



Judicial Branch — GENEVA —
Statement by the Public Prosecutor's Office

Geneva, 31.08.2012

Arrest of Erwin SPERISEN

Erwin SPERISEN, a dual citizenship resident of Geneva, is subject to a legal proceeding related to his former role as Director of Police in Guatemala.

Judicial police —at the behest of the Public Prosecutor's Office— arrested Erwin SPERISEN (born on June 27, 1970) in the early afternoon.

The arrest comes as part of an ongoing criminal proceeding in Geneva for murder charges following complaints filed by numerous parties in 2007 and 2008.

The information rendered by Guatemalan authorities in the latter stages of 2011, along with recent developments in the investigation, constitute the grounds on which strong suspicions are based regarding the arrested party's participation in a number of extra-judicial killings. These killings were committed when the subject was Director of the National Civil Police—PNC—in Guatemala (July 2004 to March 2007).

Sperisen holds dual citizenship —Swiss and Guatemalan— and he resides in Geneva. Because of his Swiss citizenship, he cannot be subject to extradition, and as he currently resides in Geneva, he falls under the jurisdiction of their law enforcement agencies.

The deputy prosecutor, Yves Bertossa, was instructed to take charge of the case by the Attorney General, and he shall briefly hear from the arrested party at the end of the day.