

7-18-1990

Guatemalan Interior Minister Blames Burglar Gangs Led By "central American Foreigners" For Violence In June

Deborah Tyroler

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

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Guatemalan Interior Minister Blames Burglar Gangs Led By "central American Foreigners" For Violence In June." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4171>

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 NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Guatemalan Interior Minister Blames Burglar Gangs Led By "central American Foreigners" For Violence In June

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, July 18, 1990

According to Interior Minister Gen. Carlos Morales, political violence in Guatemala is a thing of the past. Large numbers of killings in June, he said, were attributable to gangs of burglars led by "Central American foreigners." Cerigua reported that the human rights violations count last month came to 267, the highest monthly toll in the past four years of President Vinicio Cerezo's government. Extrajudicial executions accounted for 198 of that total: the deaths of 73 victims were witnessed, and the remaining 125 corpses turned up in public places. On July 2, in the village of Racana, Totonicapan department, Pedro Tiu, member of the Runujel Junam Council of Ethnic Communities (CERJ), was dragged out of his home by 10 armed men. Tiu's family, who witnessed the kidnapping, submitted writs of habeas corpus at several possible detention locations to no avail. The Committee for Campesino Unity (CUC) reported that nine soldiers were arrested and detained in Santiago Atitlan, Solola department, for the June 21 murder of Gregorio Tsituj. Shortly thereafter, they were released on the order of a colonel from the Solola military base, who arrived at the Santiago town jail accompanied by 700 soldiers. In another incident reported by the CUC, on June 28 civil patrol members in Huehuetenango department captured Remigio Morales, 18, and Rafael Sanchez, 15, and accused them of being guerrillas. Civil patrol chief and paramilitary agent Alberto Sanchez ordered their immediate execution. Three civil patrol members executed the youths by hacking their bodies to pieces with machetes. (Basic data from Cerigua Weekly Briefs, 07/02-08/90)

-- End --