



Context of the Honduran Electoral Process 2012-2013:

Incomplete list of Killings and Armed Attacks Related to Political Campaigning in Honduras

May 2012 to October 19, 2013

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As the November 24, 2013 General Elections approach in Honduras, a discussion of human rights violations surrounding the electoral process is paramount in understanding the historical and political context in which the elections will take place.

This report is intended to promote that discussion by providing a list of killings and armed attacks against candidates, party and campaign leaders, and their families since May 2012, six months prior to the November 2012 Primary Elections. The purpose is to draw attention to the context of violence, insecurity and apparently politically motivated killings that are occurring in the lead up to the 2013 General Elections.

Brief Analysis of the Incomplete List

According to the list below, which is undoubtedly incomplete, LIBRE party (‘Libertad y Refundación’ Party) pre-candidates, candidates, their families and campaign leaders have suffered more killings and armed attacks than all other political parties combined. The disproportionate number of killings of LIBRE candidates seems a clear indication that many of the killings have been politically motivated.

To date, the information on the list indicates that each political party has suffered the following:

Political Party	Armed Attacks	Killings
National Party	6	11
Liberal Party	2	3
LIBRE Party	15	18
Partido Anti-Corrupcion (PAC)	1	1
FAPER - Unión Democrática (UD)	0	2
Patriotic Alliance	0	0
Democracia Cristiana (DC)	0	0
Partido Innovación y Unidad (PINU)	0	0
Unknown	0	1

These incomplete results highlight the terror, violence and impunity in which the November 24 General Elections will take place. Regardless of the political affiliations of the victims of these attacks, it remains unclear how “clean, credible, and reliable” elections on November 24, as U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Lisa Kubiske has called for, can occur if so many attacks against candidates, campaigners and their families continue (1).

A Context of Violence and Human Rights Abuses

Honduras has maintained a two party political system for decades. However, in the wake of the June 28, 2009 military coup a strong new political force emerged, the National Front for Popular Resistance (FNRP)

which sought to oppose the coup through peaceful means. After overthrown president Manuel Zelaya returned to Honduras, the decision to participate in the 2013 General Elections was taken by the resistance movement and the FNRP, and the first major third political party in the modern history of Honduras was created: the Libertad y Refundación (Freedom and Refoundation) party, or LIBRE.

Including LIBRE candidate Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, there are eight presidential candidates participating in the November elections involving nine political parties, as one, new, non-traditional party formed an alliance with the existing Unión Democrática (UD) party (2).

Though President Porfirio Lobo's post-coup regime has been promoted internationally as a government of 'Unity and National Reconciliation', it includes none of the key actors who were forcibly removed from power during the 2009 coup. The Canadian and United States government as well as the European Union have stood behind the false projection of reconciliation and unity projected by the Honduran government (3).

Lobo's term in office has been marked by unprecedented levels of violence: Honduras today has one of the highest homicide rates in the world coupled with a high impunity rate (4). The Lobo government's efforts to persuade the international community that the government is taking effective action against the country's rampant violence - as Honduran Vice President María Antonieta Guillén attempted to do at the UN Assembly on September 27, 2013 (5) - has been followed by continued massacres and killings in Honduran streets and the on-going systematic targeting of political opponents and social activists (6).

Since the 2009 coup, international human rights organizations including the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Commission, and the Committee to Protect Journalists, have noted gross human rights abuses particularly targeting certain sectors of Honduran society – lawyers, journalists, human rights defenders, and opponents of the current post-coup military regime (7).

The 2013 General Elections will occur in a historical and on-going context of gross human rights abuses committed by the current government and the 5-month de facto government of Roberto Micheletti that preceded it, June – November 2009. A lot weighs on the results of the General Elections, whether it's the US Government and OAS hoping for a seemingly clean, democratic and reliable election, or the sympathizers of the LIBRE party, hoping for a transformation of Honduran society as per the promises and principles of the FNRP.

The coup and its repercussions over the last four years have polarized Honduran society. At odds are those hoping to change the status quo and reject the interests behind the 2009 coup – largely the FNRP and the political party that grew from that movement, the LIBRE party - and those that perpetrated and/or supported the coup and hope to maintain the status quo - largely business elites, the two traditional political parties (the National and Liberal Parties) and its allies.

