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Costa Rica: Justice Minister Says Legal Reforms Underway To Provide Greater Protection For Women

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Nov. 28, Justice Minister Elizabet Odio announced that laws pertaining to domestic violence and other forms of abuse suffered by women were in the process of being reformed to provide women with greater protection. Odio spoke at a round table on violence against women, part of the 52nd Costa Rican Medical Congress. According to the minister, 253 serious assault cases were handled by the nation's medical forensics establishment in the first seven months of the year. The cases involved women victimized by male partners. The majority of victims ranged in age from 25 to 34. Sixty percent were legally married, and the remainder were partners in common law marriages, or living with a man. (Basic data from AFP, 11/28/90)

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