

HONDURAN SECURITY INFORMATION



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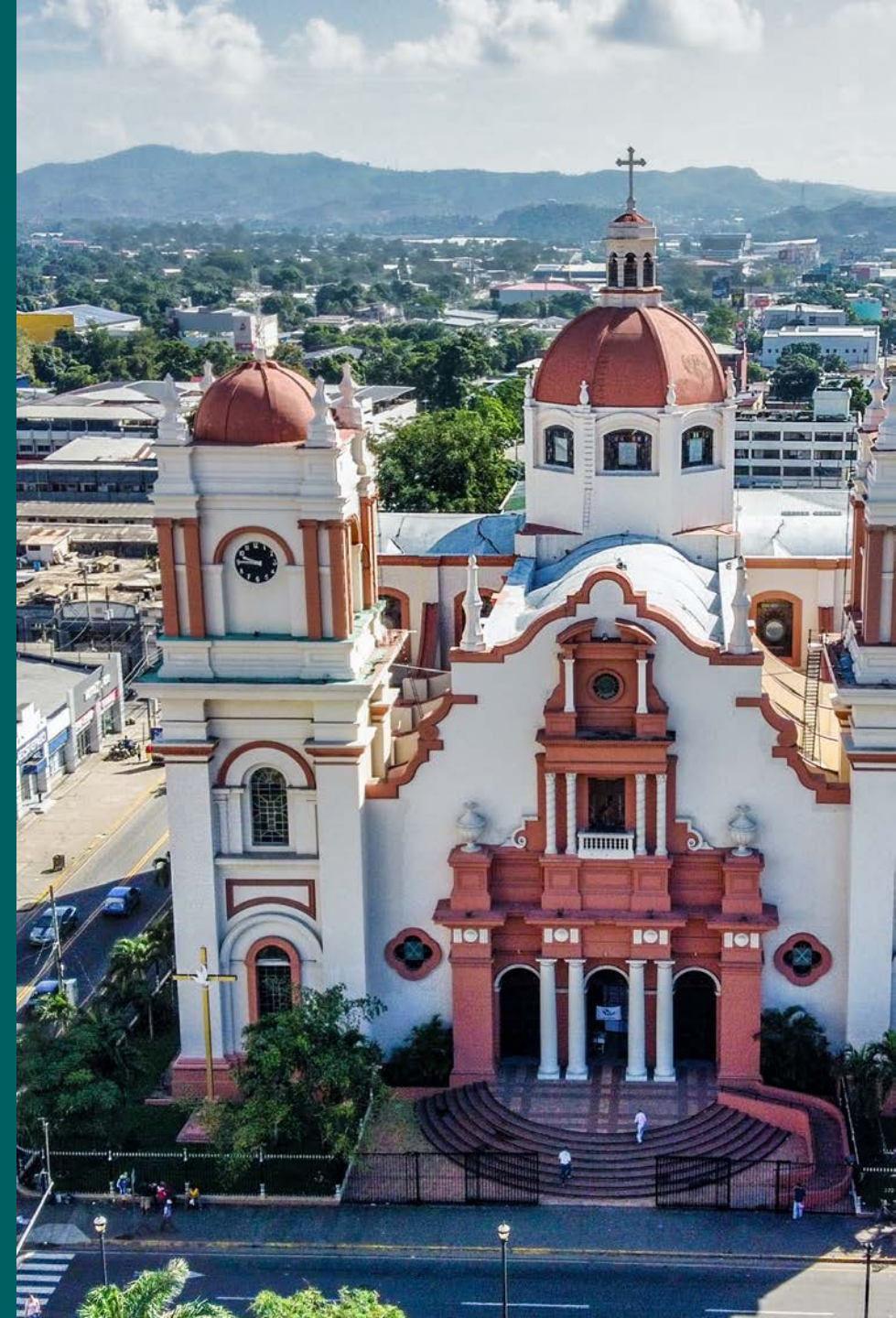


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Clarification on the number of Americans killed in Honduras

"Are Tourists safer visiting Honduras than they are living in the USA? Just how unsafe is Honduras for Americans visiting there?"

The Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens that the level of crime and violence in Honduras remains critically high.

