



AI Index: IOR 40/3843/2021
16 March 2021

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ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: Honduras

UN Human Rights Council
46th session
22 February – 23 March 2021

Madame President,

I wish I was able to present this oral statement in its usual format, after having reviewed the addendum with Honduras' position on each of the recommendations. However, regrettably, by the time this statement was recorded on 12 March, the government had not made its position available. This delay is sadly a reflection of the government's lack of attention to human rights.

In Honduras, human rights defenders, especially land and environmental defenders, continue to face high levels of violence, including killings and disappearances. Almost all of these attacks remain unpunished. They also continue to face unfounded criminal prosecutions that hinder their work.

We urge Honduras to implement the recommendations to protect human rights defenders and to ensure effective, prompt and independent investigations of all attacks against them¹. We call on Honduras to refrain from misusing the justice system to intimidate and harass them².

Madam President,

Between 2017 and 2020, police and military used excessive force to repress protests, resulting in deaths, arbitrary detention, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and physical injuries.

We urge Honduras to implement recommendations to protect the right to peaceful assembly, which should include impartial, independent and effective investigations into any unnecessary and excessive use of force.³ We also urge Honduras to implement recommendations to end the involvement of military forces in public security tasks.⁴

Madame President,

¹ A/HRC/46/12, Recommendations 104.81 (Ecuador, Costa Rica, Japan), 104.71 and 104.93 (France); 104.97 (Slovenia), 104.100 (Germany), 104.103 (Austria), 104.106 (Belgium), 104.107 (Brazil).

² A/HRC/46/12, Recommendations 104.78 (Canada); 104.86 (Estonia); 104.91 (Norway).

³ A/HRC/46/12 Recommendations, 104.51 (Venezuela); 104.85 (Australia), 104.94 (Portugal).

⁴ A/HRC/46/12, Recommendation 104.79 (Canada).

In January 2021, Honduras approved a constitutional reform that in practice prevents the legalization of abortion and same-sex marriage - both of which were already prohibited, putting the lives of women and girls at risk and discriminating against LGBTI people.

We urge Honduras to implement recommendations to decriminalize abortion and to ensure the right to equality and non-discrimination for all persons without distinction⁵.

Thank you.

⁵ A/HRC/46/12, Recommendations 104.31(Montenegro, Timor-Leste); 104.33 (Spain); 104.34 (Chile), 104.146 (France); 104.147 (Slovenia).