

World Watch Research

Honduras: Background Information

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Copyright and sources

World Watch Research has divided up the previously named Full Country Dossier into two separate documents:

- Background country information (published annually in summer)
- Persecution dynamics (published annually in January).

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Map of country



Honduras: Population (UN estimate for 2024)	Christians	Chr%
10,759,000	10,276,000	95.5

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., *World Christian Database*, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

Recent history

In November 2021, amid high voter turn-out, Honduras voted in the country's first ever female president: Xiomara Castro. See below: *Political and legal landscape*.

The previous president, Juan Orlando Hernandez, belonging to the National Party of Honduras, had been re-elected to office in December 2017 under great [controversy](#) (Foreign Affairs, 20 December 2017). In 2015, the Supreme Court of Justice [ruled](#) in favor of allowing the then incumbent president to run for another term (The Guardian, 24 April 2020). This decision was fiercely opposed by opposition parties and regarded as a violation of the Constitution. This led to civil unrest and the government declared a [state of emergency](#) (Daily Beast, 2 December 2017) and imposed [curfews](#) (BBC News, 7 December 2017). According to a [2017 report](#) by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), there were over 20 deaths, 60 injured and around 1,351 arrests for violations of the curfew. Despite all [calls to annul](#) the election results (BBC News, 10 December 2017) and despite the OAS [recommendation](#) to hold new elections (OAS, 6 December 2017), Hernandez held onto power.

Since then, high levels of corruption and impunity have become [deeply entrenched](#) in Honduran society (Congressional Research Service, 23 January 2020). At the end of his term, the ex-president Orlando was accused of crimes related to drug trafficking and possession of weapons. In April 2022 he was [extradited](#) to the USA (Justice Gov, 21 April 2022). The trial was first [adjourned](#) until September 2023 (Voz de América, 10 January 2023) and later until [February 2024](#) (El Tiempo, 30 June 2023). In March 2024, he was found [guilty on all charges](#) and faces a possible life sentence (CNN, 8 March 2024).

Due to high levels of violence, the government has implemented a [state of emergency](#) since December 2022 (Policia Nacional, 20 May 2023) which was extended until August 2024. This has led to serious limitations on human rights and the militarization of security with countless cases of abuses by security forces. In addition, the government seeks to implement increasingly radical measures to counteract violence in the country. (See more below in: *Security situation*).

To flee violence and poverty in Honduras, there has been a wave of migration heading for Mexico and the USA which is part of the phenomenon known as the "migrant caravan". According to information reported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, [247,000](#) people were internally displaced in Honduras as a result of violence between 2004 and 2018 (UNHCR, October 2023). Honduras also acts as a [transit country](#) for 'foreign migrants', mainly Haitians, Venezuelan and Cuban nationals who often attempt to enter the country illegally on their way to the US border (UNHCR, October 2023).

Honduras continues to be a country vulnerable to natural phenomena. In November 2020, Hurricanes Eta and Iota caused serious [damage](#) in Honduras (Amnesty International, 13 December 2020). Floods caused deaths, displacement and the destruction of homes, roads and infrastructure. According to Doctors Without Borders, as of 25 November 2020, 89,335 people were in shelters and 399,062 had been [evacuated](#) from their homes (MSF, 2 December 2020). In October 2022, the intense rains caused by Tropical Storm Julia [left](#) 188,000 people affected, 835 houses damaged and 100 thousand hectares of crops damaged (OCHA, 13 October 2022). Between January and May 2023, forest fires affected around 83,604 hectares. The causes range from high temperatures, the burning of the land for agriculture and criminal activity (El Heraldo, 22 April 2023). This, coupled with the ongoing economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, worsened the country's humanitarian crisis.

In July 2023, Honduras [joined](#) the Development Bank of Latin America-CAF despite the Parliament not ratifying said incorporation (Swiss info, 28 July 2023). The president also assumed the [pro tempore presidency](#) of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) (STLCC, 1 March 2024).

Closer ties with China

In March 2023, the Honduran government [ended](#) diplomatic relations with Taiwan and established them with the People's Republic of China (El País, 26 March 2023). In June 2023, during a visit to China, Xiomara Castro formally [requested](#) the country's admission to the BRICS-led New Development Bank (NDB) in a meeting with the bank's president, Dilma Rousseff. China and Honduras are now in the process of signing a [Free Trade Agreement](#) that will allow commercial relations under regulations that benefit the export of products from both nations (China Daily, 22 March 2024).

Political and legal landscape

During the run-up to elections in 2021, citizens experienced heavy pressure from organized crime, drug trafficking groups and gangs, which control large areas of the country (See below: *Security situation*). Despite the insecurity, Honduras was able to hold presidential and legislative elections in November 2021 without violent incidents; voter turn-out was high and the [results](#) were accepted (OAS, 30 November 2021). With Hernandez not running for a further term, the National Party's presidential candidate was Nasry Asfura. He was beaten by Xiomara Castro (wife of Manuel Zelaya, a former

president deposed in a 2009 coup) The election of Xiomara Castro, from the left-wing Libertad y Refundación (Libre) party, [ended 12 years of a conservative government](#) (CNN, 25 January 2023).

Castro took over as president a country steeped in corruption, violence and drug trafficking. The former president had undermined the rule of law through the appointment of political allies to public office, including the judiciary. Thus, there had been a significant deterioration in the democratic development of the country. EIU's [Democracy Index 2023](#) stated that "it was the eighth successive year of democratic decline for Latin America and the Caribbean, whose average index score fell from 5.79 in 2022 to 5.68 in 2023. Two-thirds of the region's 24 countries (16) registered a decline in their scores, and the scores for five others stagnated, leaving only three countries to record an improvement. The biggest regression occurred in the Central America subregion, driven by declines in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras".

According to the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Honduras experienced a decline of [9%](#) in terms of corruption control (MCC Honduras scorecard FY2024). According to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, [high levels](#) of corruption and impunity continue to deplete the resources available to the country, as well as erode trust in public institutions (Noticias ONU, 1 March 2024).

Corruption not only impacts the economy but also the efficiency of public services, perpetuating poverty and inequality, not to mention the human rights violations caused by violence. Indeed, the high levels of violence are an additional factor caused by corruption in the country. Government authorities regularly [endorse](#) criminal action at all levels, including violence carried out by criminal groups (La Prensa, 10 April 2024). Many Hondurans are forced to obey two forms of authority - the state and the local criminal group. Both impose regulations and taxes.

