Removed From Office

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

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On June 2, unidentified official sources quoted by AFP said Attorney General Rogelio Cruz is to be temporarily removed from office during a Supreme Court investigation of allegations that Cruz was involved in a cover-up related to the 1985 murder and torture of Hugo Spadafora. Cruz has been accused of authorizing the release from custody of several former members of deposed general Manuel Antonio Noriega's government suspected of involvement in the Spadafora killing. Spadafora, who had served as Deputy Health Minister in Gen. Omar Torrijos' government, was an outspoken Noriega critic. His decapitated corpse was found near the Costa Rican border in September 1985. (Basic data from AFP, 06/02/90)

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