

# 2nd Report

## Human rights violations in the context of Honduran anti-fraud protests

The Committee of Family Members of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH) releases before the national and international community its second report about the human rights context in the midst of the anti-fraud protests in Honduras in 2017.

The document focuses attention on the human rights violations related to public protests against electoral fraud and selective attacks against the political opposition. The facts backing this report were obtained through monitoring of the repression in different areas of the country, contacts with social leaders, local human rights defenders, networks of advocates, victims and witnesses, webpages of human rights organizations, interviews with different actors using a variety of internet technologies, witness testimony taken in our offices, visits to morgues and hospitals and, to a lesser extent, through media monitoring.

The report contains information from around the country and covers the period between November 26th and December 31st, 2017.



COFADEH

Comité de Familiares Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras / Honduras

[www.defensoresenlinea.com](http://www.defensoresenlinea.com)



## **Context**

Wide sections of Honduran society continue to take to the streets in different cities and towns around the country to express their discontent over the re-election of ruling party candidate Juan Orlando Hernández, initiating a context of 21 days of opposition social protests, during the period from November 29th to December 20th, 2017.

In response, the Honduran state has violently repressed the peaceful social protests, primarily through the detention and persecution of those who protest and the active political leaders of the opposition.

## **Political Crisis**

Political experts and analysts prior to the elections of November 26th, 2017 considered Honduras to be confronting an especially critical test of electoral freedom and democracy.

The general elections of 2009 and 2013 were not effective in restoring democracy nor the confidence of the population in the electoral process. Quite the contrary, the questioning by broad sections of the population over the failure to apply international standards to guarantee security, democracy and transparency increased, especially due to the deepening concentration of power in the Executive Branch and the establishment of an authoritarian model of public administration, sustained by militarization of institutions and public security.

The institutional breakdown produced by the 2009 coup d'état and the deepening in 2012 with the judicial coup when the Supreme Court justices were removed, contributed to the creation of an environment closed off to dialogue and negotiation and thereby impeding the reforms demanded of the electoral system.

The competing political forces strongly questioned the electoral tribunal (TSE) over its lack of independence and capacity to democratically administer the electoral process in its entirety. The main opposition forces (the Opposition Alliance Against the Dictatorship and the Liberal Party) pulled out of the TSE's advisory council and rejected the results transmission mechanism and opted to create their own counting systems. They questioned the credibility of the new electoral census, the lack of transparency in registration changes and the way that identity cards were distributed. In addition, they denounced the sale of credentials by small political parties to the ruling party and the way that the TSE set up the election judges at the voting stations (made up of representatives of the different parties).<sup>1</sup>

Add to this situation the violence and intimidation, with 19 people related to the electoral process killed by November 25th, 2017 and a climate of fear instilled amongst the population, a situation which is incompatible with the free exercise of political rights. The presidential candidate for the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, publicly denounced the "importation of smoke grenades and grenade launchers that entered the country on October 21st," an action implying an active presence by the military police (PMOP).<sup>2</sup>

This was the context for the general elections of November 26th. A day later, on Monday the 27th, at 2am,

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(1) <http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Posicionamiento-2.pdf>

(2) <http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/partidoliberal/1123591-508/candidato-presidencialluis-zelaya-denuncia-adquisici%C3%B3n-de-granadas-de-humo-por-parte>

after the two main contenders had both declared themselves the winners, the TSE presented its first report that showed the opposition candidate Salvador Nasralla beating Juan Orlando Hernández with 45.17% versus 40.21%, with 57.18% of the ballots counted.

After the failures in the computation system, Hernández ended up 1.6% ahead of Nasralla. The Organization of American States (OAS) in its preliminary report of December 4th documented diverse irregularities, including: missing tally sheets, open and incomplete ballot boxes and obscure undivulged criteria for processing the ballots that arrived at the TSE's storage center.<sup>3</sup> In its second report on December 17th, they concluded that they had observed "a low quality electoral process, for which reason it cannot state that the doubts about the same have been resolved at present."<sup>4</sup> One hour before, the electoral tribunal on radio and television had announced the current president as the winner of the elections.

The public protests exploded starting on November 30th, 2017, with repression causing people to be seriously injured (including permanently disabled) along with accompanying disturbances and looting in several cities of the country, provoked by unorganized groups not linked to the opposition.

On December 1st, the government in a meeting of the council of state secretaries approved decree 084/2017, which suspended constitutional guarantees.<sup>5</sup> National and international human rights organizations expressed their concern over the broad powers, with little clarity or discretion, granted to the Executive, with the accompanying negative consequences for the protection of human rights, which provoked widespread detentions, repression of protesters and the violent death of 17 protesters and bystanders at the hands of security forces including the military police, the army, and special forces, who detained people in military facilities and where their treatment was cruel, inhumane and degrading.<sup>6</sup>

The Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC), asked for the blessing of the Honduran state to send an urgent mission to the country to evaluate the human rights situation in the current post-electoral context.<sup>7</sup>

(3) [http://www.oas.org/es/centro\\_noticias/comunicado\\_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-089/17](http://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-089/17)

(4) <http://www.oas.org/fpdb/press/segundo-informe-preliminar-moe-honduras-18dic-final.pdf>

(5) Gaceta número 34,506 del 01 de diciembre de 2017.

(6) <http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4068-denuncian-torturas-a-j%C3%B3venes-detenido-por-militares-en-san-pedro-sula>

(7) <http://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2017/217.asp>

During the period of November 29th to December 31st, 2017, this committee has documented:

126	Repressed protests
232	People wounded and injured
72	People victimized by cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment
1085	People detained
30	People executed
34	People displaced by violence and political persecution
1	Disappeared person
179	Criminal cases opened for crimes linked to the political crisis, including the crime of attempts against internal state security and possessions of arms and war material;
15	Communities, neighborhoods and residential areas invaded by military police, where at least 47 home raids were indiscriminately carried out. These raids were accompanied by threats of death and violence, both verbally and physically, including the use of anti-riot equipment and shooting of tear gas inside of homes.
12	12 attacks against media and journalists.

## Continuous use of excessive force

After December 6th, when COFADEH released its preliminary report, we continued receiving information about the security forces' systematic use of excessive force to disperse protests, following a common pattern:

- Repeated use of excessive force;
- Use of non-lethal weapons directly against the body of protesters;
- The seriousness of wounds inflicted on protesters has caused permanent disability;
- They have used disproportionate force in violation of the principles of necessity and proportionality. Ever since the

beginning of the protests, the security forces relied on the disproportionate use of tear gas bombs against protesters without having exhausted less harmful options, such as dialogue;

- Available public information indicates that the anti-riot tanks and special agents regularly launched several dozen tear gas bombs at the same time;
- The protesters were followed to their areas of residence;
- The military police broke down residential doors in gated areas, launched tear gas bombs inside of homes and commercial centers and opened fire with conventional weapons;
- The participation of the military police and members of the army to repress protesters;



- i. The indiscriminate use of tear gas, with reports of poisoning from gas inhalation by neighborhood residents, especially affecting children and seniors;
- j. Injuries resulting from the impact of the tear gas canisters on people's legs, body or head; in some cases causing the loss of important organs;
- k. Wounds from the impact of buckshot exploding bullets;
- l. Death of protesters and widespread detentions;
- m. Criminalization for crimes against internal state security;
- n. Use of high power explosive arms;
- o. Attacks on the back and areas of vital and vulnerable organs of the body and head;
- p. The military policy led the operations and employed a higher degree of violence against protesters and impeded help for and transfer to hospitals of the wounded, which caused the death of some protesters;
- q. The application of war tactics to capture protesters and political opponents, and;
- r. Use of the army and special forces to repress public protesters.