Xiomara Castro [asked](#) the United Nations for support in setting up an international office for tackling corruption in the country (CNN Español, 17 February 2022). Previously, an anti-corruption body of the Organization of American States (OAS) had operated in the country (since January 2016) but its work [came to an end](#) in January 2020 (OAS, 17 January 2020). In December 2022, the Honduran government and the UN signed an [agreement](#) for the International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH) to begin its work (Criterio, 15 December 2022). In April 2023, Castro [ratified](#) the installation of the CICIH, expressing her willingness for it to start investigations (La Prensa, 12 July 2023). Honduras and the United Nations [extended](#) the memorandum of understanding until June 2024 (Swissinfo, 18 December 2023). Nevertheless, by the end of 2023, the commission had [not yet been installed](#) since the minimum legal guarantees and requirements of the commission (among other details) for putting the memorandum of understanding into practice had not been established (La Vanguardia, 22 November 2023). In 2024, the government was still not able to carry out the legislative reforms necessary or [generate](#) the conditions required for the installation of the CICIH (ASJ Honduras, April 2024).

In the years before Xiomara Castro took office, legislative reforms were implemented which strengthened the then ruling party's control over the different government offices and encouraged impunity:

- *May 2021:* After the crisis surrounding the 2017 elections, reforms to the electoral law were promised to make future elections more transparent. Amendments to the law were approved in May 2021 but many observers consider the changes [superficial](#) and anyway excluded minority

- parties (Contra Corriente, 27 May 2021). One positive aspect was the provision mandating the National Electoral Council to use digital technology for obtaining same-day vote tallies.
- *In June 2020*, a new penal code was approved which [reduced](#) sentences for corruption and other crimes linked to organized crime, thus encouraging impunity (Insight Crime, 29 June 2020). The new penal code also dealt with crimes against honor, such as slander and insults, often used to criminally [prosecute](#) journalists. There were also provisions which endangered the exercise of the rights of assembly and protest (Artículo 19, 2 May 2020).
 - *In October 2020*, penal reforms were also carried out that expanded the crime of usurpation and legitimized land eviction, favoring private companies' rights to land and their mining operations. The OHCHR pointed out that the application of these reforms “would generate a [serious precedent](#) on the matter and could aggravate the situation of conflict over access to land, particularly for peasant groups. and indigenous peoples” (Swissinfo, 5 November 2021).
 - *Decree 93-2021* reformed the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Special Law against Money Laundering. The Public Ministry issued a statement indicating that the reform of the Penal Code relating to money laundering represented a [setback](#) in the fight against organized crime, specifically drug trafficking and corruption (Contra Corriente, 1 December 2021).

During the first months of Xiomara Castro's government, the repeal of many of these laws was expected. Most of all, though, concrete action was expected for dismantling the framework of corruption and impunity built by the previous government. For this purpose, the [position](#) of Minister Adviser on Transparency and Fight against Corruption was created (La Tribuna, 21 February 2022). Similarly, in March 2022, the National Congress [appointed](#) an Anti-Corruption Commission for the first time (Hondudiario, 8 March 2022). Also in March 2022, the National Congress revoked the Public Documents Classification Law, known as the Secrets Law, which shielded numerous state institutions from [declaring](#) public information (Criterio HN, 1 March 2022). The national Congress approved a Law for Reinstating Constitutional Rule of Law, which aims to [condemn](#) the 2009 coup d'état and eliminate legal proceedings against political prisoners and activists. This legislation also provides a "broad, absolute and unconditional" amnesty to officials of the Zelaya government who had been accused of acts of corruption and other crimes (Contra Corriente, 10 March 2022).

As another way of dealing with corruption, in September 2022, the National Congress [approved](#) the Special Law on the Organization and Operation of the Nominating Board for the Proposition of Candidates for Supreme Court Justices, aiming to guarantee the legitimacy and suitability of those serving in the Supreme Court (TSC, 2022). With this new regulatory framework, in February 2023, parliament [elected](#) 15 new magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice (DW, 17 February 2023).

However, the breakdown of the alliance between Libre and the PSH party has [meant](#) in practice that further legislative reform proposals made by President Castro have not achieved the necessary support. For this reason, the executive has sought to govern through decrees and prioritize policies where it has greater powers, such as security (Idea, 14 July 2023).

In the WWL 2025 reporting period, the institutional crisis has continued due to the [failed attempts](#) to elect prosecutors (VOA, 1 November 2023). In November 2023, a Permanent Commission of Congress made up of a majority allied with the ruling party (LIBRE) temporarily [elected](#) the Attorney General and the Deputy Prosecutor (VOA, 1 November 2023), but this was deemed [illegal](#) and viewed as an attempt by the president to turn the Prosecutor's Office into a political arm of her government (AP, 1

November 2023). In February 2024, the Congress [ratified](#) the selection made by the Permanent Commission of the Attorney General and elected a member of the opposition party as Deputy Prosecutor (France 24, 29 February 2024).

Xiomara Castro's popularity has dropped in recent months. A survey by Datoworld showed that, as of September 2023, [51%](#) of the population disapproved of her management of the country (Tiempo, 7 September 2023). However, a more recent CID Gallup Presidential Performance Approval survey placed President Xiomara Castro in [fifth place](#) as one of the best evaluated among Latin American leaders. She obtained a 52% approval rating in the survey conducted in May 2024 (Gobierno Solidario, 11 June 2024).

Regarding the security situation, since 6 December 2022 the government [introduced](#) a state of emergency in 123 municipalities, suspending some constitutional guarantees such as freedom of movement, the right of association and assembly, as well as the inviolability of the home. Additionally, the [militarization of security](#) has become a government strategy (IPS Noticias, 7 July 2023). Civil society organizations [complained](#) about the disproportionate use of force and even acts of torture or mistreatment by the authorities (CONADEH, 17 March 2023). For more details, see below: *Security situation*.

US-Honduran relations

In 2022 and 2023, Xiomara Castro has been able to [resume](#) good relations with the USA. (Previously, the US-bill “S.388 - Honduras Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act of 2021” had been [introduced](#) in the USA (US Congress, February 2021), which temporarily imposed sanctions and other penalties on Honduran police and armed forces.) The US vice president participated in her inauguration as president and is considered an ally for tackling problems related to drug-trafficking and migration (Esglobal, 21 February 2022). Nevertheless, bilateral relations have been [strained](#) by some policy disagreements. Members of the US Congress expressed particular concern about the Castro administration’s efforts to forge closer ties with the People’s Republic of China, economic reforms that could negatively affect US businesses and investors, and government actions that could further weaken Honduras’s democratic institutions (Congressional Research Service, 30 November 2023).

