



[Email this article](#)
[Print this article](#)
[Most popular pages](#)

[Click to send](#)
[Choose File Print or Ctrl P or Apple P](#)
[Today | This Week](#)

Report details abuses in Mexican 'dirty war'

Ginger Thompson and Antonio Betancourt
New York Times
Feb. 27, 2006 12:00 AM

MEXICO CITY - A secret report prepared by a special prosecutor's office says that the Mexican military carried out a "genocide plan" of kidnapping, torturing and killing hundreds of suspected subversives in the southern state of Guerrero during the "dirty war," from the late 1960s to the early 1980s.

The report, which was not endorsed by the government of President Vicente Fox but was leaked by its authors last week, says the genocide plan was ordered by President Luis Echeverria in 1970 and designed by the former Defense Minister, Hermenegildo Cuenca Diaz.

It is based partly on declassified documents from the Mexican military and for the first time provided names of military officers and units involved in destroying entire villages that the government suspected of serving as base camps for the rebel leader Lucio Cabanas.

In those towns, soldiers rounded up all the men and boys, executed some on the spot and detained others, and then used violence, including rape, to drive the rest of the people away, the report says. Most of those detained suffered severe torture, including beatings, electric shock and being forced to drink gasoline, at military installations that were operated like "concentration camps."

"With this operation, a state policy was established in which all the authorities connected to the army - the president, ministers of state, and the presidential guard, commanders of the military regions in Guerrero, and officers and troops in their command - participated in the violations of human rights with the justification of pursuing a bad fugitive," the report says. "Such an open counter guerrilla strategy could not have been possible without the explicit consent and approval of the president."

Fox and the special prosecutor, Ignacio Carrillo Prieto, however, did not endorse the report, which was presented to Fox in December. Carrillo said the government refused to make it public without changes. The report is an unedited draft of a document called the White Book, which is to be the government's historical accounting of the egregious abuses by the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

In an interview Friday, Carrillo said the draft of the report, prepared by a team of 27 researchers, including former student militants and advocates for the victims, was filled with bias and sprinkled with loaded language.

[Email this article](#)
[Print this article](#)
[Most popular pages](#)

[Click to send](#)
[Choose File Print or Ctrl P or Apple P](#)
[Today | This Week](#)