Limitations of the List

This list is undoubtedly incomplete. It relies almost entirely upon reports from the Honduran media that generally underreport human rights abuses and are likely to under-report politically motivated violence. The list lacks background and circumstantial details regarding each case and does not include reports of

politically motivated attacks in the form of death threats, attempted kidnappings, persecution, criminalization and attacks often classified by the Honduran state and Honduran National Police as “common crime”.

It also does not include individuals that are not candidates or regional party leadership, but may have been deeply involved in the campaigning. It does include killings of and attacks on family members and campaign activists, which are a less visible manifestation of political violence.

Without a doubt many other cases are not documented because the victims and their family members, for fear of persecution, have not come forward to publically denounce the attacks. Bertha Oliva, a prominent Honduran human rights defender at the Committee of the Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared (COFADEH) has noted that there has been significant underreporting of politically-motivated attacks and murders of LIBRE activists due to fear of further persecution (8).

Uncertainty of Motives

The Honduran judicial authorities’ failure to carry out investigations of these cases, which appears to stem in part from a lack of political will, makes it impossible for family members, the victims and human rights organizations generating the type of list below, to understand the reasons and roots of the armed attacks and killings. Without a proper investigation it is difficult to determine which attacks had political motives. However, the failure of authorities to investigate, accompanied by the targeting of political opponents as major international human rights organizations have noted of the Honduran state, raise further doubt that these killings are simply ‘common crime’ in a violent country (9).

Some of the victims who appear on this list have been deeply involved in social movements, such as: Antonio Trejo, lawyer for the land rights movement MARCA and candidate for FAPER; Erick Martinez, LGBTI activist and congressional pre-candidate for LIBRE; and Joni Rivas, Congressional candidate for LIBRE and leader of the United Campesino Movement of the Aguan (MUCA). The attacks against these individuals may also be related to their involvement in human rights and social justice causes. In these cases the relationship between social issues they championed and their electoral participation are inextricably related, though it adds another degree of complexity to the attacks.

An additional complex subject of debate is the role that drug-related crime may play in some of these attacks. These accusations have surfaced for example in relation to the assassination attempts reported against the current mayor and candidate for re-election for the National Party in Jutiapa, Atlantida, Noe Guardado Rivera (10). Attempts against Guardado reportedly began many months before the electoral campaign was launched, with a total of 5 reported attacks (11). Guardado claims he has charged police officials with slander for statements associating the attacks with trafficking (12).

Similarly complex is the situation in San Esteban, Olancho where current Liberal Party congressman Fredy Najera was charged in the October 11, 2012 murder of National party activist Claudio Mendez Acosta (13). In August 2013, Najera was absolved in court, arguing that he was incapable of carrying out the attack as he had been injured in an attack that killed fellow Liberal party candidate Gerson Orlando Benítez on October 6, 2012 (14). Just a few days prior, Liberal party vice-mayor candidate in San Esteban, Carlos Padilla Guillen was murdered.

The intent of the incomplete list that follows is to encourage a discussion of the circumstances in which the Honduran elections will occur. Almost a month remains until Hondurans will cast their votes in the 2013 General elections. To date and since the May 2012 Primary Elections, there have been a disproportionate number of killings and attempted killings targeting LIBRE candidates. A thorough investigation of each case is a difficult if not impossible task before November 24. But our hope is that this incomplete list raises significant questions about how democratic and fair voting and election campaigning can be held in a context of on-going terror, violence and impunity affecting candidates and their families throughout the country.

