

Tortures documented in Uruguay

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WASHINGTON — The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has documented the torture and death of political prisoners as well as the violation of numerous other human rights in Uruguay.

From the commission's report, along with evidence recently presented by international missions to the country, a picture is emerging of Uruguay as the most persistent violator of the 1948 hemispheric human-rights declaration, which the one-time haven of democracy helped to establish.

The United States has ended military aid to Uruguay because of the

rights situation. The United States also led a successful effort in the Organization of American States (OAS) to reject Uruguay as a site for the annual General Assembly.

The inter-American rights commission, which was set up by the OAS, concluded that "grave violations of the following human rights have been committed in Uruguay: The rights to life, to liberty, to the security and integrity of the person; the right of freedom of opinion, expression and diffusion of beliefs."

It also mentioned violations of the rights to justice, due process, association, voting and participation in government.

Reports of the OAS commission are

widely accepted as authoritative in the often emotionally charged field of human-rights monitoring. The Carter Administration has sought to strengthen the commission with funding and political support.

The report listed numerous methods of torture said to be used repeatedly in the country, including "submarine" dunkings in a tank of water "generally mixed with vomit, blood or urine, until reaching the point of asphyxia. Sometimes that point is passed, and the prisoner dies."

Uruguay issued a strong public denunciation of the report when the commission privately presented an early version in December.