

# URGENT ACTION

## VIOLENT REPRESSION FOLLOWING ELECTIONS

**At least 13 people have reportedly been killed, scores of people detained and others injured as a result of violent repression of protests provoked by the presidential election in Honduras on 26 November.**

A sudden change to the results of the presidential election in Honduras has submerged the country in a state of violence and tension since the polls closed on 26 November. On 29 November, following several days without any official information on the election results being published, the electoral commission, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (Tribunal Supremo Electoral, TSE), declared the current president, Juan Orlando Hernández, the winner. This announcement was a radical change compared to the first trend indicated by this same commission on 27 November, in which it announced a five-point lead to the opposition candidate, Salvador Nasralla.

This announcement gave rise to multiple massive protests and barricading of various roads around the country as a reaction to the lack of transparency in the processing and counting of votes. These protests were violently repressed by the Honduran security forces. On 1 December, the authorities declared a state of emergency for a period of 10 days. The Decree establishes a curfew restricting the right to free movement at night and could involve the participation of the armed forces to support the national police force in maintaining security and order.

According to information local organizations provided to Amnesty International, since 29 November cases of excessive use of force against protestors by the authorities have multiplied, such as the use of water cannons, tear gas and lethal weapons. To date at least 13 people have been reported killed, including a child, in the context of the protests and during the evening and curfew time. Dozens have been arrested and detained, including children, and others injured during operations to repress protests. Serious concerns exist in relation to the respect of the rights to life, physical integrity, due process, freedom of expression and assembly and peaceful protest.

### **Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:**

- Calling on the authorities to refrain from disproportionate use of force and to fully respect the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
- Requesting that all those detained only for exercising their right to peaceful protest are released immediately and that anyone charge with a crime is guaranteed their right to due process, the right to defence, medical attention, and access to family and lawyers of their choosing. In cases involving children who have been detained, the best interests of the child must be guaranteed at all times.
- Demanding that a comprehensive, impartial and independent investigation by civilian authorities is immediately opened into all the cases of violent deaths which occurred in the context of repression of the protests, that the results are made public and those suspected of criminal responsibility are brought to justice before ordinary civilian courts.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 JANUARY 2018 TO:**

#### Minister of Security

Julián Pacheco Tinoco  
El Ocotal, Comayagua M.D.C. Antiguo  
Local de Academia de Policía (ANAPO)  
Fax: +504 2220 44352  
Email: oaseguridad@hotmail.com;  
sedsdespachohn@gmail.com;  
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**Salutation: Dear Minister/Sr. Ministro**

#### Prosecutor-General of Honduras

Oscar Fernando Chinchilla  
Lomas del Guijarro, Tegucigalpa  
Fax: +504 2221 5660  
Email: fiscaliageneralhnd@hotmail.com;  
mprelacionespublicas@gmail.com (with  
walleskaz@gmail.com in copy)

**Salutation: Dear Prosecutor/Sr. Fiscal**

#### **And copies to:**

Amnesty International, Central America team  
Amnesty International  
Luz Saviñón 519, Col. Del Valle, Del.  
Benito Juárez, C. P. 03100  
Ciudad de México, México  
Email: equipoca@amnesty.org

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** HIS EXCELLENCY MR IVAN ROMERO-MARTINEZ, Embassy of Honduras, 4th Floor 136 Baker Street W1U 6UD, 020 7486 4880, Fax 020 7486 4550, [hondurasuk@lineone.net](mailto:hondurasuk@lineone.net)

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In 2015, in a controversial ruling, the Supreme Court of Justice declared article 239 of the Constitution, which prohibits presidential re-election, inapplicable, paving the way for the re-election of officials such as the then president, Juan Orlando Hernández.

On 26 November 2017 presidential elections were held in Honduras. In the early morning of 27 November, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (Tribunal Supremo Electoral, TSE) published an initial indication of results, based on the revision of 57 percent of the votes, which indicated that the opposition candidate Salvador Nasralla had a five-point lead against the current president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández. Both candidates declared themselves winners.

According to the preliminary report from the Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States in Honduras, published following the elections, “the system of publication of the results, available to the public online, was not updated [following the first announcement from the TSE] on 27 November. Upon review, the Mission observed how the difference between the candidates narrowed down”. In the afternoon of 29 November, the TSE announced a different result, pointing to the victory of Juan Orlando Hernández.

Honduras is one of the most violent countries in the world, with high rates of murder and insecurity. There is a high level of mistrust of institutions, fueled by the fact that impunity prevails in the majority of crimes, and by repeated signs of corruption or the involvement of state forces in criminal activities.

Human rights defenders are particularly exposed to violence: Honduras is one of the most dangerous countries in Latin America for human rights defenders, especially for defenders of the land and environment.

In February 2017, Amnesty International expressed its concern over the reforms to the Criminal Code in relation to the crime of terrorism due to the fact that the new regulations, phrased in extremely broad terms, could lead to arbitrary and inappropriate implementation in the context of peaceful protests, or lead to the criminalization of human rights defenders.

As a result of the coup of 28 June 2009, during which various states of exception and curfews were approved, serious human rights violations on the part of Honduran security forces were reported.