Church leaders

The Constitution sets out in Article 77 that religious leaders may not hold public office or interfere in political processes. Despite this, it has become accepted practice for church leaders to [speak publicly](#) on matters of national interest (Le Grand Continent, 27 January 2023). In recent years, some [pastors](#) (Digital Evangelical, August 16, 2022) and government [authorities](#) (Efe, 21 November 2018) have raised the possibility of reforming Article 77 of the Constitution so that the participation of religious leaders in politics would be formally allowed.

In February 2022, the Catholic Episcopal Conference of Honduras issued some [guidelines](#) for the attention of the new government. In a public statement, the Catholic bishops emphasized the need for conflict resolution, and for respecting the republican system and the independence of the legitimately constituted powers of the state (Criterio, 11 February 2022). In past years, church leaders had on more than one occasion denounced the injustices, [corruption](#) and the rampant impunity in the country (RFI, 9 October 2020). In the 2021 elections, church leaders encouraged the public to make use of their

[voting rights](#) and also encouraged the authorities to act within the framework of the law and guarantee the freedom and transparency of the electoral process (Vatican News, 15 October 2021). Leaders of both the [Catholic](#) (Aica, 26 October 2021) and [Evangelical](#) churches called on all parties to maintain peace in the elections and for the National Electoral Council to act with integrity (Hondudiario, 27 November 2021). With a new administration in place under Xiomara Castro, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Honduras [declared](#) that a solid and realistic government plan was now needed, in dialogue and consensus with all parties, guaranteeing an inclusive and progressive change, despite any criminal resistance it may encounter (Conferencia Episcopal Honduras, 11 February 2022). They also called for [dialogue](#) to protect the rule of law in times of crisis (Conferencia Episcopal Honduras, 25 January 2022).

In 2022 and 2023, Catholic and Evangelical church leaders expressed concern about the [breakdown](#) in the alliance between the Salvador de Honduras Party (PSH) and Freedom and Refoundation (Libre) (Radio America, 17 October 2022), the [legitimacy](#) of the authorities involved in the election of the members of the Supreme Court (Tu Nota, 11 October 2022) and the rights violated through the imposition of the [state of emergency](#) (Vatican News, 27 June 2023). The Episcopal Conference of Honduras (CEH) also expressed concern about the "political crisis" in parliament over the election of a new State Attorney General and asked that "a sincere dialogue" be established to seek a solution (Swissinfo, 8 November 2023).

Religious landscape

Honduras: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	10,276,000	95.5
Muslim	16,700	0.2
Hindu	0	0.0
Buddhist	6,400	0.1
Ethnic religionist	74,900	0.7
Jewish	420	0.0
Bahai	54,500	0.5
Atheist	21,700	0.2
Agnostic	213,000	2.0
Other	95,110	0.9
<i>OTHER includes Chinese folk, New religionist, Sikh, Spiritist, Taoist, Confucianist, Jain, Shintoist, Zoroastrian.</i>		

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., *World Christian Database*, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

Honduras is a Christian majority country. According to WCD 2024 figures, 95.5% of the total population is Christians. The Constitution guarantees the free exercise of all religions and beliefs without any preeminence, as long as they do not contravene the laws and public order.

The Constitution sets out in Article 77 that religious leaders may not hold public office or interfere in political processes. Despite this, it has become accepted practice for church leaders to [speak publicly](#) on matters of national interest (Le Grand Continent, 27 January 2023). In the past, some [pastors](#) (Digital Evangelical, August 16, 2022) and [government authorities](#) (Efe, 21 November 2018) have raised the possibility of reforming Article 77 to allow religious leaders an official voice in politics, however, this reform has not materialized.

Church communities have the "[greatest territorial presence](#)" in the country and have enjoyed high levels of trust among the population (World Vision, 21 September 2021). The Roman Catholic Church is organized into 250 parishes throughout Honduras; the Episcopal Church has 38 congregations in total at the national level. In July 2024, the Apostolic Nunciature in Honduras was reopened (Aciprensa, 13 July 2024).

Non-traditional church groups (referred to as 'evangelical') number more than 17,000 congregations in the country. Some of these belong to large denominations like the Assemblies of God and the Church of God, while many others have affiliations to smaller networks or work independently. According to the Celam Pastoral Observatory, church [relations](#) with the Honduran state, which are not governed by a Concordat, are cordial, respectful and promote mutual collaboration (Catholic.net, accessed 7 October 2024). However, differences have arisen where certain laws concerning family and life contradict traditional church doctrine.

The previous administration under President Hernández had a close relationship with the Evangelical Fellowship of Honduras (CEH), which as a result enjoyed a certain amount of [influence](#) in various government institutions throughout the 12 years that the National Party was in power (Criterio, 6 January 2022). During the 2021 electoral campaign, the CEH signed an [agreement](#) with the presidential candidate of the National Party, Nasry Asfura, by which the latter pledged to adhere to 'Christian principles and values'. Nonetheless, the Network of Evangelical Pastors and Leaders of Honduras (representing independent evangelical churches) as well as the Lucas Foundation for Health and the Latin American Theological Fraternity of Honduras all criticized this agreement harshly, calling it a form of ideological and partisan manipulation (Criterio, 18 November 2021). This was also the subject of criticism by secular groups and radical feminist groups. Under Xiomara Castro's presidency, a close relationship with the CEH has not been observed, although evangelical churches [supported](#) some of the president's initiatives, such as the veto of the Comprehensive Education Law for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy (Tu Nota, 30 July 2023).

According to the US State Department ([IRFR 2023 Honduras](#)):

- "The government requires foreign missionaries to obtain entry and residence permits and mandates that a local institution or individual must sponsor a missionary's application for residency and submit it to immigration authorities. The government has agreements with the Evangelical Fellowship of Missionaries and Ministries of Honduras, Church of Jesus Christ, and Seventh-day Adventists, among others, to facilitate entry and residence permits for their missionaries. Groups with which the government does not have a written agreement are required

to provide proof of employment and income for their missionaries."

In May 2024, the Government repealed immigration agreements that facilitated the arrival of missionaries from various churches to the country; however, at the request of religious leaders, new agreements have been [reached](#), which are pending review, signature and official publication of the country's Gazette (Evangélico Digital, 12 July 2024).

