

GUATEMALA: EX-DICTATOR CAN RUN

July 31, 2003

The Constitutional Court ruled that Efraín Ríos Montt, a former general and dictator, has the right to run for president in the Nov. 9 election and ordered that he be registered as a candidate within 72 hours. The court also ordered that there could be no further appeals. Mr. Ríos Montt has twice been denied a run under a law that bars coup leaders from office. But the Constitutional Court ruled that the law could not be applied retroactively.

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