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Venezuela: Crime Rate Nearly Triples In 1991

by Barbara Khol

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According to official statistics published in the Aug. 19 issue of El Universal (Caracas), nearly 400 murders are committed every month in Caracas, and the nation's crime rate has come close to tripling this year. The newspaper said that in the first half of 1991, 5,341 murders took place in Venezuela, or 2,099 more than during the entire year of 1990. All other violent crimes reported throughout the country totaled 30,871 in 1989, and by 1990, had increased 5.4% to 32,530. In the first half of 1991, the number of these crimes had jumped to 63,253 cases. (Basic data from AFP, 08/19/91)

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