**Incomplete list of Killings and Armed Attacks Related to Political Campaigning in Honduras
May 2012 - present (October 19, 2013)**

- NOTE: Please send any alterations, clarifications, and/or cases that are not included on this list to Karen Spring, spring.kj@gmail.com

PART I: May 1, 2012-November 18, 2012 (6 months leading up to primary elections)

Name	Type of violation	Date	Position/Role	Details	Source
Eduby Abrego	Killing	May 1, 2012	LIBRE, pre-candidate for mayor (municipality unknown)	Abrego was an engineer that worked with the Cooperación Española. He was assassinated when shot four times in the back by unknown individuals.	www.defensoresenlinea.com
Erick Alexander Martínez Avila (32)	Killing	May 7, 2012	LIBRE-FRP stream pre-candidate for Congress, Dept of Francisco Morazan; Journalist; LGBTI activist	Martinez Avila went missing on May 5th. His body was found by the roadside in the northern part of Tegucigalpa, two days after he went missing. Martinez Avila was reported to have died from asphyxiation resulting from strangulation.	http://www.csa-csi.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7289&Itemid=258&lang=pt
Edilberto Solano Mejía	Killing	May 8, 2012	LIBRE party; Partido Socialista Morazanico (PSM) General Secretary; LIBRE financial secretary (unclear detail); community support worker; campesino; founder of 15 communities in Choloma	Mejía was assassinated by two individuals riding a motorcycle a neighbourhood in Choloma, Cortes at approximately 4:30 pm. The two individuals were waiting outside of a sports centre that Mejía managed and attacked him while he was talking on his cell phone. The police considered the attack a robbery as his car and other personal belongings were stolen and were found later by his family abandoned in the San Miguel neighbourhood in Choloma	http://www.laprensa.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Honduras-matan-a-conocido-dirigente-comunal-de-Choloma-.UawHZ82DD8E

Jesus Octavio Pineda (61)	Killing	May 20, 2012	LIBRE, community and regional leader, San Pedro Sula	Shot in his house in La Pradera, SPS. Pineda was called on his telephone and left his house when he was shot 5 times in the head by unknown individuals. He was a LIBRE leader in his neighbourhood and surrounding area.	http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/05/21/matandirigente-de-libre/
Miguel Angel Ramos Diaz	Killing	June 7, 2012	LIBRE member; FNRP member; Deputy Director of the Technological Institute of Business Administration	Ramos Diaz was gunned down by individuals in a black vehicle while walking in the street with his 12-year-old son in San Pedro Sula. His son escaped without injuries.	http://www.laprensa.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Asesinan-a-subdirector-del-Intae-frente-a-su-hijo-.UcnF0c2DAf8
Joel Orellana	Killing	June 12, 2012	LIBRE-FRP stream, member of the political commission Catacamas, Olancho; FNRP active member; Coordinator of Bo. El Estadio community collective, Catacamas	At 1:40 pm, Orellana was shot and killed as he carried out his daily activities in Catacamas, Olancho.	http://voselsoberano.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13748:asesinan-miembro-del-fnrp-y-miembro-de-la-comision-politica-de-frp-catacamas&catid=1:noticias-generales
Carlos Jese Portillo Yanes (20)	Killing	June 23, 2012	LIBRE member, son of Carlos Portillo, FNRP leader in Villanueva, Cortes.	After an FNRP mobilization in preparation for the upcoming primary elections, Portillo Yanes disappeared supposedly kidnapped by three individuals driving a pick up truck in the Gracias a Dios neighbourhood in Villanueva, Cortes. His tortured body was found the next day in a plastic bag in a street in the Gracias a Dios neighbourhood. His hands had	“Miembro del FNRP era joven hallado dentro de una bolsa,” La Tribuna, June 26, 2012, available at:

				been tied behind his back and had several wounds on his head as if he had been hit with a stone or piece of wood.	http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/06/26/miembro-del-fnrp-era-joven-hallado-dentro-de-una-bolsa/
Jenny Concepción Reyes Izaguirre	Killing	June 24, 2012	LIBRE-MRP, Stream leader; elementary school teacher	Reyes Izaguirre was traveling with four members of her family including her husband who was active in LIBRE-MRP stream as well, in the Hato de Enmedio neighborhood in Tegucigalpa when, they were attacked by individuals in a black van. Reyes Izaguirre suffered a bullet to the head and died shortly after the attack. Her husband and son were also gravely injured although it is unclear whether both survived or passed away in the days following the attack.	http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/06/26/pis-toleros-matan-a-profesora-su-esposo-resulta-herido/
Arturo Ramirez	Armed Attack		LIBRE-MRP Stream leader, teacher		
Son of Reyes and Ramirez	Armed Attack		Son of LIBRE leaders		
Raúl Varela	Armed Attack	July 12, 2012	LIBRE-FRP stream, pre-candidate for mayor, municipality of Colomoncagua, Intibuca; FNRP militant.	Varela suffered an armed attack by hooded individuals as he was driving in his vehicle in the community of Las Flores in the municipality of Colomoncagua, Intibuca. He survived without any injuries.	http://www.resistenciahonduras.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4848:frp-libre-de-intibuca-denuncia-atentado-contra-uno-de-sus-militantes&catid=95:resistencia&Itemid=334

