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## **Americas Watch Calls On President Serrano To End Impunity Of Death Squads**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Jan. 14, the human rights monitor organization, Americas Watch, released an open letter to Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano requesting that he act to "bring an end to the impunity enjoyed by those who assassinate, torture and disappear hundreds of civilians every year." Americas Watch insisted that persons "responsible for the serious violations which occurred under the administration of [former] president Vinicio Cerezo...be investigated, prosecuted and punished...whether they be government officials or members of the armed forces." Next, Americas Watch called on Serrano to "dedicate his best efforts" to investigate and prosecute individuals responsible for the deaths and abductions of 19 human rights workers in the 1988- 1990 period. In at least eight cases, witnesses reported that the victims were abducted or their corpses were discovered after detention by uniformed soldiers, or by persons in civilian dress who had been observed meeting with soldiers. (Basic data from AFP, 01/14/91)

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