Hierarchicaly, the security forces and especially the military police report to the chiefs of the armed forces, but in fact are under the control of the Executive.

The main ways that this organized state violence has been expressed are:

- 1 Execution and disappearance of opponents of the regime,
- 2 { Systematic persecution,
- 3 { Criminalization of the opposition,
- 4 { Tapping and monitoring of communications,
- 5 { Intimidating patrol of residential areas identified with the resistance and simulation of common assaults to take communications devices away from the opposition or mobs who attack the political opposition.



Photo: Downloaded from <http://pmop.ffaa.mil.hn/>

## I. Violent deaths and other deaths related to the protests



(1) Kimberli Dayana Fonseca - Tegucigalpa, F.M. (2) Milton Rivera - Olancho (3) José David Ramos Lambert Choloma, Cortés (4) Héctor Guevara (5) Erick Javier Montoya - Tegucigalpa F.M. (6) Israel Hernández Varela - Olancho (7) Yareth González - El Progreso, Yoro (8) Katherine Nicole Bonilla - Col. López Arellano - Choloma - Cortés (9) Julio Alexander Funez Rodríguez, Col. Toronjal - La Ceiba - Atlántida (10) Walter Daniel Lemus Ramírez, Peña Blanca - Cortés (11) David Octavio Quiroz, Col. de Guacamaya, dos caminos - San Manuel, Cortés (12) Jesús de María Sánchez Euceda, Col. Satélite - San Pedro Sula, Cortés// Fuente COFADEH

From November 30th December 31st, 2017, COFADEH recorded 30 deaths related to protests, the application of **Decree 084/2017** with reference to the suspension of constitutional guarantees and the activity of armed bodies with paramilitary characteristics.

The majority of the victims were young men (13 total) whose average age was 24 years old. 2 young boys and one girl also died, along with a young woman, an adult woman and 12 adult men. IN general, the victims were protesters or people who were passing by the protest sites.

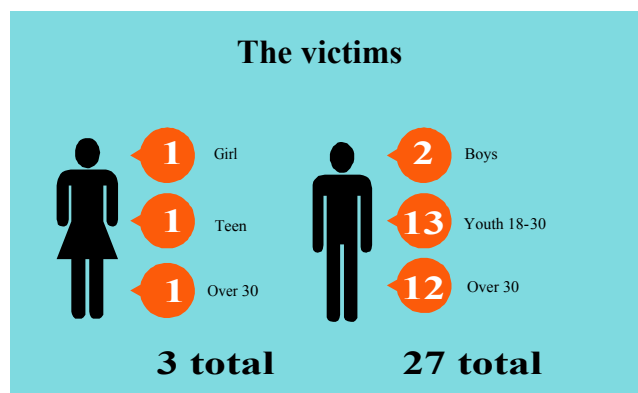
Of the 30 registered deaths, 21 were perpetrated by the military police (Policía Militar del Orden Público), one by the national police (Policía Nacional Preventiva),

5 by unknown actors with paramilitary characteristics<sup>8</sup>, and two by individuals.

21 cases took place in the northern areas, 3 in the state of Atlántida, 14 in Cortes and 4 in Yoro; one in the south in Choluteca; while in the east there were 6 in Francisco Morazán and 2 in Olancho.

17 of these cases occurred in the context of protests, with the investigation authorities yet to determine the identity of those responsible, nor is their information about those responsible for the deaths perpetrated with paramilitary techniques.

(8) They travel on motorcycles or vehicles without plates, with faces covered, acting at night, using high-caliber weapons and operating with impunity.



Among the cases there are 2 police agents who were enforcing the curfew and one who died during the protests.

Another type of death that is not included in the abovementioned statistics is the death of three people who died in traffic and car accidents as a product of the barricades and highway takeovers.<sup>9</sup>

### Use of less lethal weapons

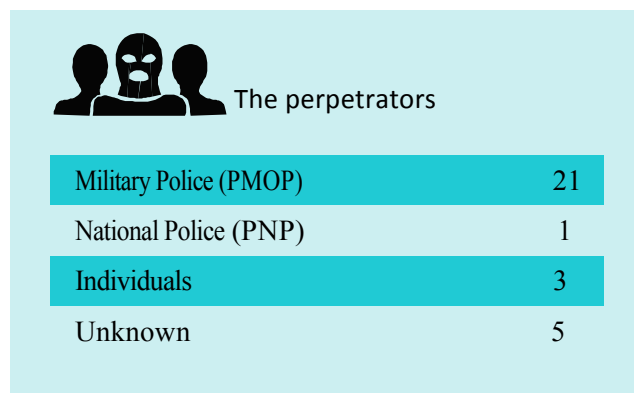
Security forces systematically and inappropriately employed less lethal weapons, for example launching tear gas bombs and other artefacts horizontally in the direction of protesters at a short distance. The young man Jorge Luis<sup>10</sup> was in a protest in the Núñez neighborhood of Progreso Yoro when a tear gas bomb impacted him in his face, causing severe damage to his eye. A similar situation was faced by Yimy Mendoza Almendares, who lost his left eye when the military police fired their weapons against protesters.

### Use of lethal force

The security forces also used firearms with live ammunition. COFADEH registered 23 deaths from

(9) El día miércoles 20 de diciembre de 2017, en la aldea Las Flores de Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Cortés, murió atropellada por un autobús, Angely Julieth Deras Hernández de cuatro años. Después que los pasajeros fueron bajados del autobús por la presencia de una manifestación, el conductor arrancó sin percatarse que la niña estaba al frente. <http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1136795-466/una-ni%C3%B1a-de-cuatro-a%C3%B1os-muere-atropellada-en-yoja>. Luis Orellana que conducía su vehículo por la carretera CA-13, a la altura de la comunidad de El Pino, jurisdicción del municipio de El Porvenir, Atlántida, murió al impactar contra un árbol atravesado en la carretera.

(10) Al momento, no se cuenta con ninguno de sus apellidos



protesters who were struck by such arms. 32 year-old David Octavio Quiroz Urrutia was participating in one of the protesters on December 15th, in the Dos Caminos community in the municipality of Villanueva and state of Cortes, when military police opened fire with their firearms, hitting his left arm, thorax and abdomen, damaging his lung, stomach, diaphragm and liver. The soldiers watched over the victim in the hospital and took photos of his family. It should be highlighted that the doctors recovered the residual metal, but COFADEH does not know if it was handed over to the officials who responsible for investigation of this case.

24-year-old Cristian Fernando Hernández Yáñez was wounded on December 18th by a bullet shot by military police while dispersing protesters in the Felipe Zelaya neighborhood of San Pedro Sula. The bullet penetrated his thorax and damaged his left lung and thoracic aorta. The doctors recovered the residual metal from his thoracic cavity. Cristian died that same day in the hospital.

29-year-old Delmer Josué Medina was wounded by military police dispersing protesters in the Brisas del Valle neighborhood in the Cofradía sector of San Pedro Sula, in the state of Cortés. The bullet entered through his left rib area, producing severe damages to his intestine and left kidney. Witnesses confirmed to COFADEH that the military police impeded help from reaching the victim for an hour, stopping him from being brought to the hospital where we ended up dying as a result of his wounds.

The forces in charge of controlling and repressing the protests have been the military police (Policía Militar del Orden Público), the national police (Policía Nacional Preventiva), the Cobra special forces, the Tigre forces, FUSINA and the national army, including specialized battalions lie the engineers who are not trained in controlling public protest. We can conclude that all of the armed forces are exercising a role of citizen security and repression of political expression, as can be seen in the public declarations made by the new chief of the joint chiefs of staff of the armed forces, Brigadier General René Orlando Ponce Fonseca, who stated that the *“Armed forces are ready to support the elected government and continue combatting the criminals with the military police in the streets and to confront narcotraffickers.”*<sup>11</sup>

The national police, supported by civil authorities should be in charge of accompanying public protests, yet in this context, COFADEH has confirmed that the military police have led and controlled the operations and have employed the most violence against the protesters.

