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Report: Mexican leaders behind atrocities

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MEXICO CITY — A leaked draft of a government report on Mexico's "dirty war" alleges that the country's presidency orchestrated an anti-insurgency campaign in which soldiers carried out summary executions, raped women and set entire villages on fire.

Based partly on declassified Mexican military documents, the report was prepared by a special prosecutor assigned to investigate alleged atrocities by soldiers. Prosecutors said the report had not yet been officially released and was undergoing changes.

The report was leaked to several prominent Mexican writers and published Sunday in the Mexican magazine *Erme-Equis*.

The unedited draft says the alleged crimes were committed during the administrations of Presidents Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, Luis Echeverria, Jose Lopez Portillo and Adolfo Lopez Mateos.

The most brutal period allegedly occurred under Echeverria, 1970-76, when military bases allegedly served as "concentration camps," according to the report, and hundreds of suspected subversives in the southern state of Guerrero were killed or disappeared.

Under Echeverria's so-called "Friendship Operation" launched by the military in 1970 in Guerrero, the report says, there is evidence the army conducted "illegal searches, arbitrary detentions, torture, the raping of women in the presence of their husbands, and the possible extrajudicial executions of groups of people."

"Such an open counter-guerrilla strategy could not have been possible without the explicit consent and approval of the president," it added.

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