

**MASTER EXHIBIT SERIES**

**GUATEMALA**

**FORCED RECRUITMENT/CIVIL PATROLS**

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All the sources of information contained in this document are identified and are publicly available. Summaries and Abstracts by Thelma Garza, Mark Silverman, and Kim Pedersen of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, San Francisco

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## GUATEMALA

### FORCED RECRUITMENT/CIVIL PATROLS

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Citation/Description</u>
I.	<p>Guatemala Human Rights Update/USA, "Other Human Rights Violations," <u>Human Rights Update #45</u>, 27 November 1990.</p> <p>The Council of Ethnic Communities "Runjuel Junam" (CERJ) reports that in San Antonio, Sinajche, Zacualpa, El Quiche, military commissioners have threatened death to all men who refuse to participate in Civil Defense Patrols (CDP). Army has a list of names of those refusing to join CDP. [abstract follows table of contents]</p>
II.	<p>Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA "Minors Conscripted in Civil Defense Patrols," <u>Human Rights Update #44</u>, 19 November 1990, p. 2.</p> <p>A Mutual Support Group of Relatives of the Disappeared (GAM) member reports that his son and other minors from Pachoj, Chichicastenango, El Quiche were forcibly conscripted into local CDP's on November 1. Patrol chiefs gathered young men of the village and threatened them with death if they did not join the patrols. Other sources report that the chief of the local patrols uttered the threats personally. [abstract follows table of contents]</p>
III.	<p>"Army Forces Peasants Into Civil Defense Patrols," <u>Excelsior</u> (Mexico City), 10 October 1990 (as reported in <u>Central America NewsPak</u>, Vol. 5, No. 18, p. 7).</p> <p>The Attorney General's Office of Human Rights of Guatemala has established that the Army's Self-Defense Patrols (PAC) are in clear violation of human rights. One department's patrols were using a school as their station, and the adjunct Attorney General For Human Rights received many complaints that the Military Commissioners, another Army paramilitary group, were forcing peasants to join the CDP's, which are stipulated as voluntary in the Guatemala Constitution. [abstract follows table of contents]</p>
IV.	<p>"Attorney Reports Human Rights Violations," Guatemala City, Siglo Veintiuno, 24 July 1990 (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS], <u>Daily Report: Latin America</u>, 28 August 1990, p. 16).</p> <p>Human rights attorney reports that the population has presented more accusations against State security forces as human rights violators than any other institution. The first 6 months of the year there were 67 accusations against the army, 46 against the national police, 12 against the CDP's for trying to force people into patrols. [abstract follows table of contents]</p>
V.	<p>Mary Jo McConahay, "Issue of Civil Patrols Haunts Guatemala," <u>San Francisco Chronicle</u>, 6 June 1990.</p> <p>Parraxtut farmer reports that local military commissioners (civilian intelligence group)</p>

- attacked him and his wife at night, killing his wife and leaving him for dead. He and his sons had refused to continue in CDP after learning that the Constitution guarantees the right not to participate in CDP. [abstract follows table of contents]
- VI. Amnesty International, "Guatemala: Human Rights Violations in Chichicastenango, Quiche," (London: Amnesty International, March 1990), "AMR 34/21/90."
- Reports of repeated death and rape threats by CDP upon residents who did not join CDP's, and details March 2nd attack on a group of GAM supporters carried out by CDP members at the instruction of soldiers from the Chupol Army base. [abstract follows table of contents]
- VII. Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, "Campesinos Demand Dissolution of Unconstitutional PAC's," Human Rights Update, 21 December 1989.
- Reports that representatives of campesino groups in El Quiche petitioned the Human Rights Commission to use its influence to dissolve CDP's, on the ground of forced participation on threats of being labeled guerrillas or collaborators. [abstract follows table of contents]
- VIII. Reggie Norton, Guatemala: The Lost Opportunity- Some Reflections on the Human Rights Situation, 1986-88 (Washington, D.C.: Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, July 1989), pp. i-ii, 12-14.
- Reports from a meeting with many international and domestic private and government representatives that entire villages are being attacked due to their reluctance to form CDP's, and that villagers are forced to join CDP's and escort the army through suspected guerrilla territory. [abstract follows table of contents]
- IX. Brook Larmer, "Peasants Chafe at Forced 'Voluntary' Service," Christian Science Monitor, 9 June 1989 (as reported in Central America NewsPak, Vol. 4, No. 9), p. 5-6.
- Reports that peasant leader of CERJ, a group formed to protect rights granted in the new Constitution, has encouraged villagers in Quiche Province not to participate in CDP's. Army associates CERJ with collaboration with guerrillas. CDP's originally consisted of nearly all available adult men, but the new constitution has declared participation in CDP's "voluntary." [abstract follows table of contents]
- X. Americas Watch, Persecuting Human Rights Monitors: The CERJ in Guatemala (New York: The Americas Watch Committee, November 1988), pp. 1-10.
- Documents goals of CERJ to disband CDP's. Describes the military nature of the CDP's. Reports that Army uses civil patrols as shields in guerrilla territory. [abstract follows table of contents]
- XI. Guatemalan Human Rights Commission, Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Guatemala: Reorganization and Extension of Military Control and Appendix, January 1989.
- Documents involvement of CDP's in human rights violations. Reports that GAM members have located secret cemeteries as evidence of such violations. Reports that

