



Honduran President Announces Record-Low Crime Rate

This material is distributed by Keybridge Communications LLC on behalf of the Republic of Honduras. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

NEWS PROVIDED BY
Republic of Honduras →
17:43 ET

PUERTO CORTÉS, Honduras, Nov. 7, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- At a dedication ceremony for the new Honduran ship *Gracias a Dios*, President Juan Orlando Hernández announced that crime in Honduras plunged to its lowest level in a decade this past October.

"We are making strides in crime reduction previously thought impossible," President Hernández said. "*Gracias a Dios* will help us continue to fight and win our war on crime."



At a dedication ceremony for the new Honduran ship *Gracias a Dios*, President Juan Orlando Hernández announced that crime in Honduras plunged to its lowest level in a decade this past October.

Gracias a Dios is a logistical support and coastal vessel designed to fight drug, currency, and human trafficking in the Atlantic. The ship is the product of a bilateral agreement between Honduras and Colombia. It was built in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, with input from the Honduran government.

President Hernández said that *Gracias a Dios* will be used for humanitarian aid and crime prevention, not military exercises. The ship is fully equipped with the latest maritime technology and can sail for 40 days without returning to port.

During the ceremony, Colombian Defense Minister Luis Carlos Villegas pledged to help Honduras continue making strides in regional security. "[Building this ship] was not a military act, but one of brotherhood, unity, and commitment," he said.

Minister Villegas added that Honduras's lower crime rate is "good news for Hondurans, of course, but it's also good news for the region, for Latin America."

Gracias a Dios will make its first voyage to La Mosquitia in eastern Honduras to provide social assistance and deter crime.

"Organized crime and drug trafficking have no place in Honduras," President Hernández said. "With resources like *Gracias a Dios* at our disposal, my administration will keep working to make Honduras a safer place for our citizens."

Media Contact

Andrew Grafton

(202)-471-4228 ext. 119

184129@email4pr.com

www.keybridgecommunications.com

SOURCE Republic of Honduras