Adilio Alberto Dubón Alemán (39)	Killing	August 12, 2012	LIBRE-June 28 th stream, pre-candidate for mayor in Jutiapa, Atlántida.	Dubón was driving a trailer in a community roughly 80 kilometers from the north of Guatemala City in Guatemala when he was robbed and killed very early in the morning on Sunday.	http://www.elheraldoo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/En-un-asalto-en-Guatemala-matan-a-precandidato-hondureno
Gustavo Pérez	Killing	August 28, 2012	LIBERAL party-Villeda stream, Party leader.	Perez was driving to his property in the village of Oromilaca, Santa Rosa de Copan, Copan, when he was attacked by unknown individuals that shot him three times.	http://www.elheraldoo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Asesinan-a-dirigente-del-movimiento-politico-de-Mauricio-Villeda
Noe Guardado Rivera Domingo Paz	Armed Attack Killing	August 30, 2012	NATIONAL party, current mayor of Jutiapa, Atlantida and candidate for re-election	Reportedly the fourth assassination attempt against Guardado, party activist Domingo Paz was killed in the attack while two police officers were injured.	http://www.elheraldoo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Atentan-por-cuarta-vez-contra-alcalde-de-Jutiapa
Antonio Trejo Cabrera	Killing	September 22, 2012	FAPER, legal representative that inscribed the party; human rights defender; lawyer for MARCA (Aguan campesino movement)	Trejo was shot multiple times outside a wedding ceremony in Tegucigalpa. As he was conducting the ceremony, he left the church to answer a phone call where he was shot and later rushed to a hospital where he later died. Trejo was a well-known human rights lawyer, representing one of many campesino movements known as ‘MARCA’ in the Aguan region that shortly before he was killed, had won a legal case regarding a land conflict between the campesino movement and large landowners, Rene Morales and Miguel Facusse.	http://defensoreseninea.com/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2263%3Acof-adeh-y-cejil-denuncian-ante-la-cidh-el-asesinato-del-defensor-de-los-

				Trejo was also involved in a legal suit declaring the Model City project unconstitutional as well and was a well-known human rights defender.	campesinos-antonio-trejo&Itemid=159
Carlos Padilla Guillén	Killing	September 28, 2012	LIBERAL party-Villeda stream, pre-candidate for vice-mayor in municipality of San Esteban, Olancho.	Early in the morning, Guillén was shot and killed close to his home.	http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Asesinan-a-precandidato-de-Libre-en-el-norte-de-Honduras
Gerson Orlando Benítez Fredy Nájera Montaya	Armed Attack	October 6, 2012	LIBERAL party-Yani Rosenthal stream, pre-candidate, municipality of Guata, Olancho. LIBERAL party, Congressman	Various heavily armed individuals from a vehicle opened fired at the victims at approximately 8/9:00 pm during a political planning meeting for an event the following day in the municipality of Guata, Olancho. The attack left various wounded individuals including Benítez (6 bullet wounds - 2 in thorax and 4 in arms/legs), Montaya (several wounds) and Montaya's bodyguard, Fausto Daniel Montaya Guevara.	http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Atentan-contra-diputado-y-otros-dirigentes-liberales
Francisco Armando Merlo Lazo (56) Carlos Emilio Merlo Puerto	Killing	October 11, 2012	Association with particular political party is unclear; City Council member, El Tigre de Salama, Olancho.	In the evening, Merlo Lazo was shot and killed along with his son, Carlos Emilio Merlo Puerto (33) and Vidal Antonio Cruz (47) in the municipality of El Tigre de Salama, Olancho. An individual was captured later on in possession of a weapon belonging to one of the individuals that was killed.	http://m.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Zozobra-en-San-Esteban-por-los-ultimos-crimenes
Claudio Rigoberto Méndez Acosta (61)	Killing	October 11, 2012	NATIONAL party, leader; father of Miguel Mendez, pre-candidate for mayor	Méndez Acosta died after being hit during a cross fire between two groups of civilians in the neighbourhood of Upper San Esteban, Olancho. Two other people, Dalbino	http://www.laprensa.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos

