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Vigilante Group Attempts To Evict Squatters In Rural Costa Rica

by Deborah Tyroler

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On May 28, members of a vigilante group employed by German plantation owner Anton Seidl attempted to evict agricultural workers who had occupied Seidl's property over the past two years. Four workers were injured in the incident. On May 29, Security Minister Victor Herrera said that police disarmed the 40 vigilantes, and cancelled their authorizations to perform as an "auxiliary police" force. The Costa Rican Human Rights Commission recently denounced the proliferation of private security corps who act with the Security Ministry's authorization. (Basic data from AFP, 05/29/91)

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