According to the National Violence Observatory, an academic research institution based out of Honduras' National Public University, the murder rate was slightly above 81 murders per 100,000 people for January through November of 2013. However, tens of thousands of U.S. citizens and other nationalities visit Honduras

each year for study, tourism, business, and volunteer work without incident.

U.S. citizens do not appear to be targeted based on their nationality and expatriates are victims of crime at levels similar to those of the local population. According to reports, 18 murders committed against U.S. citizens since January 2011, police have closed none.

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Living here in Honduras all we all hear about how dangerous it is to live in a county with the highest murder rate in the world, but the real question is, dangerous for whom?

The USA on the other hand, only shows a rate of 6 out of every 100,000 Americans murdered every year, so it is safe to assume that an American could be in a lot of danger in Honduras? Let's look a little closer at the numbers.

Criminals, Elephants and rabbits, in coyote country

Criminals are predatory in how they select their victims. For example in nature, in areas with a population of predatory coyotes, the natural food chain prevails. Natural food for a coyote is rabbits, they are easy to catch and there is a plentiful

supply, plus they don't fight back, but any Coyote can tell you that an elephant takes a lot more effort to catch and they are dangerous and way too tough to eat. If you are an elephant in coyote country you have little to fear.



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In the criminal food chain of Honduras, tourists like elephants are not really on the menu for most criminals, they are in fact more trouble than they are worth. First, foreign nationals can cause a lot of problems for criminals. Unlike Hondurans, visiting tourists cannot be attacked or killed with impunity without bringing a lot of unwanted attention to the crime, which puts the criminal at risk, and most importantly they (the tourists)

are not afraid to call the police, or run to their Embassy and report the crime. Again that brings down more heat on the criminals as well, as well as the host country. In fact according to the US State Department, since 2009, only twenty four Americans have been murdered in Honduras. This being 2013, that works out to only 8 Americans per year. Now let's look deeper into the numbers and listen to what the US State Department has to say:

"U.S. citizens do not appear to be targeted based on their nationality. Resort areas and tourist destinations generally have lower levels of crime and violence than other areas of the country. Moreover, tourists traveling with group tours rarely report criminal incidents. Tens of thousands of U.S. citizens safely visit Honduras each year for study, tourism, business, and volunteer work."



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Hondurans, not tourists, are at the greatest risk of being murdered in Honduras

The greatest dangers are in the big cities, and have a lot to do with gangs and turf wars. On top of that, you plug in the drugs, drug dealers, gangs, slimy corrupt public officials, and the people who regularly deal with them, and you will find the true source of a lot of bad press for Honduras. In the USA the

murder rate is 6 people in 100,000 in Honduras that number is 81. So logically it would be safe to assume that an American tourist would be a lot more unsafe in Honduras than in the USA. However that is really not the case.

The proof is in the numbers

In New York City the numbers of murders change per 100,000 when compared to a small town in the Midwest. The bigger the city, the higher the murder rate on so many different demographic levels. In Honduras

where ever you find gangs and organized crime you will see that a large percentage is based on the demographics, of the people who live and die by the sword, than those that do not.



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OK here is a scenario for you. You have a college age child who wants to visit Honduras with a tour group. When you hear these numbers you ask yourself, how many visiting college students are attacked or killed in Honduras every year? First you go to a source you can trust. Again you go the US State Department travel advisory for

Honduras and they report another important nugget of information, and that is, as of March, 2013 only 24 Americans have been murdered in Honduras in the last three years. That works out to 8 Americans per year. Now here is where the numbers get interesting.

When you Google; **"How many tourists visit Honduras every year?"**
The Lonely planet one of the most knowledgeable tourist guides in the world responds with this:

[HTTP://WWW.LONELYPLANET.COM/HONDURAS](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/honduras)

- Jan 21, 2013 - ... in Honduras.
- Find popular places to visit in Honduras - Lonely Planet.
- "Number of tourists visiting Honduras each year. 1 million".

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If you do the math now based on one million tourists visiting Honduras every year, and compare that to the number of deaths per 100,000 you get the murder rate for tourists in Honduras as only one murder in every 125,000 visitors. Remember that in the USA it is 6 murders per 100,000. These numbers mean that your chances of being murdered in Honduras are only one sixth of your chances of being murdered in the USA.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

It means that if you are tourist on vacation in Honduras your chances of being murdered are less likely in Honduras than in the USA

From those numbers you could deduce that a foreign college student in Honduras on a volunteer mission is much safer, than the average tourist in their own home country.

