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On Arrest & Deportation Of Undocumented Central Americans

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Nov. 21, Guatemalan Treasury Police spokespersons reported that security forces had recently arrested and deported 74 undocumented Central Americans en route to the US. On Nov. 24, a spokesperson from the US Embassy in San Salvador reported that thus far in 1991, 32,000 undocumented Salvadorans en route to the US had been deported from third countries. The US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has projected a total 43,000 such deportations by year-end. The INS reported that Salvadorans are the most frequent victims of "murder, swindles and assaults [by] criminals and bandits operating in border areas." The US Embassy warned Salvadorans that "immigrating illegally is very dangerous and may result in personal or financial loss." According to estimates cited by the Agence France-Presse, over 1.5 million Salvadorans have emigrated to the US in the last 11 years. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 11/24/91; ACAN-EFE, 11/21/91, 11/25/91)

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