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## **Nicaragua: Military Judge Passes Sentence On Defendants In Weapons Trafficking Case**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Oct. 19, Lt. Col. Denis Moncada, armed forces auditor general, told journalists that 19 persons received jail sentences for participation in the recent theft of weapons from the nation's military arsenal, and plans to sell the same to the Salvadoran rebels. Moncada said military judge Mercedes Carrion Maradiaga handed down the following sentences: 1st Lt. Luis Cortes Flores, 12 years for "crimes against the republic"; former officer Francisco Jose Aburto Loasiga, nine years; pilot Roger Mauricio Espinoza Calderon, six years; former officer in charge of the military arsenal Virgilio Bravo Sequeira, six years; civilians Harry Morales and Virgilio Joess Vallejos, two years and 16 months, respectively, for hiding the weapons in their homes. Colombian national Jorge Armando Monge Benavides was acquitted and released on Oct. 18. Moncada said the other persons implicated in the case are fugitives, and will face trial upon detention. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 10/19/91)

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