The bottom line is that it all depends on who you are, and what your business is in Honduras. If you are a gang banging, wacked out drug dealer living in "Barrio

Kennedy" in the center of Tegucigalpa (the capital of Honduras) then your odds of being killed could be as high as 2,000 in 100,000 thousand, but if you are a college student from the states your odds are only about 1 in 125,000 of being murdered anywhere in Honduras which is a lot better odds than in the USA.

[HTTP://WWW.PARAMEDICSFORCHILDREN.COM/DANGER.HTM](http://www.paramedicsforchildren.com/danger.htm)



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Information on the new President's security focus

Officials on the elected government are working in strategists to implement. Information will be release in the next few weeks. However there is a plan of action on course with Judges at different levels, district attorneys and police officers on

trial for corruption. Reengineering of the Department of Security and Defense, together, with this new organization, new Strategies will take place.

The new Government in Honduras has announced its government plan, it is based on three pillars:

- ✓ Peace recovery
- ✓ Employment generation
- ✓ Social program "Vida Mejor"



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Peace Recovery

Among the unavoidable commitments on security are: reduction of violent death; protect the life and property of Hondurans, protection of company; recovery of State control and citizens on their territory; ending impunity.

As president of the National Congress , Juan Orlando pushed 22 laws on security , highlighting the purification of the National Police , the creation of the Administrative Offices of Seized of the Oversight Board of the Public Ministry, the Military Police and Public Order Troop Intelligence and Special Response Group Security (TIGERS) , as well as constitutional reforms to allow extradition and the prohibition of two men on motorcycles.

Employment Generation

For the employment generation the government will support the promotion of investments and has implemented a new program "Con Chamba Vivis Mejor" and "Empleate" which seeks to enter into the labor market 25,000 young Honduran.

Social program "Vida Mejor"

The program will improve the life of 800 families, with Ecofogons, cement floors , decent housing , home garden , water filter and medicine.



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Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

The president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, in his inaugural speech was blunt when sending a message to criminals: "the party it's over, who said fear?"

Juan Orlando Hernandez took office on January 27, 2014 with a call to his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama, for working harder to combat drug trafficking, politicians to seek dialogue, and the promise of combating violence, corruption and to generate 100,000 jobs.

"We invite the government of President Barack Obama and Congress of the United States to recognize the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, and to really work collectively to solve this problem that is also theirs," said Hernandez.

The president made the invitation to Obama in his inaugural speech at the National Stadium in Tegucigalpa, where the holder of the Parliament and the National Party colleague, Mauricio Oliva, imposed the presidential sash, under the presence of six governors, the Prince of Asturias and other representatives of some 80 countries.

At the ceremony, which was guarded by a large security operation involving 6,000 police officers and soldiers, were also sworn vice presidents Ricardo Alvarez, Rossana Guevara and

Lorena Herrera.

The president, 45, said that "if there were no drug problem in Honduras" his country would not be "among the most violent in the world", with an average of 20 daily deaths.

At least 80% of the cocaine arriving in Mexico from South America destined for the U.S. passes through Honduras, according to U.S. reports.

Hernandez emphasized that the policies to stop insecurity in Honduras will as "cornerstone the fighting of drugs, drug trafficking, organized crime, and

money laundering" and warned that he will apply "zero tolerance" to drug trafficking. He stressed that the political decisions of governments should be oriented to "effective results" and in that sense, a diplomatic offensive will start today to get these so coveted results by the Honduran and Central American people."

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Among applauses, he thanked "especially" to the presidents of Colombia, Mexico and Central America "for their strong support" in the drug trade problems.

His first act as president of Honduras was to order the Military Police, created in the past August, and the National Police, leaving "immediately" to the streets to fight crime, order that was instantly fulfilled.

Hernández ordered to accelerate "immediately" the debugging various institutions related to security and justice and announced that he will request "advice" to the European Union, the United States and other friendly nations that he did not specified to take it forward.

Since November 2011, the Police of Honduras is in the process of debugging due to multiple complaints against agents and officers involved in crimes such as murder, drug trafficking, extortion, kidnapping and vehicle theft, among others.

Hernandez also said his government will create 100,000 jobs during his four years in office, that means 25,000 jobs per year and attend various social programs for around 800,000 families that are among the poorest in the country, that has 8.5 million inhabitants.

