

## **Honduran Police & Soldiers Attack 40 Women Peaceful Protesters: One more result of U.S. & Canadian-backed military coup in 2009**

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25), Honduran police and soldiers beat 40 women peaceful protesters in front of the Presidential Palace, in the Murder, Corruption and Impunity Capital of the Americas, a country fully supported by the governments, military and business of the United States and Canada.

- What to do: See below

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### **Honduras: Military and Police Beat Women In Front of Presidential Palace**

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1103-honduras-primer-represion-del-dia-militares-y-policias-golpean-a-mujeres-en-casa-presidencial>

25 November 2015, by [Dina Meza](#)

Some 40 women associated with the Center for Women's Rights (CDM), the Center for Women's Studies in Honduras (CEM-H) and the Women's Network of the Colonia Cruz Roja, were beaten by a contingent of police and military as they tried to peacefully protest in front of Presidential Palace today, November 25.



(Merari Medina, 15, beaten by police and soldiers in front of Honduran Presidential Palace. Photo: [www.pasosanimalgrande.com](http://www.pasosanimalgrande.com))

Violence against women in Honduras is one of the thorns in the side of the government of Juan Orlando Hernández who does not take decisive action to end the severe human rights violations that women face and is destroying their lives.

Suyapa Martínez, Director of the CEM-H, denounced to [www.pasosanimalgrande.com](http://www.pasosanimalgrande.com) that they arrived at the presidential house to start a day of protests on this "No Violence Against Women Day" because they are tired of the problem of the violence they face being put off and that the State of Honduras does not take this issue seriously leaving dire consequences in the life of women.

She states that the police put up a security fence so that they could not pass close to the Casa Presidencial, but considering it is a peaceful protest they did go around the fence and the soldiers proceeded to hit them with clubs and threaten them with fire arms. They hit several women, among them Merari Medina, a 15-year-old from Colonia Cruz Roja who accompanied the group. The group also had pregnant women and soldiers did not respect their status and also beat them.

Another minor was put into a police patrol in order to be detained and taken away, but the group of women managed to rescue her from the hands of the police who use a form of heightened aggression when it comes to women who raise their voices.

According to a press release issued this November 24th by the National Human Rights Commissioner (CONADEH), in 21 months, about 6700 women complained of being victims of violations of their rights.

Between January and September 2015, CONADEH responded to 2,571 complaints by women, of which, 827 are related to death threats, domestic violence, and sexual violence among others.

The press release continues to state, "CONADEH joins the world campaign of UNETE launched by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon. In this is made a call to governments, civil societies, women's organizations, youth, private sector, media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls."

With the action of today of the brutal violence carried out by police and military used against women who were merely exercising their right to freedom of

expression, CONADEH has the responsibility to encourage actions on the part of the Public Ministry to determine the perpetrators and hold them accountable, that is how it will demonstrate its commitment to combat violence against women.

#### Security of Women Endangered Near Presidential Palace

At present, despite the danger, the women continue their protest near the presidential palace, and make an appeal to the world, especially to all women, to send messages of protest to the government of Juan Orlando Hernandez who, since his term as president of the National Congress, has shown that (he believes that) women are second class citizens.

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### **In Honduras, 1 Woman Killed Every 16 Hours: According to U.N. Women, 14 of the 25 countries with the highest rates of femicide are in Latin America**

18 November 2015

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/In-Honduras-1-Woman-Killed-Every-16-Hours-20151118-0019.html>

In Honduras, one woman is murdered every 16 hours, which means at least 300 women have been killed in the country so far this year, nongovernmental organization the Center for Women's Rights, known as the CDM, said Tuesday.

"Femicide is the highest expression of violence against women," Gilda Rivera, a member of CDM, told EFE news agency. In Honduras, this violence prevails where "every 16 hours, a woman dies."

Femicide is the crime by which women are targeted and murdered because of their gender. According to Rivera, most of these crimes in Honduras have been at the "hands of husbands or intimate partners."

Honduras has become the murder capital of the world, according to the United Nations. The latest statistics from 2012 show that 90 murders are committed for every 100,000 people in the country.

Figures also show that for women in Honduras – who represent some 51 percent of the country – homicide is the leading cause of death. Women are "victims of a violent society and culture," which prevails in Honduras, said Rivera.

Earlier this year, other local women's rights groups reported that femicides in the country have surpassed epidemic levels. The number of femicides in the country has been reported as 12 deaths for every 100,000 people – according to the

World Health Organization, 8.8 deaths per 100,000 residents is enough to be categorized as an epidemic.

Many Central American countries are battling gender violence. U.N. Women reports that 14 of the 25 countries with the worst femicide rates are in Latin America, and especially the Central American countries of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Femicide also accounts for seven deaths in any 24-hour period in Mexico, with just 10 people sentenced for the crime from 2012-2013.

United Nations' figures show that around 66,000 women are killed every year worldwide, accounting for 17 percent of all homicides

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### **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & United States)**

To support community-based groups in Honduras and Guatemala, working for real democracy and the rule of law, in defense of human rights, community development and environment, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

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### **Honduras Fact-finding Delegation, March 19-26, 2016**

Rights Action invites you to join this educational-seminar trip to Honduras. Cost: US\$750, covering seven nights of lodging, and six days of: transportation, two or three meals/day, trip coordination and guiding, translation, and honorariums for some groups we meet with. Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from Honduras. Learn more: Grahame Russell, [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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