

USA concerned about HR in Guatemala. Right!
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ìOur Man in Guatemalaî

The US State Department has said [see below] that if former General Rios Montt becomes president of Guatemala, the US would have trouble working with him.

Right!

This is because Rios Montt is no longer overseeing the genocide in Guatemala. In 1982-83, when Rios Montt was head of the military regime carrying out genocide in Mayan regions of the country (and massacres, disappearances, torture, rape, etc, everywhere else), the Guatemalan oligarchy, death squads and military regime were 100% backed by the USA (funds, political support, full economic relations, weaponry, military training, direct US military involvement, etc). Former US President Reagan visited Guatemala during Rios Montt's reign of genocide and called Rios Montt ìa model of democracyî.

What does a guy have to do to get US support and approval?

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Reuters, 06 Jun 2003 22:11:10 GMT
ìGuatemala rejects ex-dictator's presidential bidî
by Greg Brosnan

GUATEMALA CITY, June 6 (Reuters) - Guatemalan electoral authorities ruled on Friday that a former dictator accused of ordering genocide during the country's 36-year civil war could not seek the presidency in November. Retired Gen. Efraim Rios Montt, accused by human rights groups of ordering thousands of Maya Indians massacred during his 1982-83 dictatorship, said he would appeal the decision.

The former strongman said he plans to stand for the ruling Guatemalan Republican Front in Nov. 9 elections despite a law banning ex-de-facto rulers from running for president. Guatemala's Supreme Electoral Court, which banned the 76-year-old head of Congress from running in 1990 and 1995, said on Friday it had again ruled against him. "The law has not changed," Miguel Solis, the court official who made the decision, told Reuters.

Rios Montt told reporters at a political rally in the country's western highlands his party would appeal the ruling. Now gray-haired and bespectacled, Rios Montt took power after a March 1982 coup at the height of a war against leftist rebels in which 200,000 people died. The war ended in 1996. Still a major powerbroker in the Central American nation, Rios Montt views a second stint as president as the

next step in a political comeback that saw him elected head of Congress in President Alfonso Portillo's government.

Rights groups fear a recent wave of terror against activists seeking justice for war crimes could escalate under a Rios Montt presidency, and the U.S. State Department recently said it would have trouble working with him.

But most Guatemalans remember Rios Montt as a strong ruler who cracked down on crime, wiped out rebels and brought order to a country in chaos. Analysts and foreign diplomats say he has a good chance of winning if allowed to stand. Zury Rios, Rios Montt's daughter and vice-president of Congress, told Reuters the ban should not apply to her father as the 1985 constitution into which it was written was created after his presidency. She said the party would take the appeal to Guatemala's Constitutional

Court, the highest in the land, if necessary.

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