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John Neagle

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## **Brazil: Military Police Forcibly Expel 2,000 People Occupying Farm Resulting In Three Dead, 63 Injured**

*by John Neagle*

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On the evening of Sept. 16, 500 military police routed 2,000 sleeping squatters occupying a 7,500 ha. farm in Palma Sola, Santa Catarina state. In the surprise attack, police fired weapons and used teargas canisters, resulting in the deaths of three persons, and injuries to 40 demonstrators and 23 policemen. The Movement of Rural Landless Workers organized the occupation. A police spokesperson said the assault was carried out under a court order. He added that the operation was suspended and officers ordered to retreat when "the seriousness of the incident" became evident. (Basic data from AFP, 09/17/89)

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