Eliezer (son-in-law) of Najera			for Azules Unidos stream; husband of the viceminister of Health, Mirian Paz	Bustamante and Eliezer, the son-in-law of Najera Montaya, who suffered an armed attack less than a week before, were reported to have been killed. Congressman Fredy Najera Montaya (listed above) was arrested and accused of assassinating Mendez Acosta.	/Zozobra-en-San-Esteban-por-ola-de-violencia#.UbO2cc2DDWs
Arturo Oseguera Casteñada (43)	Killing	October 31, 2012	NATIONAL party-Salvemos Honduras stream, family members of pre-candidate for mayor, municipality of San Rosario, Comayagua.	The family of three were killed in Siguatepeque when Oseguera Casteñada was driving, accompanied by his daughter and grandson as they were on their way to seek medical assistance for the 2-year old grandson. The family was removed from the car by the assassins and had tried to flee before being shot at and killed according to the police after examining the location of the bodies.	http://www.laprensa.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Ultiman-a-tres-miembros-de-una-familia-en-Siguatepeque -.UbzOFs2DDWt
Mery Onore Oseguera Castañeda (20)			Daughter		
Jose Manuel Castañeda (2)			Grandson		
Abelardo Suazo	Armed Attack	November 1, 2012	LIBRE-FRP stream, pre-candidate for mayor, municipality of Lejamani, Comayagua; leader in teacher's movement COPRUMH.	Hooded members of the DGIC (Direccion General de Investigacion Criminal/Criminal Investigation unit of the National police) and Special Police Force, the Cobras broke into his house, threatening and pointing their guns at children in the vicinity allegedly to check and document serial numbers and information from computers that were in the house. Suazo suspects that the break in had something to do with accusations made by the Minister of Education, Marlon Escoto against leaders of the teacher's movement.	http://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2305%3Adenuncian-a-ministro-de-educacion-de-desatar-una-feroz-persecucion-contra-dirigentes-magisteriales&Itemid=171

Edgardo Adalid Motiño Flores	Armed Attack	November 3, 2012	LIBRE-FRP stream, pre-candidate for mayor, municipality of Morazán, Yoro	Motiño Flores was shot at and assassinated outside of the LIBRE office at 9:30 pm shortly after arriving to the office in Sulaco, Yoro after attending a LIBRE party manifestation. He was a lawyer by profession.	http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Asesinan-a-precandidato-de-Libre-en-el-norte-de-Honduras
Maria Luisa Borjas	Armed Attack	November 3, 2012	LIBRE-FRP stream, pre-candidate for mayor for Tegucigalpa; Former Director of Internal Affairs of the Honduran National Police	Shortly before 9 pm, the daughter of a friend that was driving a car similar to that driven by Borjas, left Borjas' residence and was intercepted by an SUV that was parked and monitoring the route that Borjas normally takes to return to her home. Three masked individuals dressed in bullet proof vests with 'police' written on the back, got out of the vehicle. Borja's unidentified friend was driving with the window down and when the police saw who was driving they said that 'she wasn't the person they were looking for' and returned to the vehicle and immediately left the scene. Borjas considered this an assassination attempt and has suffered attempts against her life before.	http://voselsoberano.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14435:comunicado-de-maria-luisa-borjas-candidata-a-alcade-del-partido-libre-sobre-atentado&catid=24:comunicados
Leonel Turcios Villeda	Killing	November 9, 2012	LIBRE- MRP stream, Candidate for Standing Mayor Representative (Regidor Segundo) in the municipality of El Rosario, Comayagua.	Details unknown.	http://movimientore sistenciaprogresista.blogspot.com/2012/11/acuerdo-de-duelo-9-de-noviembre-de-2012.html
Yoni Rivas	Armed Attack	November 10, 2012	LIBRE-FRP stream, pre-candidate for Congress; MUCA leader LIBRE party	Rivas and Alvarez were driving close to the turn off point to the community of La Confianza between 7:00 and 7:30 pm when they heard approximately six machine guns discharge two rounds of shots roughly 300 metres from their vehicle. MUCA reports that the vehicle passed their car on the main	http://hablahonduras.com/articles/12233-denuncia-atentado-criminal-en-contra-de-los-