Criminal gangs affecting Christians

Christians remained at risk of gang violence and police and army abuse in collusion with criminal groups; even more so due to gang members [entering](#) Honduras as a consequence of the state of emergency in El Salvador (Swissinfo, 22 March 2023). Ordinary citizens are often co-opted into helping criminal groups monitor church leaders and other prominent Christians to identify anything that could endanger the interests of the gangs. COVID-19 lockdown restrictions also helped gangs increase their [control](#) over communities, which affected many Christian families (AA, 15 May 2020). Some churches and Christian leaders dedicated to helping young people or who carry out evangelization in areas co-opted by gangs can quickly appear to be gang collaborators and hence become targeted by the security forces. In other cases, church activities that can be perceived as opposing criminal activity or those involved in various environmental, education and [human rights initiatives](#) face gang restrictions (CEV, 12 January 2022). In 2023, the Catholic Church [expressed](#) disagreement with the government's new security strategy, the level of violence and human rights abuses committed against those fleeing violence (CEH, 26 June 2023). For more information, see below: Security situation.

Church social care

Both Catholic and evangelical church leaders continued to advocate for the rights of immigrants in the country and to denounce [abuses](#) (Impacto Latino, 23 December 2023). Christians have also advocated for the [situation of prisoners](#), to urge the government to improve their living conditions and respect their human rights and safety (HCH, 6 July 2023). And have expressed concern about the increase in [poverty](#) (La Tribuna, 19 November 2023).

Emerging secular intolerance

Even though Honduras is a predominantly Christian country, there is significant influence exerted by radical ideological groups seeking to discredit the Christian voice in the public sphere when defending biblical principles against abortion and SOGI postulates. Church leaders and other Christians have at times experienced criticism and insults when they defend their faith-based points of views on issues relating to the dignity of human life, family and marriage. Feminist organizations keep claiming that religious groups have a 'harmful influence' on public health issues; for instance, when the health authorities organize [consultations](#) with church representatives to discuss the possible ending of the ban on the use of the Emergency Contraceptive Pill (El Heraldo, 4 May 2022). In 2023, religious leaders expressed their [disagreement](#) with the proposed Comprehensive Education Law for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy (Valle de Sula, 22 July 2023), as it could violate the right of parents to educate their children based on their own convictions regarding sexuality. Various civil society organizations, the Catholic Church, and other religious denominations called a series of [marches](#) under the title: "March in favor of children and the family," with the aim of expressing their rejection of this law

(Vatican News, 25 July 2023). The law was approved by parliament, but later [vetoed](#) by President Castro (Swissinfo, 29 July 2023).

In general, church representatives have had a significant influence in the political arena during legislative discussions on issues related to SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) postulates and abortion. For this reason, some civil society organizations promoting those topics and some citizens blame Christian church leaders for the lack of progress in these issues. In 2024, the initiative “Comprehensive Law for the Prevention of Violence against Women” is under discussion. The religious sector has expressed concern about some of the content, considering that it could allow the practice of abortion; however, these concerns are often criticized for being campaigns of [hate and discrimination](#) (Criterio, 13 March 2024).

Economic landscape

According to [UNDP Human Development Report Honduras](#) (data updates as of 13 March 2024):

- **Gross national income (GNI) per capita (2022):** 4.695 for women and 5.837 for men
- **Inequality in income (2022):** 35.6%
- **Population vulnerable to multidimensional poverty:** 14.8
- **Remittances:** Family remittances sent to Honduras between January and April of this year totaled 2,983.8 million dollars, [6.1%](#) more than the 2,811.5 million dollars in the same period of 2023 (Swissinfo, 31 May 2024).

According to the [World Bank Honduras overview](#) (10 April 2024):

- “The real GDP of the Honduran economy grew by approximately 3.5 percent in 2023, reflecting a deceleration when compared to the 4 percent recorded in 2022”
- “The deceleration in GDP growth is projected to continue in the near future, with rates of 3.4 percent in 2024 and 3.3 percent in 2025, as slower growth in the United States will slow the recovery of manufacturing exports and reduce the growth rate of remittance inflows.”
- “Poverty, at a threshold of US\$6.85 per capita per day, is estimated to reach 51.3 percent of the population in 2023, down slightly from 52.4 percent in 2022. However, this percentage is above the levels observed before the COVID-19 pandemic.”
- “Honduras also faces the challenge of strengthening resilience to climate change and improving governance and the quality of institutions, for example through greater transparency and independence of constitutional authorities.”

According to World Bank's [Poverty & Equity Brief \(April 2024\)](#):

- "Close to 64 percent of Honduran households lived under the national poverty line in 2023, a decline from 73.6 percent in 2021. Similarly, extreme poverty declined by 12.2 pp, reaching 41.5 percent in 2023. These trends are explained by the economic recovery from the 2020 crisis and a remarkable growth in the inflow of remittances (growth of 29 percent and 18 percent in 2021 and 2022, reaching 27 percent of GDP in 2022). Nevertheless, poverty incidence remains above the 2019 levels, when poverty was 59.3 percent and extreme poverty was 36.7 percent, showing a partial recovery from the pandemic and hurricanes Eta and Iota. This is consistent with unemployment, which declined from 8.6 percent in 2021 to 6.4 percent in June 2023 but has not

reached its pre-pandemic level."

- " While 58 percent of poor households have access to sanitation and only 37.2 percent have access to the internet at home, these figures reach 74.4 and 48.6 percent for non-poor households, respectively. This gap is also visible in the labor market: the average employment rate for poor household heads is 60 percent, while for non-poor households is 74 percent."

According to the [International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF news - Honduras, 10 November 2023):

- "Growth has been picking up since May [2023] and is expected to close 2023 somewhat above 3 percent. Inflation has been coming down during most of this year [2023], despite recent increases in global oil prices Fiscal policy has remained prudent with incipient signs of higher budget execution, in particular on capital spending".

An important feature of the Honduran labor market is the high incidence of informality. In addition, the [evaluation](#) of the effects of the tropical storm Eta and hurricane Iota carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Inter-American Development Bank concluded that the disaster brought a total cost of approximately 52,099 million lempiras (CEPAL, May 2021). A study carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Cepal) revealed that tropical storm Julia, which struck in October 2022, caused [losses](#) of 8,061.4 million lempiras in Honduras (Tu Nota, 19 December 2022). According to the World Bank, based on historical growth and natural hazard risk patterns, in the absence of any further climate or policy changes, the combined impact of productive capital destroyed through excess rain (flooding), tropical cyclones (strong winds), and earthquakes is expected to result in a [cumulative loss](#) of around 5.4 percent of annual GDP by 2050 (relative to the hypothetical scenario without impacts caused by natural hazards). This would limit income opportunities, and therefore reduce the consumption of the population by 6.8 percent. Lower growth, foregone revenue, and the diversion of productive resources toward reconstruction and relief efforts also limit the private sector's profitability and stress the government's fiscal capacity, and it is projected that, by 2050 public debt levels will rise by around 6.2 percentage points of GDP, compared to a hypothetical scenario with no impacts from natural hazards (World Bank Group, 2023).