He thanked the international community for the support of his country in the "reconstruction and reunion of the Honduran society" after the political crisis of 2009 that overthrew the President of that time, Manuel Zelaya, who in elections of this last November won a seat in the Parliament.

The president also called for dialogue to all parties Represented in the National Congress, composed of 128 deputies.

"I have summoned the principal actors of the national life to a pact for Honduras (...) I formally extend this invitation to all political parties are represented in Congress, to sit and talk for Honduras,"

-Juan Orlando Hernández,
President of Honduras

After his speech, the president reviewed the troops of the Armed Forces and boarded a jeep accompanied by the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, General Freddy Diaz.

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New extradition laws

Extradition:

A number of bilateral agreements on extradition signed between Honduras and other States. For receipt of application for extradition, judicial model follows: The requesting country forwards the request through the diplomatic track. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to the Interior Ministry and the latter to the Supreme Court. After reviewing the application and ordered that the execution be administratively, documentation will be returned to the requesting State following the same route by which it was received. All based on the due process.



New security secretary

For the current government, Julian Pacheco Tinico has been assigned as Secretary of Security for Honduras.

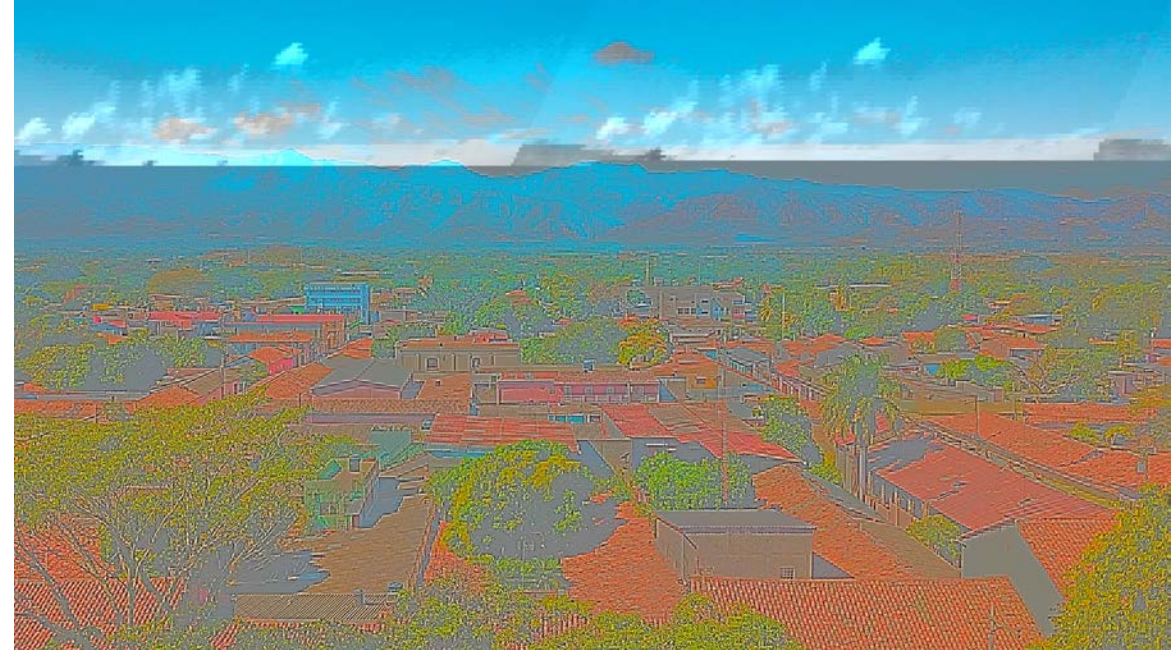


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The single morgue reporting issue

Honduras has three national refrigerated morgues available at no cost, located in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba. **(Source: Document from US-Embassy <http://honduras.usembassy.gov/citserv/disposition-of-remains-report.html>)**

We have confirmed with the Regional Forensic Office Director, Dr. Hector Hernandez, that the morgue located in the city of San Pedro Sula attends the North-Occidental area specifically the departments of Yoro, Puerto Cortés, Copán, Santa Barbara, Lempira and Ocotepeque.



