

# *Guatemalan President Praises 'Exemplary' Work of Genocidal Army*

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Guatemala City, July 5 (RHC)-- Former stand-up comedian and current Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales has praised the "exemplary" work done by the army, despite the overwhelming evidence it is responsible for systematic murder and human rights abuses in the country.

In a speech at an Army Day ceremony -- an event that was prohibited for over a decade out of respect for the victims of the military genocide -- the president said that "the army has been an exemplary institution contributing its abilities for the benefit of the public."

Morales praised the army's role in helping during and after natural disasters, maintaining security, combating drug trafficking and in international peacekeeping missions.

It has been an ongoing role, Morales said, that increases the "confidence that the people feel for their army."

Meanwhile, Defense Minister William Mansilla told reporters that they wanted the army once again to conduct parades on public streets, after participating in the commemorative acts for the 145th anniversary of the Revolution of 1871 and Army Day.

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