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# **Latin America Weekly Review**

**5 January 1978**



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Human Rights Developments

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Argentina, the Dominican Republic, and Paraguay released some political prisoners during the holidays. In Buenos Aires, the government freed 389 persons and announced that 3,607 persons are still being held under executive detention. In Santo Domingo, President Balaguer granted pardons to 60 persons--three of whom are considered political prisoners. There is now speculation that a large-scale amnesty may be announced on 27 February, Independence Day, a date closer to the May election. Paraguayan President Stroessner released some former Communist Party members during the last week of December, bringing the total releases last month to 35.

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Meanwhile, El Salvador is preparing for next week's visit of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

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In neighboring Guatemala, the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP) claimed responsibility for the New Year's Eve kidnaping of former Foreign Minister Herrera. Last April, the EGP kidnaped the El Salvadorean Ambassador during a meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank, releasing him after an EGP communique was read. The latest incident is only two months before presidential and general elections in Guatemala, and some sources believe that the government might consider imposing a state of emergency.

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