

GUATEMALA

Military archives now open to the public

GOOD NEWS! President Alvaro Colóm announced on February 25 that he will open Guatemala's military archives to the public. These files are believed to contain crucial information on human rights abuses committed during Guatemala's internal armed conflict (1960-1996). The release of the files is the realization of a key objective in the international campaign to bring to justice ex-president General Efraín Ríos Montt and other former officials accused of genocide, torture and other crimes against humanity. It is believed that the files contain information that will eventually help to convict them. Opening of the military archives is a positive step, but the real test will be whether this development results in prosecutions.