(11) <https://aqui honduras.com/2018/01/general-ponce-fonseca-estamos-listos-para-mantener-la-paz-y-la-tranquilidad/>

The military police have over 6,000 soldiers distributed in nine battalions and with presence throughout the country.<sup>12</sup>

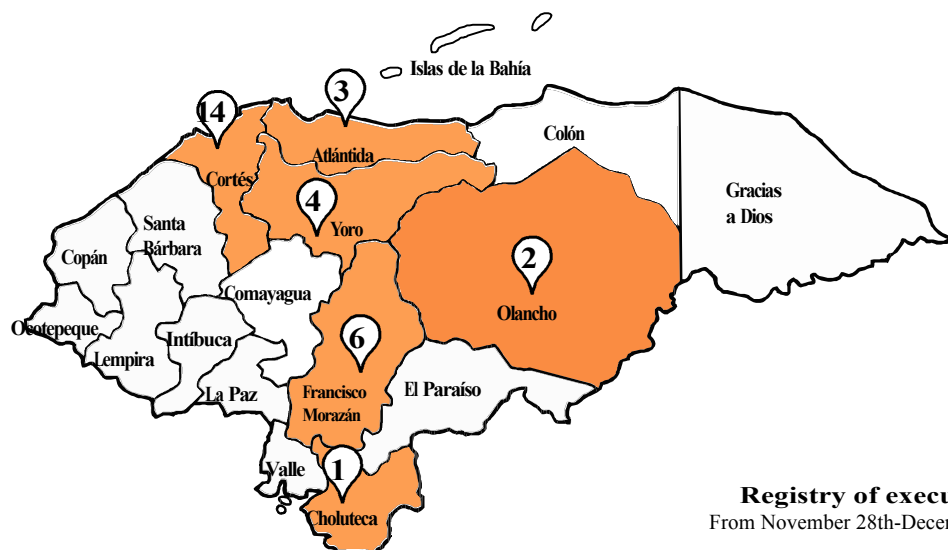
These type of practices contradict international human rights law, in accordance with international norms that guide the use of force, the intentional use of force is only legal when it is strictly necessary to protect another life or in the face of an immediate threat. Firearms are never supposed to be used to disperse a protest and the indiscriminate firing on a crowd is always illegal.<sup>13</sup>

### Selective Killings

In the current context there has been the initiation of an uptick in selective killings that seeks to generate terror amongst the political opposition, with the assassinations directed against people of the opposition. The first of the victims of this type registered by COFADEH was from an act perpetrated on December 4th, where the victims were two recognized grassroots activists, a member of the anti-fraud commands a Libre Party sympathizer and two organizers of public protests against electoral fraud.

(12) <http://sedena.gob.hn/2017/07/04/dos-nuevos-batallones-de-la-policia-militar-del-orden-publico-reforzaran-trabajo-en-beneficio-del-pueblo/>

(13) Principios Básicos sobre el empleo de la fuerza y de armas de fuego por los funcionarios encargados de hacer cumplir la ley y Código de conducta para funcionarios encargados de hacer cumplir la ley, de las Naciones Unidas.



**Registry of executions**  
From November 28th-December, 2017

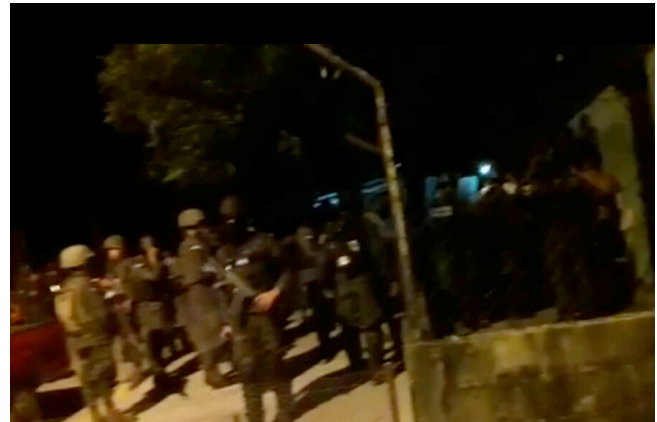


According to information given by several reliable sources, Seth Johnson Araujo, a member of the Anti-fraud commando in the neighborhood of Modesto Rodas Araujo in Comaygüala, was kidnapped at 8p.m on December 4, 2017. He had been taking part in banging on pots and pans in front of the national police that night. The aim of this demonstration was to show support for the police and the Cobra Elite which were on strike. His body was found the following day, with evidence of torture.

On 26 December at 8 p.m. Julio Alexander Fúnez Guillén, 19 years old, a law student, a returning officer for the LIBRE Party at electoral table 00550 in Ramón Rosa School, was killed. This organizer of the protests at the Río Danto was shot in the back, a single shot by subjects unknown who were on a yellow motorcycle. Their faces were covered with ski masks. The single bullet went straight into his heart and he died instantly.

Walter Lemus Ramírez, 38, a sympathizer of the LIBRE Party, was shot in his own room at 8:30 p.m. on 24 December in Los Naranjos, Peña Blanca. At the time he was singing the song *Joh es pa' fuera que vas*. His wife heard the sound of a motorcycle and then the sound of her husband call for help as he bled to death.

## II. Violations of the right to personal integrity during the demonstrations against election fraud



The information to which COFADEH has had Access reveals that there has been an increase in state violence against the demonstrators. Between 29 November and 31 December the following actions were recorded: 306 victims of violence against integrity; 72 victims of torture and cruel and inhuman treatment, 147 people seriously injured, and of these, 63 were gravely wounded by guns; 87 wounded (this number might be higher). Of the 87 wounded, two are women and one is a child, all were wounded by tear gas canisters thrown at the demonstrators. All three have open wounds as a result of having been burnt.

Also it was noted that along with the violations of the right of personal integrity has come abuse of authority, cruel treatment, and death threats in most of the cases, as well as harassment of the families of the victims after the fact.

The injuries observed among the demonstrators range from splinters embedded in the body to bullets into internal thoracic and abdominal organs to fractured limbs, broken ribs, and injuries to the face, the head and the ears. Several declarations also mention bruising and lacerations.

306

victims of violation of personal integrity

72

victims of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment

147

people have been seriously injured; of these, 63 are from gunfire.

87

wounded (this number may be higher). The 87 wounded includes 2 women and a child injured by the impact of tear gas canisters shot at the bodies of protesters. All 3 have ulcers as a result of burns.

After being hit by the butt of a rifle and being clubbed in Colonia Santa Eduvigis in the central district, a young man lost his eye. On 7 December another person was run over and had bones broken by a person who had first shot at the victim from his car as the victim was at a protest on the highway to Olancho.

The political discourse of high-level authorities in the government, the military and the church that is directed at the leaders of the opposition is degrading and violently menacing. Wishing to stir up hatred against the opposition, the authorities have called the leaders and the protesters terrorists and gangsters. The Coalition Against Impunity has reported that from helicopters the military has showered the population with propaganda advising against any resistance in an effort to intimidate people, as well as by keeping a high military presence in the department of Cortés. Apart from that, these activities encourage paramilitaries to attack the demonstrators shoulder-to-shoulder with the state authorities.

