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Highlights Of Amnesty International Annual Report

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Highlights of the London-based Amnesty International's 1990 report on human rights pertaining to Latin America and the Caribbean are summarized below. * Death squads, comprised of members of police forces or soldiers, "assassinated hundreds of persons" in Latin American countries. * In Brazil, almost 500 minors were murdered by death squads in Rio de Janeiro alone. Despite statements by President Fernando Collor de Mello that such abuses would not be tolerated, killings of street children continued through the end of 1990. * Death squad killings continued in Guatemala throughout the year. Victims included homeless children. * In El Salvador, death squad killings doubled in the first eight months of 1990 compared to 1989. * Torture of prisoners by security forces in Brazil, Peru and Colombia was a common occurrence. * In Mexico, children were among the victims of security forces' application of torture during detention. * Cases of death following torture (interrogation) were reported in El Salvador, Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras and Venezuela. * Government amnesty for persons accused of serious human rights abuses was "generalized" throughout the region. * Many Latin American and Caribbean governments continued the practice of incarcerating political dissidents and conscientious objectors. In Cuba, 70 government critics were imprisoned in 1990. * Amnesty International denounced the arbitrary detention of hundreds of persons in Haiti, and the continued imprisonment in Panama of several thousand persons who were detained during the US invasion in December 1989. * In early 1991, reported cases of human rights abuses increased in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Cuba and Jamaica. (Basic data from Notimex, 07/10/91)