

2-21-1992

U.N. Human Rights Investigator Reports On Conditions Prevailing In Guatemala

Deborah Tyroler

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

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "U.N. Human Rights Investigator Reports On Conditions Prevailing In Guatemala." (1992).
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/7119>

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.

U.N. Human Rights Investigator Reports On Conditions Prevailing In Guatemala

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, February 21, 1992

At a Feb. 13 press conference in Guatemala City, Christian Tomuschat, visiting UN special investigator for Guatemala, said that thus far he had found no indications of a significant reduction in violence. He added that impunity and massacres continue. Tomuschat was scheduled to submit a report on Guatemala to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva (Switzerland) on Feb. 21. The special investigator called President Jorge Serrano's government to adopt concrete measures permitting Guatemalans to enjoy fundamental economic, social civil and political rights. He said the "political will" for improving the human rights situation was insufficient unless backed up by the application of justice, and pacification efforts. According to Tomuschat, an "authentic democracy requires that all political options enjoy equal freedom." Noting that many of the murders and disappearances committed in 1991 were politically motivated, he said that left and center movements are not able to act in Guatemalan politics without fear of suffering abuses of many kinds. Tomuschat condemned the Civil Defense Patrols (PACs), described as an "element of uncontrolled violence which has no place in the framework of legal norms." He said the army continues to carry out indiscriminate bombings in areas populated by indigenous Guatemalans. Tomuschat warned that as long as an atmosphere of fear and anxiety hangs over Guatemala, the international community would refrain from making a firm commitment to development. (Basic data from Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 02/13/92; Notimex, 02/14/92)

-- End --