Vitalino Alvarez			spokesperson, Department of Colon; MUCA Spokesperson	road and then fired in the air roughly thirty seconds after passing them. Both leaders turned to see bursts of light produced by the gunshots but are unable to determine the description of their attackers and their vehicle because of the darkness.	dirigentes-campesinos-yonirivas
Alex Pacheco	Armed Attack	November 16, 2012	NATIONAL party-Azules Unidos stream, mayor precandidate, municipality of Sinuapa, Ocotepeque.	Accompanied by 5 people, Pacheco was traveling at 11:00am in the sector of La Laborsita when unknown individuals shot at the vehicle that they were traveling in on an isolated section of the road. No one was hurt and one bullet hole was found in the vehicle.	http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Atentan-contra-precandidato-a-alcalde-de-Azules-Unidos-en-Ocotepeque

PART II: November 19, 2012 – present

Manuel Guzmán	Killing	December 4, 2012	NATIONAL Party-mayor of the municipality of Dolores, Octopeque.	Early in the morning as Guzman was driving to work, he was attack by unknown individuals that shot at him multiple times, killing him at the scene of the crime. He had just participated in the primary elections and won as the mayor candidate for the National Party in the November 2013 elections.	http://proceso.hn/2012/12/04/Caliente/Asesinan.alcalde.de/61007.html
Hector Aguinaldo Orellana (48)	Killing	December 3, 2012	UD Party, Congressional candidate.	Following a meeting in Juticalpa, Olancho, Orellana and Marcos Ramiro Lobo (UD Party candidate for Congress representative) had just about reached their home when Orellana was shot in the back of the neck. Police suspect that a known individual was traveling in the back of the vehicle and shot Orellana as he reached his home.	http://www.tiempo.hn/sucesos/noticias/ultiman-en-olancho-candidato-a-diputado
Angel Francisco Durón Raudales	Killing	January 17, 2013	LIBRE, founder of neighbourhood based LIBRE collective; neighbourhood organizer, FNRP militant	Durón was brutally assassinated along with 5 other people close to his house in death squad like execution. Two masked men, dressed in black, ordered the 6 individuals to lie face down on the ground and shot them point blank. The other individuals that were killed include Dulce María Cerna Montoya, Gerson Bonilla, Rony Javier Contreras, Heydi Vanessa Flores Sánchez y Bryan Adonis Aguilar Benavides.	http://www.resistenciahonduras.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5303:comunicado-del-fnrp-por-el-asesinato-de-angel-francisco-duron&catid=51:comunicados&Itemid=259
Wenrys Hernández Escoto Edelyz Hernandez Contreras	Killing Killing	January 20, 2013	NATIONAL PARTY, mayor of municipality of Esquíás, Comayagua	Escoto and his father, Edelyz Hernandez Contreras were killed in a soccer field, the location of the municipalities' fair. Two people were injured with gunshot wounds. Police initially reported that the shooting may have resulted from a discussion between the victims and two unidentified individuals.	http://www.radiolaprimisima.com/noticias/134940/muere-baleado-alcalde-hondureno-y-tres-personas-mas

