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President Gaviria Rejects Amnesty International's Claim Of Human Rights Abuses By Colombian Security Forces

by Barbara Khol

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On May 29, President Cesar Gaviria categorically rejected a claim by Amnesty International that Colombian security forces had committed human rights violations. Interior Minister Humberto de la Calle said the administration did not accept the report and questioned its accuracy. In statements to reporters May 28, Amnesty International secretary general Ian Martin said the London-based human rights group "has documented widespread human rights violations, including thousands of extraofficial executions and hundreds of disappearances" in Colombia. Aida Avello, Patriotic Union (UP) delegate to the Constituent Assembly, voiced support for the Amnesty International report. UP politicians and activists have been killed systematically in recent years. (Basic data from AFP, 05/29/91)

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