An example of this type of repression is the attacks of 7 December, in the municipality of Jesús de Otoro in the department of Intibucá. People from the Opposition Alliance were on the highway demonstrating. On the same day the National Party organized a demonstration in Tegucigalpa in support of the acting president. The military police and the national police promised the people in the National Party that they would allow them to march. And then they began to attack the people who came to protest against the National Party. They went at them with cudgels and teargas. It must also be noted that at the same time as the police and the military were beating up the counterdemonstrators, members of the National Party were busy smashing up the windows of the counterdemonstrators' cars.

Christian Vásquez, a young man of 18, was arrested and handcuffed. After 2 hours, an officer ordered him to be released. The one who had arrested him then threatened the boy, saying, "If you make an official complaint against me, I will find you, and I know where you live."

According to monitoring and to the Coalition Against Impunity, during the period we are speaking about there have been 1,155 demonstrations in different parts of the country, particularly on the north coast; and of these, 126 were violently repressed. Fifteen communities were searched by the security forces in combined operations with the military police and the army. People demonstrating were pursued right up to their houses or their places of refuge.

In Ocotepeque, the military authorities cut the electricity where the wounded were being treated. Pablo Fuentes, Ángel Omar Mejía Buenaventura Gavarrete, José Alfredo Maldonado y Wili Merari Serrano; all people who did not receive first aid when they needed it. Nor did they receive the support of the defenders of human rights.

Leonel Simeón Palacios reported to COFADEH that he had been a victim of beating and arbitrary detention by the military police and the national police. He was beaten indiscriminately on the back, the legs and the head

(14) Boletines, 1,2,3,4,5,6 de la Coalición contra la Impunidad.



while his tormentors kept insulting him with gross remarks.

Jonathan Fernando Cardona Rodríguez, 21, was hit in the head by the military police, so hard that he became unconscious. This happened as he was about to park his motorcycle in front of his house. The police were not looking for him when this happened, they simply beat him up, and then they refused to let his sisters and brothers help him at first. Instead, they threatened them, saying that if the family reported them, the police knew where they lived and they would come back and kill them. The family had to call the national police to get him to the hospital. They themselves could not take him because of the curfew in place 3 December. He was sent home after 3 days, with a medical certificate for 30 days sick leave, and to this day his is still in delicate health.

Rubí Lizeth Aguilar reported to COFADEH that on 1 December, 300 demonstrators connected to COPINH, from communities around San Antonio

Las Crucitas, and several neighborhoods in the municipality of Jesús de Otoro had a demonstration on the Jesús de Otoro highway leading to Siguatepeque. Suddenly military commandos showed up, about 80 of them, who had come from Siguatepeque, Masaguara and La Esperanza. And they joined up with the national police of Jesús de Otoro. Without any dialogue they started repressing, throwing tear gas and rocks and shooting. This made the demonstrators (who included children, women and the elderly), run for their lives. Several people were injured.

Alicia and 5 other people had taken shelter in a car. Eight soldiers struck the windows with their weapons and threatened to break them. One person in the protests took refuge in a bus that travels between Tegucigalpa and La Esperanza. She was violently removed from the bus and made to get into their car. While they drove her towards La Esperanza, they threatened to rape her.

Luis Miguel Sierra, 19, denounced the fact that on 8 December, while a demonstration was taking place in Jesús de Otoro, the military and the national police used teargas and rocks against the people. They hit him repeatedly on his left arm and leg, dragged and clubbed him, all the while insulting him with gross comments, shot in the air and held him with his arms behind his back and warned him that if he lodged a complaint, they would kill him, "If you speak, I am going to kill you". For several days he was unable to sit or to sleep and he received no medical attention.

Doris Martínez, from Village 28, in the department of Yoro, received the impact of a tear gas bomb in her arm. It caused serious burns and wounds. This took place on the bridge of Quebrada Seca in El Progreso in Yoro, during the violent breakup of a demonstration that had taken control of the highway to Tela on 13 December. Doris' son, 4, was hurt and bleeding, too, but at the local clinic they refused to open a file on the child.

(15) Alicia Margarita, Franklin propietario del vehículo, Aracely Tosta y Zoila Palacios.

## Torture and mistreatment of people arrested during the protests

In most case of arrests during the protests or in detaining with an arrest warrant the detained have been cruelly treated. The mistreatment includes beatings, electric shocks, being kept in stressful positions, being suffocated and threats of violence or death of family members. All of this is aimed at punishing, humiliating and terrifying the people who are being detained for political reasons.

Excessive force was used when illegally detaining people. Helmets were used as weapons and people were kicked. In one of the worst cases they were given given electric shocks.

On 1 December, 68 people were retained and sent to the 105<sup>th</sup> infantry brigade. One of the 40 victims of torture spoke to Radio Progreso, saying, "All through the night of the first of December we were victims of the military. They took us out onto a football field and made us kneel with our arms in the air, then with an electric cable they beat us hard on our backs." This person went on to say, "It was raining and the soldiers had on hoods. They kicked our backs, they slapped our ears hard and some soldiers used truncheons to hit us on the stomach and on the ribs." Another of those detained, who showed signs of torture on his back, stomach, chest, legs and face, denounced the treatment: "They took us out on the field and we were there from midnight on. They tied us up, arms and legs, then they told us to run. And because we couldn't run, they kicked us all over our bodies." For two hours they were kept kneeling with their arms in the air, until 6 a.m., and throughout those hours they received all manner of blows. "Some people were throwing up blood. They kept telling us we were dogs and that they were going to kill us."

(16) <http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4068-denuncian-torturas-a-j%C3%B3venes-detenido-por-militares-en-san-pedro-sula>

(17) <http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4068-denuncian-torturas-a-j%C3%B3venes-detenido-por-militares-en-san-pedro-sula>

(18) <http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4068-denuncian-torturas-a-j%C3%B3venes-detenido-por-militares-en-san-pedro-sula>

This same victim also denounced that the worst treatment is reserved for those in jail, saying, "and I'm sure that they didn't bring those who have been in jail to the hearing because if they did, the media would see that they are all banged up."<sup>18</sup>

Another young person denounced to COFADEH that on 25 December, he was on his way home. It was after a protest and the soldiers were cleaning up the street, taking away the tires. He walked by them and shouted at them, "Get out of here, JOH." A military policeman blocked his path and then beat him on the chest. Another beat him with his truncheon. They handcuffed him and made him get into a military patrol car, number 6302, driven by Alex Alejandro Corea. They photographed him and applied electric shocks to his left leg and to his stomach. They took him into the police station they call El Manchén, and they made him clean the toilets before letting him go: 12 hours after he had been detained.

On 16 December, via a phone interview COFADEH was informed that the demonstration that was taking place on highway CA13 at precisely Agua Tibia in the municipality of San Juan Pueblo, Atlántida, was being brutally repressed by the national police under Police Subcommissioner Alejandro Mejía Iglesias, along with the military police. The repressive forces shot tear gas bombs into the crowd and then they ran after the protesters, shooting at them with live ammunition. The people fleeing took refuge in Colonia Cantarero.

The repressive agents illegally and violently broke into the houses there; they broke down doors and smashed windows and made the people come out of their houses. At least 30 people were made to walk back to highway CA13, while being shot at. The police made the people take down the barricades and while they did this the military and police were giving them electric shocks in the ears, with cattle prods.

Roberto Samir Valladares Calderón, Elvin Orlando Banegas Martínez, Erick Abisaí Rojas Meléndez, Marco Antonio Sanabria García, Jorge Osman Valladares Bryan Ricardo y Wilmer Alexis Niño Hernández, all of these were brutally beaten



while they were handcuffed. The gravity of their injuries from electric shock meant they needed to be hospitalized; one of them was vomiting blood and suffering from dizziness.