In times of such disasters, church communities have continued to be trusted institutions for channeling international aid for humanitarian purposes, and for providing spiritual assistance. They have repeatedly insisted that international aid be provided [without conditions](#) and with no hidden political agendas (Tiempo, 27 July 2023).

Social and cultural landscape

According to the [World Factbook Honduras](#) (accessed 7 October 2024):

- **Main ethnic groups:** Mestizo (mixed Amerindian and European) 90%, Amerindian 7%, African descent 2%, white 1%.
- **Main language:** Spanish. There is presence of Amerindian dialects.
- **Urban population:** 60.2% of total population (2023)
- **Literacy rate:** 88.5%

According to [World Bank Honduras data](#):

- **Population aged 15-64:** 65.95% (2022)
- **Education:** Pre-primary - 34% (2021); Primary - 84% (2021); Secondary - 64% (2012)
- **Compulsory school education:** 12 years (2023)
- **Gender Parity Index (GPI):** 0.716 (2022)
- **Unemployment (ILO estimate):** 6.1 (2023).
- **Refugee population by country or territory of origin:** 84,363 (2023)

There have been continual deficiencies in education, health, safety and essential public services, and these failures became even more evident with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Faced with the food crisis, the National Institute of Statistics and the World Food Program [made an agreement](#) for cooperation in health projects for the period 2022-2026 (INE, 19 April 2022). The [health crisis](#) is currently worsening, not only as a result of the situation caused by COVID-19, but also due to the national shortage of medicines and high levels of corruption (Expediente Público, 29 May 2023).

According to [UNDP Human Development Report Honduras](#) (data updates as of 13 March 2024):

- **HDI score and ranking (2022):** 0.616 for women and 0.632 for men.
- **Life expectancy (2022):** 73.2 for women and 68.5 for men.
- **Expected years of schooling (2022):** 10
- **Gender Inequality Index (GII):** Honduras has a GI value of 0.431, ranking it 107 out of 191 countries in the 2021 index
- **Children/Youth:** According to UNICEF, in 2023, an estimated 3.2 million Hondurans were identified with [humanitarian needs](#), of which 37% were children. The country continues to experience high levels of violence. The homicide rate in children was 5.2 per hundred thousand children, maintaining levels almost two times higher than the global rate. In 2022, there were 183 victims under the age of 18, a figure higher than in previous years. Among the most common motives identified for these homicides are those related to organized crime, accounting for 36.6% of the total number of homicides. The estimate of children out of school continues to be above 1 million (40% of school age children), and the quality of education is among the lowest on the continent. At the southern border of the United States, there were 213,686 detentions of Hondurans by the US Border Patrol in 2023 and over 10,000 child migrants (unaccompanied or traveling with their families) were returned to Honduras. (UNICEF, July 2024).
- **Internally Displaced Peoples - IDPs:** According to UNHCR, between 2004 and 2018, [247,000](#) people were internally displaced in Honduras as a result of violence. It is estimated that the numbers will be higher in 2024 as the triggering factors for displacement persist - e.g., violence, extortion and the human rights situation (Data UNHCR, May 2024). To tackle these problems, a bill for the Prevention, Care and Protection of IDPs became law in 2023 with Reliefweb stating ([Reliefweb, 25 April 2023](#)): "Almost three years after its first delivery, on 21 December 2022, the National Congress of Honduras approved the Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons. The process concluded with the presidential sanction and the promulgation of the Law in the Official Gazette 'La Gaceta' published on 20 March, 2023. This is the first legal framework adopted by the Honduran State to offer a comprehensive response to internal displacement caused by generalized violence in a context of organized crime. ... The Law contemplates a series of comprehensive measures to prevent internal displacement, through

early warning systems, prevention and contingency plans; humanitarian assistance and protection of affected rights, such as education, housing, abandoned or dispossessed land and property; as well as seed capital and access to justice to achieve lasting solutions."

Human rights violations

There is a culture of human rights violations in the country by both state and non-state agents. According to a March 2024 [UNHRC report](#), the OHCHR registered at least 363 attacks against 453 victims, including both individuals and organizations, of which 308 are engaged in the defense of human rights. Of these, 54.1% were dedicated to the defense of land, territory and the environment, 15.5% to journalism, 13.5% to LGBTI rights, and the rest to other types of human rights defense. Of the 245 defenders of land and territory who were victims of attacks, 108 were indigenous and/or Afro-Honduran. 66.5% of these cases are concentrated in the departments of Colón, Francisco Morazán and Yoro. In 2023, OHCHR registered 99 indigenous or Afro-Honduran women defenders who were victims of attacks, of which 97% were defenders of land, territory or the environment. Additionally, the OHCHR expressed concern regarding the undue use of the criminal justice system against human rights defenders and journalists in the context of the legitimate exercise of the defense of human rights through criminal charges, especially against those who defend land, territory, and the environment, oppose extractive projects, or provide coverage of these processes (Reliefweb, 1 March 2024).

The report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the human rights situation in Honduras indicates that those who defend human rights live in a situation of [extreme risk](#) due to the different forms of violence that state and non-state actors exercise against them seeking to silence their causes. These risks range from stigmatizing discourses and criminalization processes, to threats and attacks on life. The Commission is especially concerned that these events are framed in a context of structural impunity in which 97% of crimes committed against this population are not punished. (IACHR, March 2024).

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has [indicated](#) that in the country, "the main humanitarian needs arise from the impact of widespread violence, human mobility (including forced displacement, mixed movements and the return of Honduran migrants, many with protection needs), climate change and disasters such as drought, flash floods and, more recently, El Niño, in addition to food and nutritional insecurity. In total, some 2.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance by 2024, of which 63% are women and 37% are men (OCHA, 20 December 2023).

The government has a history of quelling protests harshly; this was particularly the case in 2018 and 2019. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 lockdown measures, no major protests occurred. In November 2021, the government incorporated [changes](#) which could affect the right to protest (OAS, 16 November 2021). The [misuse](#) of criminal law continues to be a method of retaliation to obstruct advocacy activities. Rights activists have frequently been charged with criminal offenses such as "incitement to violence", "usurpation", "insults" and "slander" and even "forced displacement" (CIDH, April 2023).

