

## Honduras Narco-trafficker Testifies (in New York Court) That Ex-Honduran President Porfirio Lobo Took Bribes from Narco-traffickers

View in browser: <http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=6ea89d3ae9>



Ex-Honduran President Porfirio Lobo with then Canadian Prime Minister Steven Harper and then U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

*"It is clear that Honduras' descent into security chaos coincided with the [period following the 2009 coup](#) against then Honduran President Manuel Zelaya, when [President Porfirio] Lobo and his political allies emerged as the country's new rulers." (InSight Crime)*

- Below: "Honduras Narco-trafficker Testifies in New York Court That Ex-President Porfirio Lobo Took Bribes from Traffickers", by InSight Crime

### **Mafia State**

Over the past years, Honduras has become – like Guatemala – a 'Mafia State'. Organized crime (including drug traffickers) have infiltrated the executive, legislative and judicial branches, the police and military.

It bears endless repetition that the U.S. and Canadian governments were the only governments to support the June 2009 military coup in Honduras that ousted the elected government of President Zelaya; were the only governments to legitimize the violent and corrupt November 2009 elections that brought Porfirio Lobo to the presidency backed by the military and police. Since this time, Honduras has become the most violent country in the world (highest murder rates in the world, according to the United Nations), and has the highest levels of government repression, corruption and impunity in the Americas.

Turning a blind eye to spiking levels of violence, murder, government repression, corruption and impunity, the U.S., Canada, the World Bank and numerous global companies (in the sectors of mining, bananas, tourism, dams, sweatshops, African palm, sugar cane) are profitably doing business with and empowering these very same Honduran political, military and economic elites.

Related to all this, the racist, ugly and repressive crackdown against “illegals” in the U.S. begs the question as to why is there nothing “illegal” about supporting and legitimizing the military coup in 2009 and then perpetuating and benefiting from the ensuring repression and violence, corruption and impunity that forces so many people to flee?

Grahame Russell, Rights Action  
[info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Honduras Narco-trafficker Testifies in New York Court That Ex-President Porfirio Lobo Took Bribes from Traffickers**

by James Bargent, 07 March 2017

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/honduras-narco-testifies-ex-president-took-bribes-from-traffickers>

One of the leaders of Honduran drug trafficking network the [Cachiros](#) has testified in court that he repeatedly bribed former President Porfirio Lobo, adding to the evidence suggesting drug traffickers corrupted [Honduras'](#) state institutions at the highest levels.

Testifying in the [drug trafficking case of Lobo's son Fabio](#), Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga told a New York court that he made his first payment of between \$250,000 and \$300,000 to Lobo when the politician was running for president in 2009, [reported La Prensa](#). This was followed by at least two more bribes delivered directly to the president, Rivera said.

The confessed drug trafficker testified that he later attended a meeting with Lobo after the election in which the president promised never to extradite Rivera and his associates and encouraged them to set up businesses that could be awarded government contracts, which they could then use to fund their political bribes.

According to Rivera's testimony, then-President Lobo placed his son Fabio in charge of coordinating with the traffickers. Rivera alleged that Fabio Lobo personally assisted with security arrangements for two especially large cocaine shipments, and that for one of those shipments, the younger Lobo charged an extra \$50,000 to pay off "the boss" -- allegedly referring to current security minister and security advisor during the Lobo administration, retired General Julián Pacheco Tinoco.

Rivera added that such political contacts, along with corrupt contacts in the police and military, helped the [Cachiros](#) establish themselves as one of [Honduras'](#) principal drug trafficking networks and move tons of cocaine through the country.

In addition, Rivera testified about the [2009 murder of Julián Arístides González](#), then head of [Honduras'](#) Office to Fight Drug Trafficking (Dirección de Lucha Contra el Narcotráfico - DLCN). Rivera claimed he had attended a meeting with other traffickers and at least one current congressmen in which they decided to pay a group of policeman to assassinate Arístides.

Porfirio Lobo fiercely denied all of the accusations, [telling AFP](#) he had never associated with or received any money from criminals.

The Security Ministry also released a statement denying Rivera's "ill-intentioned and baseless" accusations, which the ministry claimed he made in order to receive judicial benefits, [reported El Heraldo](#).

#### InSight Crime Analysis

Rivera's claims have yet to be independently verified, but they are not the first time Lobo has faced accusations of connections to organized crime. Last year, questions over Lobo's murky ties surfaced after the emergence of a photo [showing him with murdered crime](#) boss José Natividad "Chepe" Luna.

While the guilt or innocence of major political figures such as those Rivera named remains undetermined, his allegations add to a growing body of evidence that makes it clear that the rise of networks such as the [Cachiros](#) and the increased importance of [Honduras](#) as a drug transit nation is directly connected to organized crime's ability to coopt and corrupt the country's institutions.

In addition, it is clear that this descent into security chaos coincided with the [period following the 2009 coup](#) against then Honduran President Manuel Zelaya, when Lobo and his political allies emerged as the country's new rulers.

#### See Also:

- Honduras Elites and Organized Crime: <http://www.insightcrime.org/investigations/honduras-elites-and-organized-crime-series>
- Top Honduras Drug Trafficker Captured in Guatemala: <http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/top-honduras-drug-trafficker-captured-guatemala>

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Thank-you Berta Caceres: "Wake up humanity, we are out of time"

- <http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=0285df858a>

#### Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)

To support community, human rights and environmental defense organizations in Honduras and Guatemala, working and struggling for justice and for fundamental change from the local to global levels, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations: <http://rightsaction.org/donate/>

Donations of stock? Write to: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

More Info: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

Join Newsletter/Listserv: [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org](http://www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RightsAction>, @RightsAction

\*\*\*\*\*