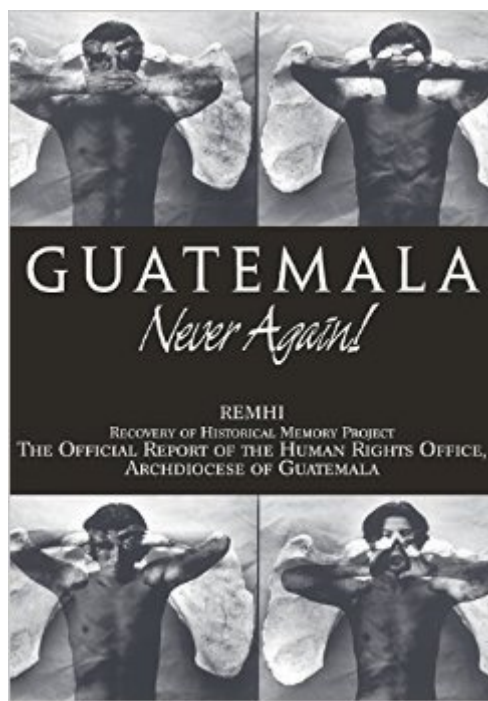


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Guatemala: Never Again!



Synopsis

This book is a summarization of a human rights report presented in Guatemala in 1998. Through eye-witness testimony, it outlines the military atrocities committed during Guatemala's Civil War and the effect the war has had on Guatemala's indigenous population. This edition has been edited from the original lengthy report but retains important testimony in smaller quotes where relevant and offers the reader stark evidence of the massive violence as well as the psychological warfare that was perpetrated on the citizens of Guatemala. The author of this report was killed two days after it was published. His assailant has not yet been brought to justice. This report is a must read for anyone interested in Human Rights, Native cultures, or the history of Guatemala.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This review is for the Orbis Books (Maryknoll) oversize paperback edition, 1999. It is the English language summary of the four volume REHMI report on human rights atrocities during the four-decade internal conflict in Guatemala between the wealthy oligarchy backed by the army and most everyone else, but particularly the indigenous Mayan Indians. Bishop Juan Gerardi, architect of the REHMI project, presented the REHMI report on April 24, 1998. Two days later he was brutally murdered, which led to an unprecedented prosecution, lasting nine years, of Guatemalan Army officers and a priest who were complicit in his death. As agreed in the Guatemalan Peace Accords of September 1996, a similar study would be created under the auspices of the United Nations. That work, known as the CEH report, was completed in February 1999 with findings similar to the REHMI

report. The government forces and their allies were responsible for 90-93% of the atrocities, whereas only 3-5% were attributed to the Guerillas. Language is one of the reasons for the Archdiocese pursuing the REHMI study. The tribes comprising the Mayan Indians speak 23 tongues and dialects. Presumably, the predominately foreign investigators under UN auspices would not have the linguistic resources to interview the rural indigenous, whereas the Archdiocese had access to native speakers. As a result, the REHMI interviews were predominately in rural areas where they documented, with the names of the victims, around 29,000 deaths and forced disappearances and another 23,000 victims of human rights abuse. (The general estimate is that 200,000 persons perished in 36 years of conflict.

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