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Current Security Information

President Juan Orlando Hernandez promoted laws aimed at strengthening the security of Hondurans creating:

- Military Police for Public Order, Investigation Troop and Special Security Response Group (TIGRES)
- Extradition Law and Interdiction Law (Shield in air, land and sea frontiers from the drug threat)
- Fight against extortion by banning cellphones in prison and blocking cellphone devices which discourages theft, equipment to intercept calls.
- Strengthening of military police
- Funds to purchase technological equipment, vehicle fleet and motorcycles for police patrol, bullet-proof vests, infrastructure improvements, criminal laboratories, surveillance camaras, personnel training and social projects among others.
- Construction of 5 new prisons that will provide adequate security measures and rehabilitation programs for prisoners
- Construction and reconstruction of 59 sports facilities and 20 parks nationwide
- Prevention Programs that are aimed at strengthening the moral and spiritual values
- A biometric security system installed at all international airports
- USAID supporting violence prevention programs implementing 11 outreach centers



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Current Security Information

Government has invested this past year 2018 more than 15,542 million lempiras for the improvement of security and citizen coexistence.

The number of murders in Honduras has been decreasing year after year, making room for the government to bring the economy back on track and generate jobs for young people.

Among the actions implemented are:

- Homicide rates shrank by more than 50%, from 87 killings per 100,000 residents in 2011 to just 42 in 2017.
- Between 2016 and 2018 the scale of police officers per 100,000 inhabitants increased by 51 agents; in 2016 it was 154 and in 2018 it is 181 per 100,000 inhabitants. By 2019, the number of police officers per 100,000 inhabitants will increase by 24, from 181 to 205.
- Constante military and police street operations
- The dismantling of organized crime gangs
- Reforms to the penitentiary system



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U.S. Government 2015 Press Release on Security Issue in Honduras

U.S.-Honduras High Level Security Dialogue
 Press Statement Marie Harf
 Deputy Department Spokesperson, Office of the Spokesperson
 Washington, DC
 January 12, 2015

The United States and Honduras have built a strong, longstanding relationship based on mutual respect, cooperation, and common goals. Today, the United States and Honduras held a High Level Security Dialogue and discussed areas where we can continue to work together to prevent and reduce crime, hold accountable narcotraffickers and other criminals, and further strengthen judicial institutions.

Honduras highlighted its notable successes over the past year, including the extradition of major drug traffickers to the United States and an impressive drop in the homicide rate, and outlined its strategy for countering threats like transnational organized crime and trafficking in persons and drugs. On migrant smuggling, Honduras highlighted considerable successes, including numerous arrests of smugglers and the rescue of hundreds of migrant children (accompanied and unaccompanied) being smuggled.

The United States is also working aggressively and successfully, using intelligence-driven investigations and targeted operations, to dismantle the human smuggling networks that move Honduran migrants north, resulting in the arrests of hundreds of smugglers.

The two sides discussed continuing our collaboration to strengthen crime prevention efforts focused on local community policing methods and on creating alternative opportunities for at-risk individuals in high crime areas. The United States also congratulated Honduras on its historic agreement with Transparency International, aimed at promoting government accountability and reducing corruption. Honduras reiterated its commitment to improve its security in a framework of respect for human rights with special protection for human rights defenders. In this regard, both the United States and Honduras expressed support for their bilateral human rights dialogue.

In addition, the delegations discussed ways in which the United States can support Honduras in implementing its national security plan and how both can collaborate with others in the region to address shared challenges. Both sides acknowledged the importance of addressing the security and economic issues that are vital for ensuring that the people of the Northern Triangle are able to benefit fully from increased peace and prosperity in Central America. They also agreed on the importance of working collaboratively throughout the hemisphere to fight transnational criminal organizations and to deepen ongoing efforts to enhance regional cooperation and integration.



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Chicago Tribune: Crime dropping and infrastructure rising in Honduras

Larry Habegger, Dani Burlison 10:33 am, January 21, 2015

"Honduras

Good news for travelers in Central America: Although a U.S. State Department travel warning remains in effect from June 2014, new reports indicate that crime levels have dropped dramatically across Honduras.

Officials announced that the government has taken drastic measures to curb drug trafficking and other criminal activities, resulting in lower levels of crime nationwide. The port town of Trujillo opened a cruise ship terminal, the new Copan airport begins service in coming months, and several international chain hotels are being built in the capital of Tegucigalpa and in San Pedro Sula — all signs pointing to safer travel."



