

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 239/92 (AMR 34/33/92, 24 July 1992) - Ill-treatment

GUATEMALA: Indigenous peasants, Cajolá, Quetzaltenango department

Amnesty International has learned that on 30 July 1993 Inspector General Mariano Mazariegos, who is third-in-command of the National Police, and four other officers were sentenced to three years and nine months in jail.

They were charged with violently breaking up a peaceful demonstration which took place in July 1992 in front of the National Palace in Guatemala City.

The court reportedly said that the five officers had ordered riot police to beat peasants with their batons. Inspector General Mariano Mazariegos is apparently the highest police officer to be jailed for a human rights violation in Guatemala.

The peasants taking part in the demonstration were from the Finca (farm) Pampas del Horizonte, in the village of Cajolá, Quetzaltenango department, and were demanding government action regarding a dispute over land dating back to 1986.

No further action is required from the Urgent Action Network. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.