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## **Guatemala: Human Rights Attorney General Accuses National Police Of Torturing Prisoners**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

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In a recent report to the Interior Ministry, Human Rights Attorney General Ramiro de Leon Carpio stated that three prisoners detained by the National Police were "tortured in the offices of the Criminal Investigations Department (DIC)." The prisoners were "beaten and burned with cigarettes." De Leon Carpio called for an investigation and disciplinary action against responsible officers. He added that National Police chief Col. Mario Enrique Paiz was ultimately responsible for the abuses in question. During a press conference on Oct. 26, Paiz said de Leon Carpio "violated the constitution" by making charges without "providing [the accused] with an opportunity to defend themselves." Next, Paiz asserted that "when the prisoners went before the judge, they did not show signs of torture." (Basic data from AFP, 10/26/91)

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