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Nicaragua: National Assembly Approves Presidential Pardon For 577 Prisoners To Be Set Free On Dec. 25

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On Dec. 14, the Nicaraguan National Assembly approved a presidential pardon for 577 prisoners who will be released on Christmas Day. President Daniel Ortega drew up the pardon which covers, among others, 351 former members of the Sandinista People's Army and former Interior Ministry employees, and 113 women convicted of minor offenses. Fifty former soldiers were excluded from the pardon on grounds that their crimes were far too serious and abusive of human rights. Unidentified officials cited by AFP said that another 260 common criminals who were listed in the original proposal will have to wait for their cases to be reviewed next week by the assembly's Committee on Human Rights. (Basic data from AFP, 12/14/89)

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