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## Americas Watch Representative Visits Panama

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## **Americas Watch Representative Visits Panama**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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On Feb. 25, David Nachman, representative of the human rights monitor organization Americas Watch, told ACAN-EFE that during a recent visit to Panama he received numerous reports of political persecution by the government. He said anonymous individuals and groups charged that the government has manipulated the legal system to apply pressure on political opponents. Nachman refused to provide further information concerning the allegations of persecution. He said a detailed report would be released within the next few weeks. During his visit Nachman met with several members of President Guillermo Endara's cabinet, supreme court justices, attorney general office officials, attorneys, journalists, union leaders, forensic doctors, and Catholic Church officials. He also visited the El Chorrillo neighborhood, which sustained heavy bombing during the December 1989 US invasion, and Ciudad Colon in northern Panama, site of extreme poverty and escalating violence. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 02/25/91)

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