several villages' CDP members have demanded abolition of CDP. According to the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, the patrols are illegal. The appendix documents forced nature of CDPs. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXII. "Declaration of Amilcar Mendez, December 1988. "San Francisco, California, 13 December 1998.

The General Coordinator of CERJ reports the forced nature of the CDP's and recounts his personal knowledge of CDP extrajudicial executions and beatings of those who decline to serve in the CDP's. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXIII. "Declaration of Mr. Pedro Perez Lopez," San Francisco, California, 5 December 1988.

CERJ member reports he was threatened with death along with others who refused to serve in the CDP's. The threateners said that they would kill all who deserted the CDP's and accused them of being subversives. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XIV. "Declaration of Mr. Tomas Caelal Lares," San Francisco, California, 2 December 1988.

CERJ member states that his village in Chichicastenango voted to withdraw from CDP. However, they were threatened by the military that the same thing as happened to another village, Chimaltenango, might happen to them. 22 persons were recently massacred in that village. Declarant survived being pushed off of a cliff by soldiers after this threat. [abstract follows table of contents].

- XV. "Declaration of Manuel Mejia Tol," Santa Cruz Quiche, Guatemala, 22 November 1988.

CERJ member declares that residents of San Pedro Jocopilos, Department of Quiche, were accused of being subversive and threatened for abandoning the CDP. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XVI. Americas Watch, Closing the Space: Human Rights in Guatemala, May 1987-October 1988 (New York: The Americas Watch Committee, November 1988), p. 25-27, 68-70, 75-81.

Reports that persons forced to participate in CDP's suffer great hardship and are forced to commit human rights abuses on innocent civilians, despite the new Constitutional provision making such participation voluntary. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XVII. "Indian Women Protest Abuses," This Week: Central America and Panama, 22 August 1988, pp. 258, 260.

Indian women appearing before the Human Rights Commission of the Guatemalan Legislature protested abuses by the CDP's of those who resign from or refuse to serve in the CDP's. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XVIII. "Peasants Protest Patrol," This Week: Central America and Panama, 25 July 1988, p. 229.

Campesinos from Zacualpa, El Quiche, complained to a labor union that they have been forced to accept CDP duty as a result of threats and coercion including abduction and murder, despite the Constitution's provision. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XIV. "Declaration of the Community of Chontala, Chichicastenango, El Quiche," Guatemala, 8 June 1988.

Community members declare that they should not be threatened, persecuted, arrested, or considered subversive because they chose not to participate in CDP's. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XX. "Military Commissioners Charged with Abuse of Power," Central America Report, Vol. 15, No. 21, 3 June 1988, p. 167.

Reports that soldiers rampaged through the homes of villagers to convince people to join CDP's. Also, two labor union leaders were detained for refusal to join CDP's. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXI. "Declaration of Victor Perera, 1988." Oakland, California, 30 May 1988.