Wilfredo Paz	Armed Attack	March 2013	LIBRE, Congressional candidate, Colon; Spokesperson for the Aguan Human Rights Observatory.	At approximately 9:20 am, Paz was riding as a passenger on a motorcycle heading to the campesino community of Rigos on the Left Bank in the Aguan Valley. As they passed over a bridge, known as Puente Montago, unknown individuals open fired 10-15 times with AK-27s from a palm tree plantation. Paz has received various death threats to his telephone and has denounced many times the presence of unknown vehicles and individuals following him and parked outside his house in Tocoa, Colon.	Personal interview with Paz
Yoni Rivas Vitalino Alvarez	Armed Attack	March 12, 2013	LIBRE, congressional candidate, Colon; MUCA leader LIBRE, party spokesperson, department of Colon; MUCA spokesperson	Accompanied by fellow MUCA leaders, Juan Chinchilla and Vitalino Alvarez while traveling to Siguatepeque, Rivas was stopped at two separate police checkpoints. Stopping at a hotel on March 11, in the early morning of March 12 th at approximately 3:30 am, heavily armed men in a pick up truck entered the hotel asking for the three MUCA leaders and were informed that they had left the hotel moments before. Aware that they were being followed, the three individuals managed to escape moments before the armed individuals arrived at the hotel where they had been staying.	http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/node/22099-sthash.2bGhpHWJ.dpuf
Carlos Fabian Velásquez	Killing	March 13, 2013	LIBRE, mayor candidate, municipality of Santa María del Real, Olancho	Velásquez left his home at 8:00 am and was shot at by two, masked individuals on a motorcycle near the Institute San Francisco in Olancho. He was taken to the hospital where he died in the emergency room.	http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Asesinan-a-aspirante-a-alcalde-del-partido-Libre

<p>Claudio Vidal Hernandez Cerrato</p>	<p>Killing</p>	<p>March 16, 2013</p>	<p>NATIONAL, son of current Standing Mayor Representative and ex-candidate for mayor in Villanueva, Cortes, Sandra Cerrato de Hernandez</p>	<p>Driving in his vehicle approximately one block from the family-owned gas station in Villanueva, Cortes, Hernandez Cerrato was shot and killed by at least four armed men. He was taken to a private clinic where he later died of damages to his vital organs provoked by the gunshot wounds to his body. Five months after Hernandez Cerrato was killed, his sister, Nidya Sujey Orellana Cerrato was murdered with her husband Castro Romero, whose family and security guards have suffered repeated attacks and killings. Links with drug trafficking is suspected.</p>	<p>http://www.elherald.o.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Asesinan-a-hijo-de-candidata-a-alcaldesa-en-Villanueva</p>
<p>Noe Guardado Rivera</p>	<p>Armed Attack</p>	<p>March 25, 2013</p>	<p>NATIONAL, mayor of Jutiapa, Atlantida and candidate for re-election</p>	<p>Press reports state 1,000 high caliber weapon casings and four grenades were found at the scene of the attack in which no one was killed. Guardado claims it was the 5th attack and that he has lodged slander complaints against police who made statements to the press that the attacks were related to drug trafficking</p>	<p>http://www.laprensa.hn/csp/mediapool/sites/LaPrensa/Sucesos/Policiales/story.csp?cid=365860&sid=951&fid=98</p>
<p>Juan Ramón Flores Bueso</p>	<p>Armed Attack</p>	<p>May 14, 2013</p>	<p>LIBRE, congressional candidate; Departamental Coordinator of Comayagua</p>	<p>Flores claims that he has been victim to 7 assassination attempts including having his car and house shot at. The Inter American Commission on Human Rights has given him protective measures.</p>	<p>http://www.tiempo.hn/portada/noticias/candidato-a-diputado-solicitara-asilo-por-atentados-y-amenazas</p>

