

11-29-1991

Guatemala: Report On Social Welfare Conditions

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Guatemala: Report On Social Welfare Conditions." (1991). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/6776>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Guatemala: Report On Social Welfare Conditions

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, November 29, 1991

On Nov. 19 in Mexico City, Human Rights Attorney General Ramiro de Leon Carpio told reporters that in the first half of the year, his office received 3,906 reports of assassinations, disappearances, missing persons, threats, illegal arrests, abuse of authority and mistreatment by security forces. De Leon Carpio said social, economic and cultural factors must be also need to be considered as part of the problem regarding lack of respect for human rights in Guatemala. He pointed out that 84% of citizens live in poverty, and 53% are illiterate. The housing deficit is estimated at 1 million units. Medical services are inadequate, demonstrated by the following statistic: one hospital bed per 1,000 inhabitants. In rural Guatemala, 55% of households lack access to potable water. According to a Nov. 25 report on the status of women and children in Guatemala by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the National Economic Planning Council (SEGEPLAN), 76% of 9.2 million inhabitants live in poverty. The report said 76% of children under age five are malnourished, and half that number suffer from severe malnutrition. Next, only 60% of school age children are attending classes. UNICEF coordinator for Guatemala Thierry Delrue said the unemployment rate is currently estimated at 42.6%. The most wealthy 10% of all Guatemalans receive nearly half of national income. Delrue said 62% of pregnant women receive no prenatal care. The mortality rate for children under five years of age, 102 per 1,000, is among the highest in Latin America. (Basic data from Notimex, 11/19/91; ACAN-EFE, 11/25/91)

-- End --