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Guatemala: Interior Ministry Says Salvadoran Rightist Party Leader Linked To January Killings Of Social Democrats

by Deborah Tyroler

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A report by the Interior Ministry released to the press on July 5 said Roberto D'Abuisson was involved in the abduction and murder of Salvadoran social democrat politician Hector Oqueli Colindres, which took place last January in Guatemala. The report said Salvadoran businesspersons Francisco Ricardo and Orlando Sola, and Salvadoran military attache in Guatemala, Col. Mario Denis Moran Echeverria, were also implicated in the murder of Oqueli and Guatemalan attorney Hilda Flores. Next, the report mentions that the killings "almost undoubtedly" can be attributed to the "Salvadoran radical political right" which heads the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA). The report had been delivered by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo to Salvadoran counterpart Alfredo Cristiani last month at a regional summit in Antigua. After admitting that Guatemalan officials have "no concrete evidence," the report said the businesspersons were linked "the activity of Salvadoran terrorist groups." Regarding Moran Echeverria, the report said the attache is a "person whose past could make him a suspect in working to provide cover to terrorist groups." Because the attache enjoys diplomatic immunity, said the report, he has not been interrogated. The report added that the January incident "is not the first time that groups of Salvadoran terrorists have acted in Guatemala." In October 1989, local security forces confirmed that Salvadoran rightist extremists had participated in a wave of terrorism in Guatemala, causing "material damages and the abduction and assassination of several university students." On July 6 in San Salvador, ARENA president Armando Calderon Sol dismissed the Interior Ministry report as part of Guatemala's "pre-electoral context," and warned that the release of said report "endangers" bilateral relations. (Basic data from Notimex, 07/05/90, 07/06/90)

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