Migration

Widespread violence from gangs has compelled entire families to flee their homes, increasing the number of migrants seeking refuge in other countries. UNHCR's Global Trends 2022 publication

[indicates](#) that Honduras ranks eight in the list of countries with the highest number of new asylum applications in the world. The number of applications increased from 59,800 in 2021 to 79,700 in 2022. However, not all Hondurans who leave the country succeed in applying for asylum and are repatriated. By July 2023, a total of 27,719 Hondurans were returned to the three Assistance Centers for Returned Migrants located in the department of Cortés. Some of these returnees have significant protection needs, face discrimination and experience other unmet needs (UNHCR, August 2023). According to UNHCR Honduras, the total number of [irregular entries](#) into Honduras in 2023 was 545,043 and the total number of irregular entries from January to April 2024 was 173,748. Five nationalities represent 80% of all refugees and migrants who entered Honduras in April 2024: Venezuela, China, Haiti, Ecuador and Cuba (UNHCR, April 2024). An International Organization for Migration [2024-2026 strategy](#) is in force, which aims to respond to the challenges of migration and displacement in coordination with government institutions and civil society organizations (IOM, July 2024).

Churches have developed various programs to serve the most vulnerable in society. These activities include trauma care, the distribution of [humanitarian aid](#) (Contracorriente, 21 December 2022), the promotion of human rights and [protection](#) for migrants (Aciprensa, 10 July 2024) and the coordination of [shelters](#) to care for migrants who are passing through the country (Contracorriente, 19 April 2024). In areas with a high presence of gangs, criminal groups [oversee](#) the distribution of humanitarian assistance (Acaps, 28 June 2022), including aid supplied by church groups and organizations. Christians daring to oppose gang interference risk becoming a target for reprisals, although their work is crucial because they are one of the first social actors to respond to crises in the communities. Their work faces significant challenges, including lack of resources, insecurity and violence, which limit their ability to operate safely and effectively. Furthermore, prolonged crises and lack of adequate financing increase pressure on these actors to meet the growing needs of vulnerable populations. (For more information on gang violence, see below: *Security situation*).

Technological landscape

According to [DataReportal Digital 2024: Honduras](#) (23 February 2024) / survey date - January 2024:

- **Internet usage:** 65.9% penetration rate
- **Social media usage:** 42.6% of the total population. As of January 2024, 54.8% of Honduras's social media users were female, and 45.2% male.
- **Active cellular mobile connections:** 78.8% of the total population

According to [Statista, Digital and Connectivity Indicators - Honduras](#) (accessed May 2024) - Forecast estimates for 2024:

- **4G network coverage:** 92.28%
- **3G network coverage:** 87.01%
- **Average broadband connection speed:** 19.09k kbit/s
- **Number of households with internet access at home:** 0.93 million
- **Number of mobile Internet users:** 3.09 million
- **Total number of internet users:** 7.73 million
- **Internet penetration:** 71.84% .

According to [BuddeComm](#) Research (Publication date: July 2024):

- "Honduras is among the poorest countries in Central America and has long been plagued by an unstable political framework which has rendered telecom sector reform difficult. This has created real difficulties for telcos as well as consumers. Fixed-line teledensity, at only 4.9%, is significantly lower than the Latin American and Caribbean average. Poor fixed-line infrastructure has been exacerbated by low investment and topographical difficulties which have made investment in rural areas unattractive or uneconomical. Consequently, the internet has been slow to develop. DSL and cable modem technologies are available but are relatively expensive and thus take-up has been low thus far, while higher speed services are largely restricted to the major urban centres. Nevertheless, the demand for broadband is steadily increasing and there has been some investment in network upgrades to fibre-based infrastructure".
- "Government provides free internet to around 75,000 households in Honduras".

According to Reporters Without Borders ([World Press Freedom 2024 Honduras](#)):

- "The election of Honduras' first female president has raised expectations, not least because of her human rights program. But journalists have continued to face challenges similar to those encountered under previous governments – disparaging comments by officials, access to information denied to journalists who do not support the government, and a lack of protection against threats."
- "Journalists are regularly subjected to unfounded prosecution, and prison sentences for defamation are frequent, and in some cases, journalists are banned from their profession. A new penal code, adopted in 2020, contains draconian provisions, such as the criminalization of the right to demonstrate and assembly. They affect the entire chain of information by imposing fines and prison sentences not only on journalists, but also on those who reproduce their content".
- "Journalists and community media – especially those covering drug trafficking, organized crime, major business projects, social polarization and violence against women – are often subjected to harassment campaigns and intimidation, persecution, death threats and physical violence, and many are forced into exile. Most of the time, abuses and violence against the press are committed by security forces, and more particularly by the military police and the army. Honduras has a protection mechanism for journalists, but it suffers from a lack of funding and inexperienced staff. This undermines the implementation of its measures and means its beneficiaries are still vulnerable."

On 25 May 2021, parliament approved a new Electoral Law to use digital technology for making voting and counting more reliable. However, the approval of budget resources for acquiring the necessary equipment was [delayed](#) (Expediente Público, 14 June 2021) and at the time of the November 2021 elections, the new systems [was not](#) implemented (Criterio, 20 December 2021).

Some of the [challenges](#), which the new administration under Xiomara Castro will need to solve, involve digital transformation, the closing of the 'digital gap' and the adoption of technologies in productive environments, in addition to the economic recovery of the state operator Hondutel (Bnamericas, 29 November 2021). For now, initiatives are emerging to bridge the digital gap in the [educational field](#) (La Prensa, 14 August 2023) and to achieve the [empowerment](#) of women (Swissinfo, 20 April 2023).

Many Christians in the country have made use of the technological resources at their disposal for church work, whether in the form of streaming church services or in providing spiritual support to isolated Christians, especially during the time of the COVID-19 restrictions.

The final approval of the "National Law on Cybersecurity and Protection Measures in the Face of Hate and Discrimination Acts on the Internet and Social Networks" was a matter of concern for Christians and all Internet users ([Conexion, 6 November 2019](#)). The initiative was harshly criticized - for instance by Human Rights Watch ([HRW, 9 April 2018](#)) as it is considered a tool to promote and legalize censorship and control of freedom of expression. Christians expressing views contrary to the government can thereby be denounced for acts of hate or discrimination. The initiative is still under [evaluation](#) (Revista Seguridad 360, 13 April 2024).

