Nicaraguan Contras Discharge Five For Human Rights Abuses; Chief Rep In Washington Fired For Embezzlement

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, August 25, 1989

On Aug. 24 in Washington, contra spokesperson Bosco Matamoros said a "contra appellate tribunal" in Honduras dishonorably discharged five contras who were convicted in March of the torture and murder of a prisoner and of several rapes committed in northern Nicaragua in late 1988. Another contra commander was cleared of similar charges. The source said that in a separate action, Ernesto Palazio, chief contra representative in Washington, was fired for embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars of contra funds. Copies of the contra tribunal's decision furnished to the press said commander Isaac Blacker Hurtado, nicknamed Israelita, had the "premeditated intention" of murdering alleged Sandinista spy "Managua-2" in November 1988. Matamoros said he did not know the exact circumstances of the alleged spy's death, but said he was supposedly tortured and drowned. (Basic data from AFP, 08/24/89)

-- End --