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Guatemala: Note On Human Rights

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On May 2, the Guatemala Human Rights Commission released a report on major abuses during the April 16-26 period. According to the report, five persons were assassinated, seven abducted, and 25 were victims of illegal arrest. The incidents occurred in Guatemala City, and the departments of Guatemala, Chichicastenango, Chimaltenango, El Peten, and El Quiche. Details on selected incidents are summarized below. April 13-14: Eugenia Monterroso, director of Casa Alianza, reported that five street children were beaten and abducted in Guatemala City. Casa Alianza is a non-profit organization dedicated to defending the rights of homeless children. April 23: In a statement, the Coordinating Council of Secondary School Students (CEEM) said that 10 students were detained by police following an argument with a bus driver in Guatemala City. April 24: Eleven students protesting the arrest of their counterparts outside the Education Ministry headquarters were arrested by riot squad police. April 26: Jorge Mendez Barragan, former military intelligence chief and head of criminal investigations for the National Police, was abducted on the outskirts of Guatemala City. [Basic data from 05/02/91 report by Guatemala Human Rights Commission (Washington, DC); Prensa Latina (Cuba), 05/02/91]

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