Security situation

Organized crime

The main criminal groups [responsible](#) for the levels of violence and insecurity in the country are the MS13 and Barrio18 gangs. Other groups linked to drug trafficking are Los Lorenzanas, Los Perrones and El Cartel de Taxis, which operate along the country's border (UNODC, last accessed March 2024). Both MS13 and Barrio18 work together with other criminal networks to dominate cocaine distribution. Their main criminal activity is however extortion. According to the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ), in 2023, extortion reached its highest level, with [11.1%](#) of Hondurans affected, especially in Cortés, La Paz, Colón, Yoro and Francisco Morazán (ASJ, December 2023). Foreign criminal gangs are also active, for instance from Colombia and Mexico, which tend to focus on drug processing and trafficking, among other criminal activities. Salvadoran gang members fleeing from President Nayib Bukele's anti-crime measures also [slip across the border](#) into Honduras (El Heraldo, 16 May 2022). Additionally, Global Initiative's [Global Organized Crime Index 2023](#) shows that Honduras is a hub for human and arms-trafficking, as well as being one of the main drug-trafficking corridors in Central America. Bribery and corruption play a significant role in organized crime groups' operations, with deep political ties to local law enforcement and public officials facilitating their activities. Corrupt officials at different levels of government create opportunities for organized crime and are even known to construct infrastructure and supply transportation requirements for criminal entities.

The wave of violence in Honduras [includes](#) killings, coercion, threats, attacks and kidnappings. Many citizens continue to face gang restrictions on mobility, extortion, forced recruitment, violence, and the confiscation of property, often forcing them to move home either within the country or as refugees to other countries (VoA, 26 June 2023). At times, criminal networks [use schools](#) as safe houses to stash illicit drugs or weapons. Many children cannot go to school due to the [invisible borders](#) imposed by the gangs (UN News, 25 January 2024). Teachers are also forced to pay bribes to get to work every time they cross the invisible borders that separate one gang's territory from another's (UNHCR, 24 January 2022). Some teachers become victims of [extortion](#), intimidation and threats from gang members, who are sometimes their own students or a student's parent (Tiempo, 31 October 2023). For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many teachers were also [victims](#) of cyber violence and online extortion, for instance, gang members in some areas demanded that the teachers should provide payment for the costs of their children's Internet connection or top-up credit cards (El País, 9 June 2022).

Corruption

Criminal networks have also infiltrated the government system through corruption which allows them to act with impunity. As Human Rights Watch points out Honduras continues to face long standing structural challenges, including [systemic corruption](#) and political interference in the justice system (HRW, July 2024). Marred by corruption and abuse, the judiciary and police remain largely ineffective. Weak state institutions and abuses by security forces have contributed to persistent gang violence. There have been repeated [allegations](#) of collusion between security forces and criminal organizations (France, 24 July 2024).

Homicides

The Ministry of Security, with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), [reported](#) that between January and March 2024, homicides showed a reduction of 18.1% (141 fewer victims). 90% of homicides are of men, which decreased by 18.8% (108 fewer victims), while violent deaths of women represent 10% and compared to the same period in 2023, a reduction of 31% was recorded (29 victims less). Young people between 18 and 30 years old continue to be the main victims of homicide, 36% of the total victims (229 victims), however, there was a decrease of 30.4% (100 fewer victims) compared to the same period in 2023. Ten municipalities together made up 38% of all violent deaths, with the Central District and San Pedro Sula being the municipalities with the highest percentages of homicides (UNDP, 14 May 2024)

In general, violence in Honduras causes humanitarian consequences linked to internal displacement, migration, and forced disappearance, not to mention the special vulnerability of certain groups, such as human rights defenders. The IACHR recently [condemned](#) the assassination of defenders of land and territory rights in the country (CIDH, 20 October 2023). Faced with this whole scenario, the new government under Xiomara Castro has taken steps to combat gang violence, for instance, by [restructuring](#) the national police force, which aims at dismantling criminal networks (Criterio HN, 15 July 2022), and by entering an agreement with the FBI to [create](#) a Transnational Anti-Gang Unit (US Embassy Tegucigalpa Tweet, 8 February 2022).

The most significant government measure has been the implementation of the [state of emergency](#) since December 2022 (Policia Nacional, 20 May 2023) which was [extended](#) until August 2024 in 226 municipalities (El Libertador, 6 July 2024). In these territories, legal regulations have been imposed to combat organized crime. Through this measure, some constitutional guarantees have been suspended such as freedom of movement, the right of association and assembly, as well as the inviolability of the home. This policy allows the National Police and the Military Police for Public Order (PMOP) to carry out operations in the most dangerous municipalities to maintain order, peace and national security. Additionally, the [militarization of security](#) has become a government strategy (IPS Noticias, 7 July 2023). Civil society organizations complained about the disproportionate use of force and even acts of torture or mistreatment by the authorities (CONADEH, 17 March 2023). The IACHR has indicated that there is [no official figure](#) on the number of people detained and prosecuted within the framework of the state of emergency. However, state authorities did report that from December 2022 - 13 July 2023 the Military Police Public (PMOP) had detained 421 people; and the National Human Rights Commissioner reported that, during the first exception regime, it registered a total of

1,348 arrests, of which only 36 refer to arrests made for extortion and 28 for illicit association (IACHR, 24 March 2024). Linked to this, a [pattern](#) of police abuse, arbitrary arrests and irregular judicial processes have been reported (Radioprogreso, 6 May 2024).

In general, violence [continues](#) unabated in the country (Insight Crime, 5 June 2023). Some analysts consider that replicating the security strategy of the neighboring country of El Salvador is not entirely appropriate because the dynamics of violence in Honduras involve corruption networks which are much more [complex](#) (Insight Crime, 28 June 2023). In December 2023, the organization Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, ACLED, has pointed out that violence has spread beyond Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, possibly due to “increased pressure on gangs in the most populated urban areas due to the frequent operations of law enforcement forces”. Extortion has also [spread](#) to new areas in the country (Insight Crime, 06 December 2023).

In areas co-opted by gangs, Christians who oppose criminal activities are likely to face harassment and hostility, either in the form of extortion, beatings, death-threats, and even killings (Radio HRN, 23 June 2023). Christian leaders who work as human rights activists are particularly often victims of violence (ADN Celam, 5 May 2023). Churches are also targets for robbery (El País, 14 March 2023) and vandalism. As a long-term effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, gangs strengthened their territorial control and Christian leaders continue facing challenges to carry out their activities, including humanitarian assistance, under the authorization of these groups. Most Christians living in these circumstances do not have any government institution to turn to for protection, due to the widespread corruption of the authorities.

Christian origins

Christianity [arrived](#) in Central America as a result of Spanish colonization (Asociacion Cultural Coloquios Historicos, 1992). Roman Catholic priests accompanied the Spanish and eventually began to preach to the Indians. The first Catholic service in Honduras was celebrated on the beaches of present-day Trujillo on Sunday, 14 August 1502. Later in 1521, Franciscan missionaries arrived who, together with the Mercedarians in 1548, began the task of evangelization and baptism of the Amerindians.

