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Panama: Rocket Attack On Office Of Vice President Commemorates Anniversary Of Student Massacre

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Jan. 9, police sources told reporters that the rebel group 20th of December Movement (M-20) launched a rocket at Vice President Guillermo Ford's office. The blast caused material damage, but no casualties. According to an anonymous phone call received by a local radio station, the attack commemorated "the martyrs" killed on Jan. 9, 1964, when US troops stationed in the canal zone fired on student protesters demanding the withdrawal of US military forces from Panama. A total of 21 Panamanians were killed and 500 wounded in the incident. Next, over 500 people marched down the Avenida de los Martires to the gates of the US Southern Command. A demonstrator burned the US flag to commemorate the anniversary of the 1964 event and to protest continued US military presence in Panama. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, Agence France-Presse, ACAN-EFE, 01/09/92)

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