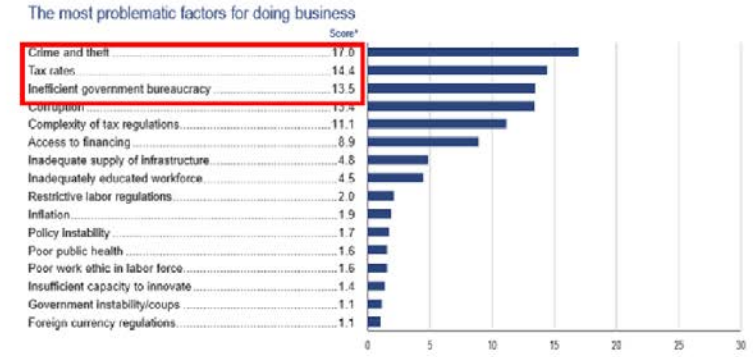
[HTTP://WWW.CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/LIFESTYLES/TRAVEL/CT-TRAV-0125-WORLD-WATCH-20150121- STORY.HTML](http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/travel/ct-trav-0125-world-watch-20150121-story.html)

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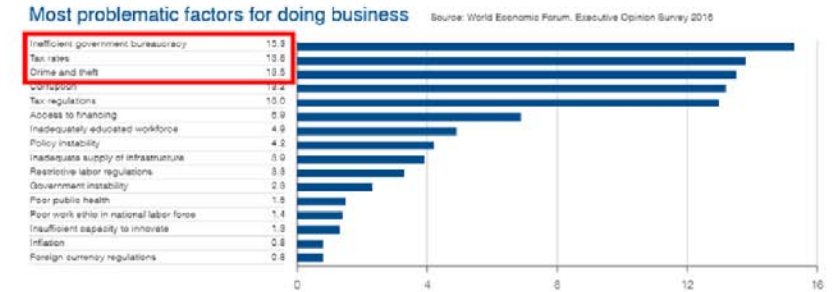
World Economic Forum 2015-2017

2015-2016



* From the list of factors, respondents were asked to select the five most problematic for doing business in their country and to rank them between 1 (most problematic) and 5. The score corresponds to the responses weighted according to their rankings.
192 | The Global Competitiveness Report 2015-2016 © 2015 World Economic Forum

2016-2017



Note: From the list of factors, respondents to the World Economic Forum's Executive Opinion Survey were asked to select the five most problematic factors for doing business in their country and to rank them between 1 (most problematic) and 5. The score corresponds to the responses weighted according to their rankings.

According to the World Economic Forum from 2015-2016 in the "Crime and Theft" category, Honduras had a rating of 17 which decreases to 13.5 for 2016-2017 period.

HOMICIDE RATE

The homicide rate has shown a sustained downward trend in the last five years.

The homicide rate in Honduras dropped 46.5% in 2018 compared to 2013

The homicide rate in Latin America declined 7.7% in 2018 compared to 2013



Source: Working Group on Violent Deaths; Nation Police, Public Prosecutor/Forensic Medicine Administration, National Registry of Persons Citizen Coexistence and Security Observatory National Statistics Institute, IUDPAS/UNAH, Technical Inter-Institutional Coordination Unit (UTECI)/Sub-Secretary for Inter-Institutional Affairs