A visiting lecturer at University of California, Santa Cruz, states that participation in CDP is mandatory, and that clergy and other pacifists are forced to serve. Members are forced to beat others and sometimes kill those who are labeled as subversive. People refusing to serve have been imprisoned and denied basic necessities such as food while incarcerated. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXII. "Bad Old Days Return to Guatemalan Village," Christian Science Monitor, 9 March 1988 (as reported in Information Services on Latin America [ISLA], Oakland, California, #1355).

Mayor of a village near a guerrilla stronghold reports that his village has become dangerous after dark, as 11 people have either disappeared or been shot to death in the past four months. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXIII. Beatriz Manz, "The Case of Northeastern Huehuetenango," chap. in Refugees of a Hidden War- The Aftermath of Counterinsurgency in Guatemala, (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1988), pp. 66-83.

Details typical activities of the CDP's, and reports that few villagers are willing to publicly denounce the CDP's or decline to join. A few, however, did tell the author that participation was obligatory, not voluntary, and that this was commonly understood by the known persecution of the first protesters. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXIV. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Guatemala, "Further Information on UA 291/87 (22 October 1987)," 27 October 1987.

Reports that a CDP member was abducted after requesting a reduction in the number of required CDP duty hours. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXV. Albert P. Blaustein & Gisbert H. Flanz, eds., "Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala," Constitutions of the Countries of the World, Vol. 6 (New York: Oceana Publications, September 1986), Articles 5 and 34, pp. 28, 33.

Article 5 pertains to freedom of action, in which citizens are not required to obey orders

which are illegal; Article 34 states that no one is required to participate in or become a member of self-defense or similar groups. (Includes English translation and original Spanish text.) [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXVI. Americas Watch, Civil Patrols in Guatemala (New York: The Americas Watch Committee, August 1986), pp. 13-40.

Documents that CDP participation is mandatory and coerced. The U.S. State Department has acknowledged that the patrols are compulsory (p.33). CDP patrollers have been forced to eliminate crops and property of anyone found in the mountains. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXVII. EnfoPrensa/USA, "Dissolution of Civil Patrols Requested," Enfoprensa- Information on Guatemala (Washington, D.C.: EnfoPrensa/USA, 7 February 1986), p. 2.

Andres Coyote Patal, a Christian Democrat in Congress, intends to ask Congress to dissolve the CDP's. Campesinos voted for the Christian Democrats in order to hasten the dissolution of CDP's, which are obligatory despite their being termed as voluntary. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXVIII. Sheldon Davis, "Civil Patrols- Armed Peace in Northern Huehuetenango," Cultural Survival Quarterly, Vol. 9, No. 4 (Cambridge, MA: Cultural Survival, Fall 1985), pp. 38-39.

Reports that the CDP has replaced the national judicial system as an institution for resolving local conflicts. Disputes are often resolved through violence. Details the purpose of the CDP to disassociate Indian population from guerrilla movement. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXIX. Bitter and Cruel, The British Parliamentary Human Rights Group, 1985, pp. 14-15.

Compares forced CDP participation to slavery. States that individuals who fail to attend face increasingly harsh punishments including disappearance and death. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXX. "Guatemalan Troops Killed 14 Peasants, Church Officials Say," Miami Herald, 17 October 1991 (as reported in Information Services on Latin America [ISLA], Oakland, California, #1776).

Reports that civil guards killed 14 peasants who failed to show up for obligatory military patrols in Chijtinimit, Western Guatemala. Also reports 42 similar killings since April. [abstract follows table of contents]

- XXXI. Americas Watch, Creating a Desolation and Calling it Peace: May 1983 Supplement to the Report on Human Rights in Guatemala (New York: The Americas Watch Committee, May 1983), pp. 6-7, 22-27.

Reports that Army views villages' willingness to form a civil patrol as a test of "political sympathies". Villages not forming patrols are targets for military attack. Reports that people are told it would prove they were guerrillas to be executed if they refused to join CDP's. Reports that CDP's were forced to kill people on the Army's list and report them

killed by guerrillas. Reports rape and murder of an entire village by another, forced by the Army. [abstract follows table of contents]