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## **Panama: Anniversary Of 1964 Student Massacre**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Jan. 9, 1964, 21 students were killed and about 100 injured in clashes with US soldiers. The students were prevented from raising their national flag alongside the US flag at a high school in the Canal Zone. [Within hours of the incident, 30,000 Panamanians were in the streets of Panama City. By the time the riot had been quashed by US troops, 28 people had been killed, 300 wounded and 500 arrested. The Panamanian government responded by breaking diplomatic relations with Washington.] On the 27th anniversary of the "flag riots," President Guillermo Endara called for commemorating the date "without hatred or resentment." Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon said that the anniversary offered an opportunity to "reaffirm the commitment to democracy and national sovereignty." In a statement, the National Assembly described Jan. 9 as "a date to remember our former struggles." Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath officiated at a mass in Panama City's cathedral followed by a march to the students' burial site in Afagano Arrosamena cemetery. (Basic data from Notimex, 01/09/91)

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