



Honduran Government Laments Injuries to Police During Violent Election Protests

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TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, Jan. 8, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Today, the Honduran government lamented injuries to dozens of police officers inflicted by supporters of defeated Libre Alliance presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla and former president Manuel Zelaya in Choluteca and other Honduran cities on January 6.

According to reporting by Honduran outlet *Tiempo Digital*, supporters of the Libre Alliance threw stones at police officers and set fires in the streets of several cities.



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At least 96 police officers were treated for injuries after auxiliary protests in Choluteca turned violent, including one officer who lost an eye and another who suffered a fractured jaw.

During the protests, police captured José Gabriel Godínez Avelar, a member of the MS-13 gang wanted for setting fire to a police station last month, in the Aurora district of San Pedro Sula.

Protesters also burned an American flag and threw trash in front of the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa. On December 22, the U.S. State Department offered its official congratulations to President Juan Orlando Hernández on his victory in the recent Honduran presidential election.

In a January 3 tweet, the LibreAlliance called for a "great mobilization" against President Hernández's victory on the streets of San Pedro Sula on January 6. Mr. Nasralla asked his Twitter followers to join the January 6 protests.

Leaders from across Honduras have criticized the violence. Speaking from his cathedral in Tegucigalpa yesterday, Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga said that "those who are proclaiming hatred are ruining the country" and their actions would lead to "anguish and death."

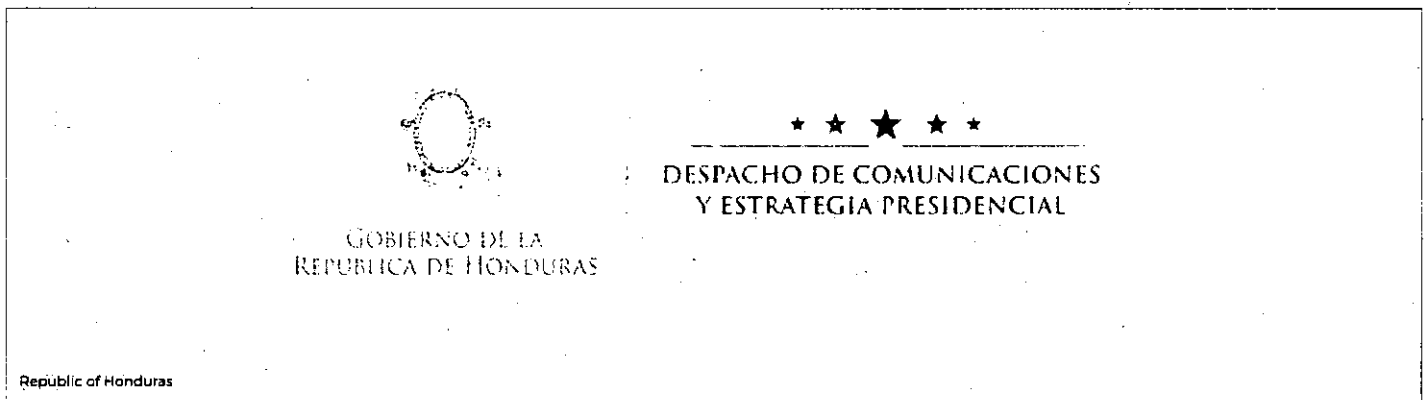
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Honduran President Thanks IMF for Supporting Honduras's Economy

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TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, Jan. 9, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- In a telephone call on Sunday, Jan. 7, Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández thanked Alejandro Werner, the Director of the Western Hemisphere Department for the International Monetary Fund, for reaffirming his organization's support for Honduras's economic development program.



Werner called President Hernández to congratulate him on his victory in Honduras's November 26 presidential election. The two also discussed the president's economic priorities: maintaining steady economic growth, creating jobs, reducing economic inequality, and improving citizens' quality of life.

For the first time in Honduras history, the administration recently completed a three-year Stand-By Arrangement with the IMF. Under the arrangement, approved on December 4, 2014, the IMF agreed to provide development aid to the Honduran government if it met certain economic conditions, as measured by six semi-annual inspections over three years.

After meeting the conditions of the Arrangement last year, the Honduran government was given access to \$109.64 million in development aid from the IMF. The government plans to treat these funds as precautionary.

"The authorities' commitment to their reform agenda has remained strong during the program, which has successfully stabilized the economy," Acting Chair and Deputy Managing Director of the IMF's Executive Board Tao Zhang said in an IMF press release.

Moving forward, the Hernández administration plans to continue to make the country's economic health a priority by prioritizing fiscal discipline and macroeconomic stability.

"It's my goal to raise the standard of living for all Hondurans by creating jobs and investment opportunities in our country," President Hernández said. "Over the next four years, my administration will draw on the IMF's support to help realize that goal."

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