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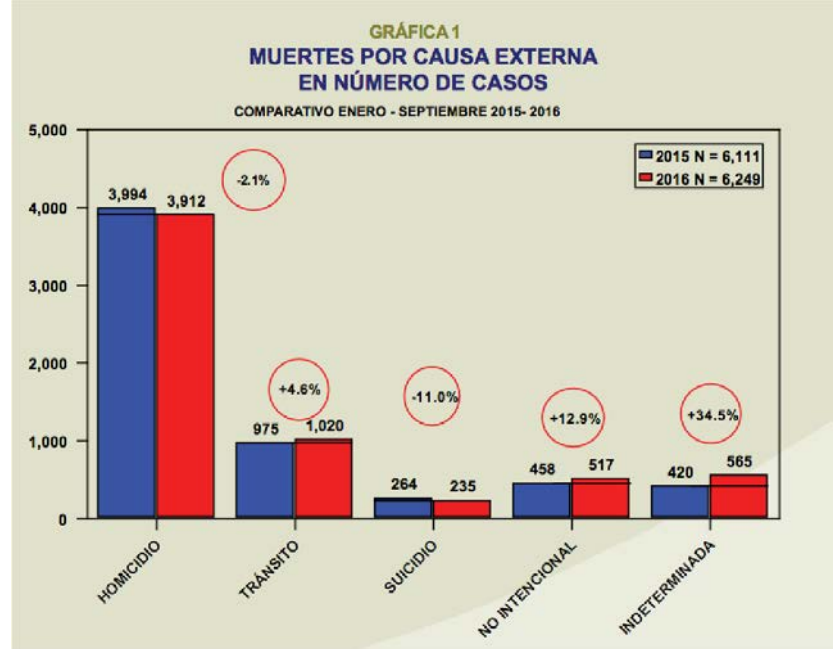
FECHA	ÍNDICE DE PAZ GLOBAL	RANKING PAZ GLOBAL
2016	2,237	111º
2015	2,210	116º
2014	2,281	117º
2013	2,332	123º
2012	2,345	125º

Global peace index shows a constant improvement from the year 2012 to 2016, going from 125 to 111.

VIOLENCE OBSERVATORY JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2016

During the first nine months of 2016, there were 6,249 violent deaths from external causes in Honduras, 138 victims more than those recorded during the same period 2015. The killings reflected a reduction of 2.1% in the sum of 3,912 cases, representing 62.6% of the total number of victims and deaths due to traffic events

accounted for 16.3% of the cases, equivalent to a year- on-year increase of 4.6%. In the case of unintentional deaths, these increased by 12.9% to 517 victims; suicides decreased 11.0% and finally, the indeterminate deaths showed a variation of 34.5%.



The Observatory of Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras UNAH informed that in the last 5 years the homicide rate has dropped every year since 2011 (86.5); 85.5 (2012); 79 (2013); 68 (2014); 60 (2015); 59 (2016).



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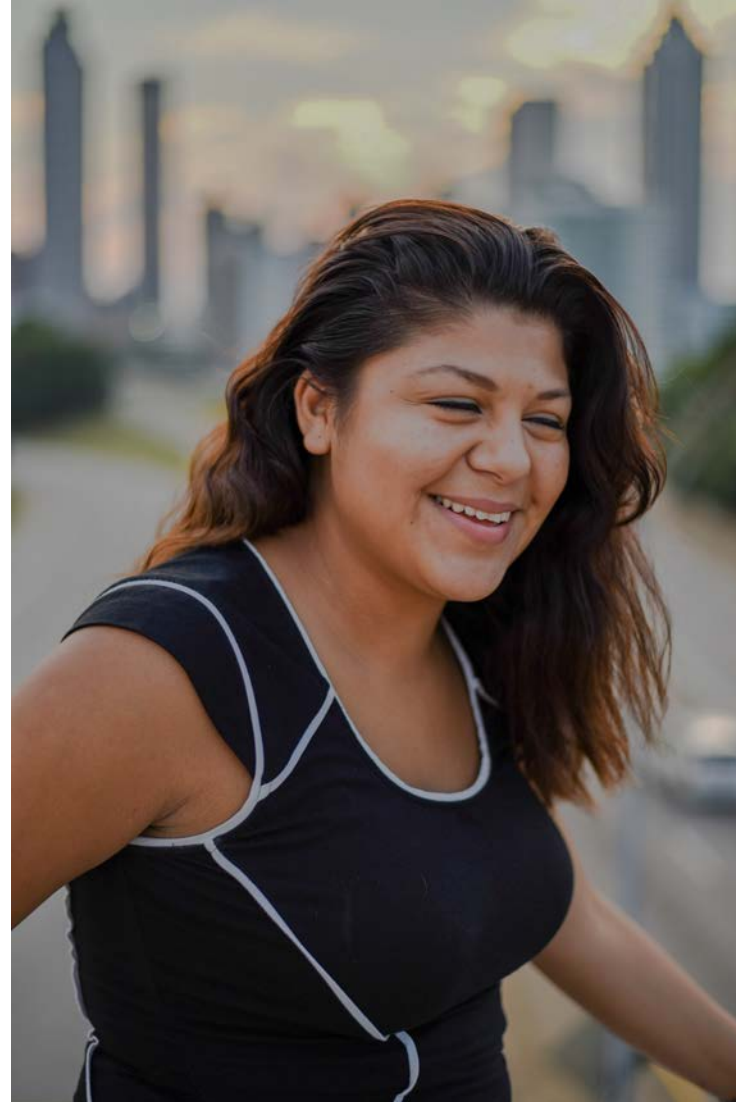
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Investment in security

President Juan Orlando Hernandez stressed that the government has invested this past year 2018 more than 15,542 million lempiras for the improvement of security and citizen coexistence.

