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Guatemala expert available for comment on genocide trial verdict

The verdict in the genocide trial against former Guatemalan military ruler Efraín Ríos Montt is expected on Friday, 10 May.

He faces up to 75 years of imprisonment on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity for a series of massacres committed by the Guatemalan military in 1982-83 in the area known as Ixil triangle. It was one of the bloodiest chapters in the country's internal armed conflict, which lasted 36 years and resulted in the killings or disappearances of more than 200,000 people – many of them indigenous.

Sebastian Elgueta, Amnesty International's researcher on Guatemala will be available over the weekend to comment on the verdict of this historic trial, the first to hold a Central American former head of state to account for gross human rights violations.

Background information:

Guatemala's trial of the decade in ten facts:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/guatemala-s-trial-decade-ten-facts-2013-05-08>

The two Guatemalas of Ríos Montt

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/two-guatemalas-r-os-montt-2012-11-22>

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