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Brazil: Rio De Janeiro Residents Protest Crime Wave

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On Feb. 26, over 10,000 people marched along the Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro to protest crime and violence. The march was in response to a call by hotel and tourism agencies to "recover our tourism" in light of the upcoming Carnival celebrations. According to hotel industry spokesperson Jose Eduardo Guinle, tourism in recent years has declined by approximately 35%. The number of tourists expected during Carnival was down 45% compared to 1991. In 1991, homicides in Rio numbered 7,505, compared to 8,722 in 1990. According to police statistics, 10,000 armed robberies last year were reported by victims held up in public transport vehicles or while waiting to board such vehicles. Guinle said tourism industry officials expect less than 500,000 visitors this year, down from over 780,000 in 1987. (Sources: Agence France-Presse, 02/25/92, 02/26/92)

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