On 20 December The Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MAD) reported that some national police officers had shown up at the house of the mother of the following young men: Bryan Ricardo, Wilmer Alexis Niño Hernández and Carlos Samir. They were looking for the boys.

On 15 December, in the municipality of Jesús de Otoro, at about 6 in the morning, some soldiers of the 10th Battalion, some from the Battalion of Engineers, also the military police and the national police repressed protesters. They surrounded them in the nearby mountains, where the people had fled to. Five hours later the security forces caught up with a group of 7 protesters, 4 men and 3 women. They separated the men from the women, and about 10 of them surrounded each person, photographing him or her and going through everyone's belongings. They yanked the traditional

scarves off their heads and one policeman lifted the skirts of one of the women. They were held for two hours, all the while being insulted, being told that they were good-for-nothings and that they had obstructed traffic.

By looking at these concrete cases we can see that torture and cruel treatment are being used by the security forces to persecute the people, and to generate an atmosphere of fear. Many victims won't give testimony because they are afraid of reprisals.

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(19) Entrevista a la líder indígena Catalina Sánchez, vía teléfono.



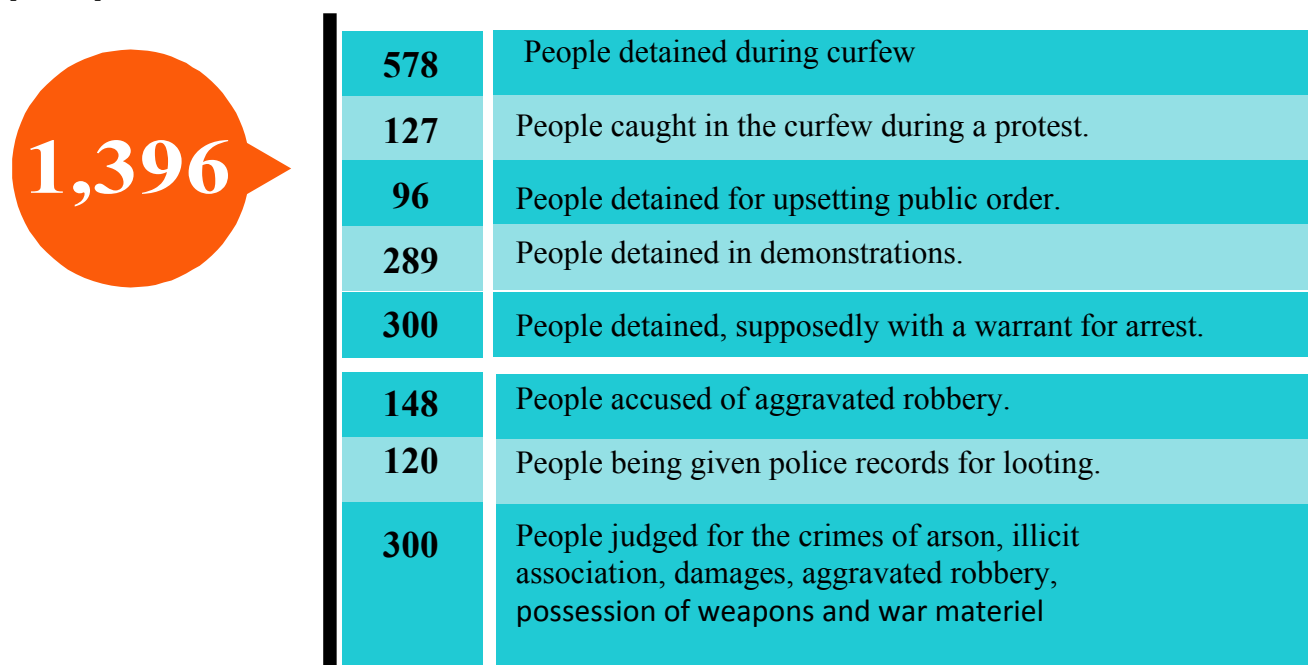
## IV. The Right to Personal Freedom

### Illegal Detention

The security forces, all working together, have continued to arbitrarily detain people. People connected to political opposition who have taken part in public protests. They also cordoned off great areas where they tried to identify people who protested. The demonstrators who were illegally arrested were repeatedly interrogated about who their leaders were.

Several leaders have been deprived of their freedom. The authorities say the leaders associate with illegal armed groups. Furthermore, by calling what happens in demonstrations 'vandalism', the protesters are rejected by a certain number of people. Because no opportunity is given for going deeply into the reasons for the destruction that can take place at a protest, or what motivates that rage, the process of demonstrating and of the people organizing becomes delegitimized.

During the period of this report, at least 1396 illegal detentions took place. Of these, 171 took place at public protests.



Those detained were put in centers with inhuman conditions, and this includes the top security prison known as El Pozo (the well). This is in the department of Santa Bárbara, where the detained were humiliated and had their hair cut off without their consent. Two other centers of this sort have often been used; the base at Naco and that of the 105<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

It was reported that those in jail were isolated, and that they received no basic information regarding the moment of their detention and the motives and circumstances which led to their illegal arrest. This has made it impossible to actually verify the conditions under which these people are being held, and the detection of possible acts of torture and mistreatment. An example of this way of detaining people is the detention of 3 young people in Naco by the military police, the army, and the national police. The young people were taken to the police station, and their families did not know where they were until 5 p.m. on 4 December. One of the youths is missing, and the other 2 were brutally beaten, both during their detention as well as on their way to the police station.

In Nicaome, in Valle, on 11 December, 11 people were detained. It happened during a social protest, when the people had taken the highway to El Amatillo, which is on the border with El Salvador. Among the illegally arrested were 3 minors and a person with a fracture (called Efrain Dominguez). In Copán 20 more people were taken and held during this period. On 15 December 12 young people were detained. These had been taking part in protests in Colonia 21 Febrero in the central district and still 3 more were illegally detained in Nacaome Valley. On 18 December 5 people in Olanchoe were detained and held by the military police.

We must add this type of detention to those that took place 30 November-5 December, which was the period during which there was the greatest number of detentions. This was because of both the protests and the curfew. An example of this sort of detention took place on 2 December. Twenty people in Cucuyagua, Copán, were taken into custody. Among this group were 3 children: two girls and a boy. Two of the children were left in the custody of the Directorate of Children, Adolescents and the Family and kept there until 4 December.

All the detentions took place without warrants. The common denominator of the victims was that they were going to the protest, or were at the protest and to a lesser degree, when they were going home after the protest. The security forces said they were justified in holding the people because they had caught them red-handed.

### Forced Disappearance

COFADEH documented the detention and forced disappearance of Manuel de Jesus Bautista Salvador, 22. It was on 3 December at 7:30pm, after he and two other people were stopped by the military police in Naco, Cofradía, in the department of Cortés. Bautista Salvador was on his way home from a store.



Manuel de Jesús Bautista Salvador  
22 años - Naco Cortés  
Desaparecido desde el 3 de diciembre, 2017

There was a curfew that night and his family informed COFRADEH that they had lodged a habeas corpus, but that nothing had happened. The family went to the judicial morgues and to the hospitals, to the police stations, military bases and to the base of the 105<sup>th</sup> Brigade of San Pedro Sula and Naco. The habeas corpus covered the whole department of Cortés and its various military and police installations. Up to 31 December the habeas corpus had not been put into effect. In spite of the fact that this is a very large area, only one judge was put in charge of executing the habeas corpus. Nor did the judge have the logistics with which to carry out the order. In the judicial morgue, the family and the lawyer who gave legal first aid, found a decapitated body. They asked for a DNA test to be done. This was denied to them on the grounds that the family showed no clear evidence that they were the biological parents of this victim.

