

**MASTER EXHIBIT SERIES**  
**GUATEMALA**  
**SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

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All the sources of information contained in this document are identified and are publicly available. Summaries and Abstracts by Pat Chaffee of the Central American Refugee Center, San Francisco, CA.

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## GUATEMALA

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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| I. | Comision para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos en Centroamérica, <u>CODEHUCA Accion Urgente</u> , "Dramatic Situation in Guatemala as Wave of Assassinations Continues," October 1990, "C 90/370/170." |
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Amilcar Mendez (Director of the Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas Runujel Junam [CERJJ]) has denounced the fact that several women have been raped in military quarters of the repatriation camp of the CEAR.

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| I. | Anne-Marie O'Connor, "American Nun Allegedly Tortured by Guatemalans is Rights Activist," <u>Atlantic Journal-Constitution</u> , 29 May 1990. |
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Sister Diana Ortiz, a U.S. citizen and Roman Catholic nun, said in an affidavit that she was taken by a National Police officer to a clandestine detention center where she was tortured, interrogated and sexually molested. Before her capture, she and two other nuns had been holding discussions of basic human rights with parishioners of a town in Huehuetenango province.

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| II. | Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, "Young Victims of Direct Repression," <u>Information Bulletin</u> , March 1990, Vol VII, No. 1. |
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Deputy Fermin Gomez, who represents the department of Totonicapan, accused soldiers of raping Indian girls in combat zones in the Altiplano. "It would be difficult to find a girl of 11 to 15 who is a virgin," he said. "Even seven-year-old girls have been raped."

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| III. | Adrianne Aron, et al., "PTSD in Central American Refugee Women," Committee for Health Rights in Central America, presented at 97th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, New Orleans, 12 August 1989. |
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Rape of women and other gender-specific torture are standard operating procedures of Guatemalan and Salvadoran military. In treating women refugees who have been sexually tortured or who have witnessed sexual torture in other women, the therapist must be aware of the differences between rape as an assault on an individual and rape as a component of state terrorism.

- IV. Amnesty International, "Abuses Against Children of Human Rights Workers" (London: Amnesty International, February 1989), "AMR 34/03/89."

Fifteen-year-old Iris Yomila Reyes Urizar was reportedly raped while in the custody of the armed forces based in the municipality of San Andres Sajeabaja, El Quiche department.

- V. Robert M. Carmack, ed., Harvest of Violence (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1988), pp. 111-114.

In July, 1982, the women of the Finca San Francisco in Huehuetenango were gang raped by the soldiers, supervised by officers, indicating the involvement of the department commander or his orderlies.

- VI. Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, "Human Rights Violations," Information Bulletin, July/August 1987, Vol. V, No. 5.

On May 27, Juvenita Gomez de Martinez was killed by unknowns who broke into her home while she and her husband were asleep. She was raped and her skull was crushed.

- VII. EnfoPrensa/USA, "Six Years in Military Barracks," Information on Guatemala (Washington, DC: EnfoPrensa/USA, 13 March 1987), Year 5, No. 10.

Nineth de Garcia, Mutual Support Group President, reported that Ana Maria Mejia, missing for six years, appeared alive, but "disfigured and tortured" and has a son conceived as a result of the repeated rapes to which she was subjected.

- VIII. Amnesty International, "Guatemala: The Human Rights Record" (London: Amnesty International, 1987), "AMR 34/04/87," pp. 98-100.

Witnesses from the peasant organizations reported that members of the civil defense patrols in search of guerrillas routinely rape women, even when they were pregnant.

- IX. Americas Watch, "Civil Patrols in Guatemala" (New York: Americas Watch, August 1986), pp. 33-38.

A resident from a community near Chichicastenango reported that soldiers from the local destacamento "would rape the women." When the community complained, they were given the choice of having a destacamento or forming a civil patrol. "We saw our choice: either choose to have our daughters raped or choose the civil patrol ... if the army hadn't raped our women we would not have accepted the civil patrol."

- X. Amnesty International (LISA), "Memorandum to the Government of Guatemala following an AI Mission to the Country in April 1985," January 1986, "AI PPSTMT 86/01," pp. 34.

The AI delegation received reports of torture, including sexual abuse of women.

- XI. Americas Watch, "Guatemala: The Group for Mutual Support 1984-1985" (New York: Americas Watch Committee, 1985), pp. 40-46.

GAM members who saw the body of Rosario Godoy de Cuervas after her death in an alleged auto accident believe that she had been raped.

- XII. Americas Watch, "Guatemala: A Nation of Prisoners" (New York: Americas Watch Committee, 1984), pp. 104-118.

During the military sweep of Rabinal in 1982 women were gang raped. One woman detained at the army

post for almost a month was raped over 300 times. A twelve-year-old was reportedly raped.

- XIII. Amnesty International, "Amnesty International Reports Massacres in New Guatemalan Security Drive" (London: Amnesty International, 12 October 1982), "AMR 34/45/82."

Guatemalan forces massacred more than 2600 Indians and peasant farmers in a new counter-insurgency program launched after General Efraín Ríos Montt came to power in March. In one Indian village in Quiché province troops were reported to have forced all the inhabitants into the courthouse, raped the women and beheaded the men.

- XIV. Amnesty International, "Massive Extrajudicial Executions in Rural Areas Under the Government of General Efraín Ríos Montt" (London: Amnesty International, July 1982), "AMR 34/34/82," Appendix II -- Testimony re: Army Attack on a Village in the Alta Verapaz in April 1982.

A 17-year-old Kekchi Indian who survived an army attack on her village reports that soldiers raped her, slashed her breasts with a machete, slashed her head and her entire hand.

- XV. "Guatemalan Indians Crowd into Mexico to Escape Widening War," Washington Post, 19 February 1982 (as reported in Information Services on Latin America [ISLA], Vol. 24, Iss. 2, No. 584).

Women refugees expressed fears of being raped by soldiers and of being burned alive in their huts.

- XVI. Amnesty International, "Testimony in English of Yolanda Urizar de Aguilar about the Arrest and Torture of Her Daughter, Yolanda de la Luz Aguilar Urizar" (New York: Amnesty International, 8 January 1980), "AMR 34103/80."

Yolanda de la Luz Aguilar Urizar was arrested in the Department of Justice in Guatemala City while distributing leaflets protesting the murder of a trade unionist. During the course of her interrogation she was brutally beaten, sexually abused and raped by 20 police agents.