In 1768, Christian Frederick Post arrived as a representative of the Anglican Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Places. He and other Anglicans were sent to preach to the English-speaking natives and settlers on the Mosquito coast. The Reverend M. Newport established a school and later an Anglican church. Anglicans established congregations in Puerto Cortés, Tela and La Ceiba. Methodists also arrived in the Bay Islands in 1844, Baptists two years later, and Seventh-day Adventists in 1887.

[Evangelists](#) from the Central American Mission arrived in 1896 (Honduras is Great, 2018). Later, new missionaries arrived and settled in San Pedro Sula, Tela, Omoa, Puerto Cortés, Trujillo and other communities in the north of the country. In 1914, Humberto and Dorotea Cammack arrived in Tegucigalpa and founded the first Evangelical Friends Church in 1916 (today: Iglesia Central de Santidad). From there, the work spread to La Paz, Comayagua, La Esperanza, Márcala, Santa Lucía de Intibucá, Juticalpa and Catacamas.

Church spectrum today

Honduras: Church networks	Christians	%
Orthodox	10,300	0.1
Catholic	7,060,000	68.7
Protestant	1,733,000	16.9
Independent	794,000	7.7
Unaffiliated	736,000	7.2
Doubly-affiliated Christians	-58,100	-0.6
Total	10,275,200	100.0
<i>(Any deviation from the total number of Christians stated above is due to the rounding of decimals)</i>		
Evangelical movement	1,204,000	11.7
Pentecostal-Charismatic	1,804,000	17.6

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., *World Christian Database*, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

Orthodox: Eastern (Chalcedonian), Oriental (Pre-Chalcedonian, Non-Chalcedonian, Monophysite), Nestorian (Assyrian), and non-historical Orthodox. **Roman Catholics:** All Christians in communion with the Church of Rome. **Protestants:** Christians in churches originating in or in communion with the Western world’s 16th-century Protestant Reformation. Includes Anglicans, Lutherans and Baptists (any of whom may be Charismatic) and denominational Pentecostals, but not Independent traditions such as Independent Baptists nor independent Charismatics. **Independents:** Christians who do not identify with the major Christian traditions (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant). **Unaffiliated Christians:** Persons professing publicly to be Christians but who are not affiliated to churches. **Doubly-affiliated Christians:** Persons affiliated to or claimed by 2 denominations at once. **Evangelical movement:** Churches, denominations, and individuals who identify themselves as evangelicals by membership in denominations linked to evangelical alliances (e.g., World Evangelical Alliance) or by self-identification in polls. **Pentecostal-Charismatic:** Church members involved in renewal in the Holy Spirit, sometimes known collectively as "Renewalists".

According to WCD 2024 figures, the main Christian denomination in Honduras is the Roman Catholic Church, representing 68.7% of Christians. Evangelical denominations in the country continue to grow fast and have also achieved significant recognition in the social and political arena. Additionally, the numbers of un-affiliated are showing an upward trend.

Further useful reports

A selection of in-depth reports and smaller articles are available on the Research & Reports pages of the Open Doors website:

- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/>.

These are also available on the Open Doors Analytical website (password: freedom):

- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/?s=Honduras>
- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/reports/>.

External Links

- Recent history: controversy - <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/honduras/2017-12-20/election-crisis-honduras>
- Recent history: ruled - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/24/honduran-judges-throw-out-single-term-limit-on-presidency>
- Recent history: state of emergency - <https://www.thedailybeast.com/honduras-declares-state-of-emergency-amid-violent-clashes>
- Recent history: curfews - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-42261076>
- Recent history: 2017 report - https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Countries/HN/2017ReportElectionsHRViolations_Honduras_EN.pdf
- Recent history: calls to annul - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-42297201>
- Recent history: recommendation - http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-090/17
- Recent history: deeply entrenched - <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/1248036/download>
- Recent history: extradited - <https://www.justice.gov/espanol/pr/juan-orlando-hernandez-expresidente-de-honduras-acusado-por-narcotrafico-y-armas-de-fuego>
- Recent history: adjourned - <https://www.vozdeamerica.com/a/juicio-expresidente-hondureno-aplaza-septiembre/6912873.html>
- Recent history: February 2024 - <https://www.eltiempo.com/mundo/latinoamerica/juicio-a-expresidente-de-honduras-en-nueva-york-aplazado-hasta-el-5-de-febrero-de-2024-782018>
- Recent history: guilty on all charges - <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2024/03/08/veredicto-juan-orlando-hernandez-orix/>
- Recent history: state of emergency - <https://www.policianacional.gob.hn/noticias/22774>
- Recent history: 247,000 - <https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-informe-operacional-22-octubre-2023>
- Recent history: transit country - <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/104676>
- Recent history: damage - <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/12/devastating-impact-hurricanes-eta-iota-honduras/>
- Recent history: evacuated - <https://www.msf.es/actualidad/honduras/huracanes-honduras-casi-400000-personas-han-sido-evacuadas-sus-hogares>
- Recent history: left - <https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-tormenta-tropical-julia-informe-de-situacion-no-01-12-de-octubre-de-2022>
- Recent history: joined - <https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/entra-en-vigor-adhesi%C3%B3n-de-honduras-al-caf-pese-a-que-parlamento-no-ratific%C3%B3-incorporaci%C3%B3n/48697474>
- Recent history: pro tempore presidency - <https://stlcc.gob.hn/xiomara-castro-asume-la-presidencia-pro-tempore-de-la-celac-compromiso-por-la-paz-dialogo-y-justicia-en-la-region/>
- Recent history: ended - https://elpais.com/internacional/2023-03-26/honduras-rompe-relaciones-diplomaticas-con-taiwan-y-las-establece-con-china.html?event_log=oklogin
- Recent history: requested - <https://www.reuters.com/world/honduras-requests-entry-brics-led-development-bank-china-trip-2023-06-10/>
- Recent history: Free Trade Agreement - <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202403/22/WS65fc6585a31082fc043be07e.html>
- Political and legal landscape: results - https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-108/21
- Political and legal landscape: ended 12 years of a conservative government - <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2022/01/25/quien-es-xiomara-castro-honduras/>
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- Political and legal landscape: 9% - <https://www.mcc.gov/who-we-select/scorecard/fy-2024/HN/>
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- Political and legal landscape: agreement - <https://criterio.hn/gobierno-hondureno-y-onu-firman-memorando-de-entendimiento-de-mision-anticorruccion/>
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- Political and legal landscape: superficial - <https://contracorriente.red/en/2021/05/27/new-honduran-electoral-law-wont-prevent-another-crisis/>
- Political and legal landscape: reduced - <https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-new-criminal-code/>
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