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## **Panama: Government Prosecutor Orders Arrest Of Retired Gen. Diaz Herrera In Connection With Spadafora Murder**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Oct. 4, government prosecutor Carlos Augusto Herrera ordered the arrest of retired general Roberto Diaz Herrera in connection with the 1985 murder of physician Hugo Spadafora. Diaz Herrera, former commander of the defunct Panamanian Defense Forces, is accused of complicity, abuse of authority and evidence cover-up. Herrera said the government may seek Diaz Herrera's extradition from Venezuela. The retired officer sought exile in Venezuela in June 1987 after exposing deposed general Manuel Antonio Noriega's drug trafficking activities. Of the 17 civilians and military personnel presently detained in connection with the murder case, eight were arrested during the previous week. (Basic data from Notimex, 10/04/90)

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