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AMONG THE ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED ARE:

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International recognition

Advances in security in Honduras have been described as a miracle by the Government of the United States, taking into account that after implementing Plan Colombia to this South American country it took 12 years to lower 10 points in these indices.

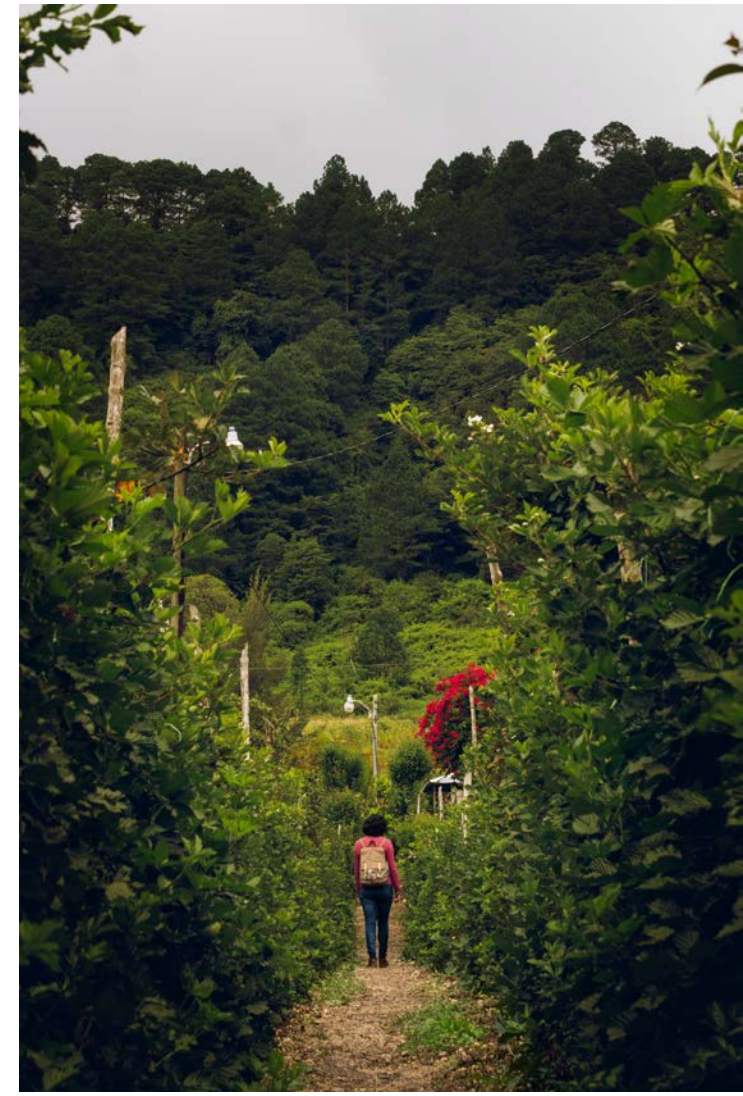
The Global Peace Index measured the absence of violence in 163 countries of the world, highlighting Honduras as the country of Central America and the Caribbean that showed the strongest improvement in 2017.

The Observatory of Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (OB-UNAH) highlighted the reduction of multiple homicides, which in 2017 fell by 50 percent in relation to 2016.

For its part, InSight Crime, the entity specializes in the crime of the Americas, highlighted the

factors that have influenced the drastic reduction of homicides in Honduras, highlighting the policy of prevention, dismantling of structures criminals, reforms to the Criminal Code among others.

In the same way, the US firm Gallup highlights Honduras among the three countries with the best Global Law and Order Index in Latin America, reflecting the police reform promoted by the Honduran president in recent years.





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