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## **Panama: Noriega's Family Members Allowed To Leave Country**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Feb. 28, Foreign Minister Luis Linares told reporters that former Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega's wife, three daughters and six of his collaborators will be allowed to leave the country after having taken refuge for two months at several embassies. Four of Noriega's chief military aides and former political leaders were denied permission to leave the country because they face murder charges, he said. Noriega's wife Felicidad Sieiro, and daughters Sandra, Lorena and Thais were expected to travel to the Dominican Republic. They sought refuge at the Cuban Embassy. A list of others permitted to leave follows: Luis Gaspar Suarez, president of the opposition Panamenist Revolution Party (Cuban embassy). Captain Marcela Tason, Noriega's private secretary, and Maj. Edgar Lopez Grimaldo, former spokesperson for the now disbanded Panamanian Defense Forces (Peruvian embassy). Baltazar Aizpurua, secretary general of the Journalists Union of Panama (Nicaraguan embassy). Humberto Lopez, leader of the Democratic Revolution Party, and member of the Latin American Association on Human Rights (Ecuadoran embassy). Persons denied permission to leave were Capt. Asuncion Gaitan, Maj. Heraclides Sucre, Maj. Gonzalo Gonzalez, and leftist leader and former member of the National Assembly, Luis Gomez. Capt. Gaitan, who sought refuge at the Vatican Embassy, is charged with killing seven soldiers who participated in a failed coup against Noriega last Oct. 3. (Basic data from AFP, 02/28/90)

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