The detention had taken place when the police and military were patrolling on foot. When they had started out, the lights had been turned off in the upper part of the neighborhood. Manuel Bautista's two companions were released on 4 December at 5p.m. They had been brutally beaten in the face and several parts of the body.

(20) Wilmer Adán Meléndez (16), Oscar Adonis Flores (17), Oscar Alvares (17), Óscar Mejía (18), Wilmer Manuel Meza (23), Jair Peralta (26), David Antonio Velázquez (26), Juan Flores (27), Noé Alexander Flores (29) y Hermes Roney Valdez (33).

(21) Andrés Euceda Espinal, Leonel Euceda Sandoval, y un menor de edad.

(22) Eduardo Efraín Chandías, José Fernando Ramírez Medina, Fernando Aguilar, Gerardo Manuel Banegas y Andrés Figueroa.

(23) Denuncia del CIPRODEH, Seccional de Copan. 02 de diciembre de 2017.



## Criminalization

Over the last years a number of reform laws have been passed that have given rise to criminalizing actions that before had not been crimes. This, with the aim of putting down all social protest. During one month of the protests a small group of presumed protesters carried out acts of violence: they damaged businesses, police stations and public buildings. The police and military authorities have told the press that their members have been injured and wounded in confrontations with the protesters.<sup>25</sup>

In response, the national directorate of revention and community safety, DNPSC, the directorate of pólice investigation and the Tigres Unit detained 300 people, 58 were accused of illicit asscaiton, arson, wreaking havoc and aggravated robbery. Thirteen of these were detained in Pimienta, department of Cortés, seven an Alburén, Francisco Morazán, and three in Progrso, Yoro.

Jhony Andrés Salgado (38) is being accused of the crimes of illegally carrying a non-military gun and the illegal use of military attire. Gustavo Adolfo Caceres (26), is accused of transporting explosives or war materiel and drug trafficking to the detriment of public health and safety. Both of them were detained during the violent repression carried out by the state security forces in the Berlin and Quebrada Seca neighborhoods of El Progreso.

Making political crimes or crimes against national security more serious in the penal code, and therefore open to greater sanctions means that the social protests become serious crimes. People are sent to prison for them, even to high security prisons. Here the treatment is much harsher and from prison it is impossible to work on getting released.

(24) <http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/09/11-policias-heridos-protetas/>

(25) <http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/01/08/soldado-pierde-ojo-pedrada-manifestantes-video/>

(26) <http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/27/capturan-mas-300-personas-saqueos-quemas-postas-torturas-policias/>

(27) Those detained were identified as: Celso Reyes Mendoza (32), Dilmes Roberto García Reyes (27), Domingo Reyes Mendoza (34), Robel Orlando Reyes Bustillo (19), Gabildo Castillo Velásquez (37), Tito José Núñez Cruz (24) y Santos Omar Ortiz Medina (26).

These new forms of criminalizing have to be added to the list of criminal case files; 117 of them, that were opened at the beginning of December. It is doubtful whether the criminal definitions are compatible with international human rights laws. Nor is human rights law compatible with the speed with which the operators of justice have acted by demanding damages for looting, and by handing out prison sentences on the skimpiest of evidence. This contrasts with the cases of human rights violations, such as killing protesters, violations of their personal integrity and breaking into their houses. To date these have not been investigated or compensated for.

## V. Freedom of Expression

The threats, aggression and harassing of journalists and those working in the media continued during the post-electoral period. Various social organizations reported at least 12 cases. The aggression is related to journalists covering the protests. The aggression began to increase from 30 November.

### Attacks against journalists

On 1 December agents of the military police beat up the photographer David Matute of Marte TV, in the department of Comayagua.

On 2 December journalist Bladimir Rivera, of Channel Prensa Libre de Choluteca, was attacked by soldiers as he covered a peaceful demonstration.

On 11 December an attack was reported against two journalists: Juan Gabriel Mendoza and Nidya Sosa, correspondents of Tribuna TV and Channel 11 respectively. The attack took place one of the times the security forces were repressing demonstrators in the city of Choluteca.

Journalists of the international media have also reported attacks and obstacles being put in the way of their work.



Sarah Kinosian, a journalist working for the British newspaper The Guardian, the BBC and the news program Democracy Now! Told Columbia Journalism Review that she was beaten by a policeman as she covered a protest.<sup>28</sup>

When cameraman Antonio Torres of Telesur accompanied a fellow journalist to the Department of immigration, he was harassed by immigration officials and soldiers.<sup>29</sup>

US journalists Jihan Hafiz and Redd Linsay and British journalist Ed Agustín denounced over the phone with the coordinator of COFADEH; Berta Oliva, that authorities have refused to allow them to enter the country on 4 December. For 24 hours they were kept inside the Tocotín airport and finally they were made to get on a plane. They were never told why they had not been let in.

### Attacks on the media

On 6 December between 7:30 and 11:00 am soldiers took charge of Radio Dignidad in San Juan Pueblo, Atlántida, while military helicopters flying low circled the station. Radio Dignidad has given uninterrupted coverage of the protests.<sup>30</sup>

On 9 December Radio Progreso was sabotaged: one of the transmission towers had been unscrewed and this caused the antenna broke in 3 places and fell to the ground. Experts consider that it was the work of criminals that caused the tower to fall. The case was denounced by priest, Israel Moreno.<sup>31</sup>

On 10 December news channel UNE TV

(28) <https://elperiodico.com.gt/nacion/2017/12/07/sip-condena-expulsion-y-agresiones-contra-periodistas-en-honduras/>

(29) <https://elperiodico.com.gt/nacion/2017/12/07/sip-condena-expulsion-y-agresiones-contra-periodistas-en-honduras/>

(30) Monitoreo Coalición contra la impunidad- Boletín No.5

(31) Radio Progreso: <http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4076-responsabilizan-a-gobierno-de-joh-por-sabotaje-contra-radio-progreso>

Defensores en Línea: <http://defensoresenlinea.com/condena-a-sabotaje-a-instalaciones-de-radio-progreso-y-atentado-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/>

denounced a process of sabotage and boycott of any media considered to be in opposition. According to the technicians of UNE TV, “the optic fiber was burnt so that we couldn’t go on the air live this Sunday. The Opposition Alliance Against the Dictatorship had called for a demonstration that day, in Tegucigalpa.

### Detention of journalists

On 15 December, 2017, social communicator Neptalí Rubí was illegally detained in the city of San Lorenzo. He works for Telesur Channel 33. He reported that he was detained as he was recording the protest. Soldiers held him, then handed him over to the police with the order to take him to the post.

This communicator is 28 and has been working for the TV station for 3 years. He denounced the fact that he had been held without any evidence of having disturbed the public order. This is the second time he has been detained. The first time was during the curfew, when he was going home after finishing teaching in the school where he works.

### Communications restrictions

People living in zones where protests were taking place reported that Claro and Tigo cell phones went down, especially in the community of San Juan, La Másica, in Atlántida. This loss of cellphone capability was created on purpose, because this was when police and military repression was very violent.

That cellphones from both Claro and Tigo did not work was also reported in Colonia San José V, Colonia Unión and Islas del Progreso in San Pedro Sula. This occurred while anti-fraud demonstrations were taking place and when people were being systematically repressed. A similar thing happened with the phones during the coup of July and August, 2009.

(32) Libertad Digital HN: <http://libertaddigitalhn.com/noticias/sospechosa-caida-de-senal-de-claro-y-tigo-en-zonas-de-protesta/>

## Defenders

At the moment the State is enacting measures to restrict the work of those defending human rights. They are persecuting them and monitoring them. There has also been an increase in attacks against them and a campaign of harrasing and stigmatizing the leaders. In particular there has been a leafletting campaign against the defenders, in which the work of human rights defense is demeaned. Father Ismael Moreno, Director of ERIC and Radio Progreso has been a target of these attacks. In March of 2017 he was said to be connected with drug cartels, along with the indigenous leader Salvador Zúñiga.

