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Guatemala: Report On Recent Human Rights Violations

by Deborah Tyroler

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According to reports by the Guatemala Human Rights Commission, at least 50 persons were assassinated in the Jan. 2-Feb. 5 period. Many of the victims were tortured and mutilated. The killings took place in Guatemala City, and Santa Rosa, Izabal, Suchitepequez, Baja Verapaz, Guatemala, El Progreso, Quetzaltenango, Alta Verapaz, Retalhuleu and Escuintla departments. On Feb. 21, University of San Carlos (USAC) rector Alfonso Fuentes Soria said 15 USAC professors have received death threats. He noted that most of the faculty members espouse "progressive" ideas. Interior Minister Fernando Hurtado recently announced that 2,000 security agents would be posted at strategic points in the capital in an effort to control the recent increase in violence. [Basic data from 02/06/92 report by Guatemala Human Rights Commission (Washington, DC); Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 02/21/92]

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