On 30 December, in the context of the political crisis in which Moreno has been against reelection, posters circulated, among them one that said 'The Axis of Evil', in which he was accused of being amoral and or being connected to organized crime. Eight other leaders, from Progreso Yoro, the base of Padre Melo, were also included in the poster. Other leaders have also fallen victim to this sort of campaign.

A member of The Network of Defenders of Ocotepeque, Lily Lara, was attacked by military police on 15 December in Sensenti, department of Ocotepeque. They threw teargas at her and knocked her to the ground as they beat her on the legs and arms with clubs. They took her to a military commando where they pointed a gun at her, threatened to kill her and did not allow her to help the wounded.

Something similar happened to Mayra Nohemí Lara Martínez, a member of the Network of Defenders of Ocotepeque. On 15 December she went to support the protesters who were being suppressed by the army, the national police and the military police.

She and a doctor took the victims inside a shop in order to give them medical attention. When they were doing this, the security forces were banging on the door and demanding that they open it. They insulted them with gross remarks so they would open the door for them. In the end they broke the windows and threw three-stage teargas into the shop in order to get them to come out.

Mayra was caught by a soldier who beat her and then handed her over to another soldier who took her to a detention center they had improvised in a gas station.

Yeny Lizbeth Montufar, also a member of the Defenders of Ocotepeque, was attacked by soldiers and had to escape into a wooded area, where she remained hidden for 2 hours.

Néstor Josué Zelaya Quintanilla from San Marcos, Ocotepeque is another member of the Defenders, and is the one who documents the aggression and denounces it. He was threatened by the national police chief of La Labor, who accused Néstor of persecuting him. He also insulted Néstor and said that human rights are good for nothing. On another occasion he photographed Néstor.

Marlon Alexander García, another Defender from the Sothern Zone, documented the aggression of 11 December in Nacaome. He was accused by the police of having videos of the brutal police activity during the violent dislodging of protestors on that day.<sup>33</sup>

The Network of Defenders of Ocotepeque requested that the National System for the Defenders of Human Rights intervene on Marlon's behalf. They got in touch with Subcommissioner Fredlyn Ramírez, asking him to support the Defenders, based on articles 7 and 53 of the Law of protection of human rights, journalists and those working for justice. The officer's answer was insulting and stigmatizing. These are his words: "How could we identify the members. Do they have documents saying they are part of it, do they wear special apparel, something by which to identify them, or are they simply part of the people who demonstrate peacefully by burning down police stations or throwing Molotov cocktails at police officers. It's hard to know and we've already spoken to the representatives of human rights who say they don't know these people and have never heard of the existence of this organization."<sup>35</sup>

The answer given by the officer shows the institutional weakness of the country and the lack of protection for the

(33) Habeas Corpus by REDEHSUR on 11 December, 2017i for Wilmer Adán Meléndez (16), Oscar Adonis Flores (17), Oscar Alvares (17), Óscar Mejía (18), Wilmer Manuel Meza (23), Jair Peralta (26), David Antonio Velázquez (26), Juan Flores (27), Noé Alexander Flores (29) y Hermes Roney Valdez (33).

(34) Oficio DGSP-733- 2017, 23 de diciembre de 2017.

(35) Letter of 26 December from UDEP14.

People in the face of the State, in particular that of the Executive Power and the official governing party.

On 7 December, state security agents broke into the houses of the people and of the members of the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MAD) in San Juan Pueblo and in Lean, Atlántida, where they destroyed property with the excuse that they were looking for weapons that were being used in the protests against election fraud and in occupying.

On 8 members of the military police, the Cobras and the national police illegally broke into Finca Torogoces in San Juan Pueblo, Atlántida. This was being used as a learning center and for meetings of MAD.<sup>36</sup>

Defender of human rights, Saudy Almendares, of the working group of Vía Campesina, was victim of a teargas shot at her while she observed a demonstration on the road going east out of Tegucigalpa, at Colonia Villa Vieja.

## VI. Illegal and violent raids and property destruction

The repression against the protesters has been complemented with illegal and violent raids on people's houses. It seems that the security forces are carrying out these raids in order to find protesters and arrest them. These operations, that take place in densely populated areas, use excessive force: the indiscriminate use of teargas, real ammunition, and the deliberate destruction of property, especially furniture and doors. These searches have been done by co-ordinated operations of the national police, the military police and the army.

Between 15 and 19 December the security forces used a massive new tactic: a campaign of illegally breaking into the houses of people who they suspected of being in political opposition. In this way they transferred repression from the streets to the houses. In those days nobody felt safe. COFADEH received phone calls at different times, from the people of San Pedro Sula, Choloma and Atlántida, denouncing that military commandos were breaking down their doors. They feared that the attackers had a list with their names on it and that at any moment they would be inside their houses. Members of the security forces have not shown identification and have their faces covered with ski masks, helmets, gas masks and are armed.

These raids have a certain common characteristics: they took place near where highways were blocked or barricades, or where there had been spontaneous neighborhood protests, especially banging pots and pans. Explosives have been used to get into a house by destroying its gates. In many cases tear gas was thrown towards the house, and often real bullets were fired at it.

(36) <https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/12/08/ALER-TA-En-riesgo-Mart%C3%ADn-Fern%C3%A1ndez-y-liderazgos-del-Movimiento-Amplio-en-Atl%C3%A1ntida-por-persecuci%C3%B3n-y-hostigamiento-militar-y-policial>

Security forces, especially the military police, broke into people's houses without search warrants and without any reason to suspect illegal activity. One victim, Fredy Montalván, told COFADEH that he had been working in his house with 8 other people who worked for or were part of his family, when military police from Nacaome Valle came, pursuing protesters with truncheons and tear gas. The protesters took refuge in his house.

The soldiers broke in and destroyed two doors and beat his family and employees with clubs and by kicking and using various instruments broke down the bedroom doors. The family made a complaint to the head of police but no one came to inspect the house or take statements from the witnesses and victims.

Similar situations were denounced on 15 December, when a 72 hour protest was underway in the Juan Ramón Molina area of San Pedro Sula, also Colonia FESITRANH, La Planeta, Colonia Jerusalén, and Río Blanco and Zapotal.

Women were particularly affected by the break-ins. Many of them were alone at home when the break-in occurred. One victim reported COFADEH that she had been assaulted by a military policeman who came into her house. He grabbed her by the neck, threw her onto the bed and pointed a gun at her head. He told her he wouldn't kill her because he didn't have time.

The Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice announced on 7 December, and warned that the security forces were carrying out raid on houses belonging to members of the Movement en San Juan Pueblo and in Lean, where they destroyed property with the excuse that they were being used in occupying, and in public demonstrations against the election fraud. In the following days, from 30 November on, brutal repression took place in the área, where police shot people with live ammunition.<sup>37</sup>

Priscila Alvarado, lawyer for the Mesa de Indignación that defends those detained during this post-electoral period, denounced the fact that her office was broken into on 28 December. Nothing of value was stolen, but someone had gone through all her documents, taken them out of the filing cabinets and strewn them across the floor.

The main form of persecution used by the government against people who dissent is to initiate legal or administrative procedures against them. These procedures are not within the parameters of due process. Minimizing in this way the role of the judiciary whose job it is to look out for and impart justice. Instead, it is the government's way of repressing and persecuting, with the aim of intimidating and wiping out all actions of protest from the opposition.

In the face of the clear manifestation of disagreement with and criticism from the part of the opposition. Because of this, in the last month 34 people belonging to different social movements have had to leave the country, or move within Honduras, in order to ensure they are not deprived of their life or their freedom.

In this context COFADEH has been following the situation of the opposition and of dissidents of the government, and in particular the situation of the student leaders of the University Students' Movement. At least seven young people have taken precautionary measures and had to move because of severe acts of political persecution and defamation.

One such case is that of student leader Eduardo Enrique Urbina Ayala, victim of sustained bullying and defamation. After the elections he became a victim of stigmatization, threats, persecution and harassment from

(37) Alerta del Movimiento Amplio por la dignidad y la Justicia de 8 de diciembre, 2017.



the media, social networks, and texting. When faced with all this, he took the decision to leave the country for the safety of his life and his integrity.

False information was emitted related to looting of stores in the first days of December, and the burning of a military truck during a protest on 15 December in Tegucigalpa. On 18 December the Public Minister presented a fiscal requirement for the crimes of aggravated assault against the Secretary of Defence, and of using explosives or war materiel against State security.

In the municipality of Jesús de Otoro, Itibucá, unknown subjects, apparently police not wearing their uniforms, in charge of Masaguara, who travel in a dark red Mazda with license plate BT50, without a back brake light, are engaged in profiling the leaders of the demonstrations. At the same time, it has been reported that the drivers who work for COPINH have had their licenses taken away from them.

In Danlí the social leader and the teachers who are leaders, Kenia Zerón, Mario Argeñal and Francisco Paz, are subjected to threats, intimidation and are being watched. The armed forces say they are responsible for what happens at the demonstrations of the political opposition.

At the same time 27 leaders of the opposition in the zone of Yoro, Atlántida and Choluteca are victims of a smear campaign that started on 30 December, on social media. In it there are images that accuse them of vandalism, murders, holding up the progress of the country, blocking streets, and promoting chaos. Posters invite people to turn them in. This campaign reflects a clear desire for reprisals, public sanctions and for inciting hatred for those who are political opponents.



Foto: Alejandro Díaz . 2017

## VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

### Conclusions

- COFADEH observes a notable increase in the abuse and violations of human rights in the framework of public protests with greater control of the Military Police for Public Order of the public arena and the risk that human rights violations worsen and the population becomes more polarized.
- Authorities responsible for guaranteeing human rights have been absent and are not carrying tasks required to guarantee that violations that have been committed are investigated and those responsible are sanctioned.
- A state policy of repression of dissent and sowing of fear is observed; modifying the patterns of attacks against political opponents, making selective attacks which have shifted from being generalized and open to being individualized, reflecting intelligence operations that identify leaders and attacking them with paramilitary techniques.
- A new modality is also observed in terms of detentions; the detainee is carried around for many hours in police vehicles passing through different parts of the cities during which time they are punished with electric shocks or threatened, generating terror and uncertainty in the victim.
- Serious human rights violations perpetrated by the Armed Forces and police occur in a context of impunity, reinforced by an attitude of complicit tolerance on the part of civilian authorities, and safeguards are too weak to assure timely, impartial and effective investigations.
- COFADEH expresses its profound concern for the situation of vulnerability of the political opposition and human rights defenders due to the policy that the state has established in the country.

### Recommendations

- Given the seriousness and extent of human rights violations, COFADEH recommends that all necessary measures be taken to prevent and severely punish all those in positions of authority who violate the human rights of all persons in Honduran territory participating in protests against electoral fraud.
- Avoid all reprisals against victims who denounce illegal detentions, torture or mistreatment, deaths and forced disappearance of their family members.
- Guarantee the security of people in their homes. Immediately annul the order to carry out massive raids and illegal penetration into residential zones, closed areas and homes of the political opposition and end the raiding of private spaces disguised as legal.
- Reiterate the petition to withdraw the Military Police of the Public Order from the work of security, especially from controlling and repressing multitudes; and withdraw all forces that do not have a mandate nor knowledge of the work of citizen security, such as the Army.
- Assure that timely, independent and effective investigations are carried out into the violations of human rights involving state security forces and into the abuses on the part of the Armed Forces.
- Permit the entry of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights to evaluate the post – electoral human rights situation in the country.
- Guarantee and maintain the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Honduras.
- Guarantee and respect journalists and human rights defenders in the exercise of their work.



## REGISTER OF EXECUTIONS

From Nov. 30 to December 26, 2017.

30 NOV	José Abilio Soto / 46 years / B° Las Delicias - La Ceiba, Atlántida
01 DEC	Roger Alberto Vásquez Reyes / 35 years / Col. López Arellano - Choloma, Cortés Víctor Evelio Martínez Álvarez / 23 years / Col. López Arellano - Choloma, Cortés José David Ramos Lambert / 22 years / Col. López Arellano - Choloma, Cortés José Fernando Melgar / 38 years / Puente del Río Danto - La Ceiba Atlántida Kimberly Dayana Fonseca / 19 years/ Anillo periférico - Col. Honduras, Tegucigalpa
03 DEC	Eric Javier Montoya Cruz / 27 years / Col. Francisco Morazán, Comayagüela Raúl Antonio Triminio Sisnado / 35 years / Col. Villanueva, Comayagüela Eduardo Rubén Rivera / 35 years / Col. Villanueva, Comayagüela Milton Orlando Rivera Cortés / 30 years / Río Tinto - Catacamas, Olancho Israel Hernández Varela / 42 years / Río Tinto - Catacamas, Olancho Mauricio Jonatan Echeverría / 23 years / Col. López Arellano - Choloma, Cortés Michael Jair Ponce Saucedá / 15 years/ Col. López Arellano - Choloma, Cortés
04 DEC	Virgilio Yareth Ávila Gonzáles / 15 years / Aldea Agua Blanca Sur - El Progreso, Yoro Arnold Fernando Serrano Moncada / 32 years / Col. Las Vegas - Olanchito, Yoro Raúl Humberto Brizuela Reyes / 21 years / Col. López Arellano - Choloma, Cortés
05 DEC	Jesús de María Sánchez Euceda / 43 years / Col. Satélite - San Pedro Sula, Cortés Zet Jonathan Araujo Andino / 30 years / Col. Modesto Rodas Alvarado, Tegucigalpa
11 DEC	Lesman Anibal Cárcamo Bonilla / 18 years/ Morazán, Yoro
15 DEC	David Octavio Quiroz / 32 years / Col. de Guacamaya, dos caminos - San Manuel, Cortés Brayan Noé Mejía González / 26 years / Puente Río Blanco, Blvd. del Norte - S.P.S., Cortés
16 DEC	Delmer Josué Medina / 28 years / Cofradía - San Pedro Sula, Cortés
17 DEC	Jarol Uriel García / 36 years / Choluteca
18 DEC	Cristian Fernando Hernández Yanez / 24 years / Col. Felipe Zelaya - S.P.S., Cortés
19 DEC	Juan Carlos Flores Silva / 26 years / 7° Avenida - Comayagüela - Francisco Morazán Katerine Nicole Bonilla / 14 years / Col. López Arellano - Choloma - Cortés Marlón Evelyn Mendoza Herrera / 24 years/ Río Blanco Zapotal - S.P.S., Cortés
22 DEC	Maikin Enoc Ramírez Enoc / 23 years / El Progreso - Yoro
24 DEC	Walter Daniel Lemus Ramírez / 38 years/ Peña Blanca - Cortés
26 DEC	Julio Alexander Funez Guillen / 22 years / Col. Toronjal - La Ceiba - Atlántida





Foto: Alejandro Díaz . 2017

# Report **2**

## Human Rights Violations in the context of anti-fraud protests in Honduras