Rolando Espinoza	Armed attack	May 31, 2013	LIBRE, Communication Coordinator; Congressional candidate for Comayagua.	Espinoza publically denounced to COFADEH that he and his house is constantly being followed and surrounded by vehicles with tinted windows and without license plates. He has been shot at, received death threats and police have entered his house attempting to remove items such as his motorcycle. Despite formally complaining about the prosecution to offices in the Public Prosecutor's office, the persecution continues.	http://www.defensoreslinea.com/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2628:persecucion-sistematica-y-ataques-contra-miembros-de-libre&catid=54:den&Itemid=171
Walter Diaz Padilla (32)	Killing	June 13, 2013	PAC (Partido Anti-Corrupción), mayor candidate, Trujillo	Padilla was killed instantly when individuals on a motorcycle shot at him and a colleague, Omar de Jesus Garay, lawyer for Dinant Corporation and judge de Letras Seccional in municipality of Trujillo, various times as they drove on a major street in Tocoa, Colon. Garay was taken to a hospital	http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/06/13/acr-ibillan-a-dos-abogados-en-el-bajo-aguan/
Marvin Jose Rivera	Killing	June 15, 2013	LIBRE, militant, member of LIBRE Youth; Son of LIBRE coordinator in the Suyapa neighbourhood in Tegucigalpa	Rivera was assassinated at approximately noon as he was traveling by motorcycle to help with the set up and preparation for the LIBRE Assembly 'Xiomara Castro' that took place on June 16, 2013. Gravely wounded by various bullet wounds, Rivera died in the public hospital in Tegucigalpa shortly after words.	http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2013/06/honduras-atencion-mucha-atencion.html
Sonia Landaverde	Killing	June 21, 2013	LIBERAL party, Prominent activist in sector Rivera Hernandez, worked in the mayor's office in San Pedro Sula	Landaverde was killed in the Guamilito neighbourhood in San Pedro Sula. The media reported that she was shot after resisting a robbery of her personal belongings.	http://www.latribuna.hn/2013/06/21/ultima-a-una-dirigente-liberal/

Silvia Aguiriano de Sarmiento	Killing	June 25, 2013	LIBRE party; Wife of Ulises Sarmiento, LIBRE & FNRP leader in Juticalpa, Olancho and brother of Julio Eduardo Sarmiento, former congressman of the Central American Parliament and uncle of Ramon Sarmiento, the current mayor of Juticalpa; LIBRE militant	Aguiriano, accompanied by her brother and a bodyguard, were driving on Boulevard Los Poetas in Juticalpa, Olancho at 7:30 pm when they were shot at multiple times with automatic weapons. Newspapers reported that they were shot over 400 times by AK-47s. All three individuals were killed.	http://www.elheraldoo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Matan-a-esposa-de-Ulises-Sarmiento
Anibal Barrow	Killing	July 11, 2013	LIBRE party; Father of Anibel Alejandro Barrow Maradiaga, LIBERAL party runner up candidate for congress for Cortes; Journalist; outspoken LIBRE supporter	On June 24 th , Barrow was kidnapped in the afternoon in the Villa Olímpica sector in San Pedro Sula. At the time of the incident, he was accompanied by other individuals who were later left close to where the kidnapping occurred. Barrow's body was found dead in a city close to San Pedro Sula days after he was kidnapped.	http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/director_general_condemns_murder_of_honduran_broadcaster_anibal_barrow/-_UIIhUM2DAf8
Various LIBRE party members – at least two candidates	Armed attack	July 14, 2013	Those present in the office: Mayor candidate for municipality of Santa María del Real; Congressional candidate for Olancho and Carlos Muñoz, Ex-president Zelaya's deputy; Jose Orlando Palacios Mayen (LIBRE party youth)	As a meeting took place inside a LIBRE party headquarters in Santa María del Real, Olancho, a vehicle opened fired at the office seriously injuring a LIBRE party youth leader, Jose Orlando Palacios Mayen.	http://www.resistenciahonduras.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5723:office-of-libre-party-fired-upon-during-meeting&catid=101:news&Itemid=349

Carlos Alberto Zelaya	Armed Attack	August 3, 2013	PAC, Congressional candidate, Francisco Morazán.	In the evening in the neighbourhood 'La Era' in Tegucigalpa, armed individuals arrived at the location of Zelaya and his accompaniers, also active in the PAC party, and opened fired at Zelaya, shooting him in the leg and another unidentified activist with him, in the chest.	http://www.elherald.com.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Atacan-a-candidato-a-diputado-del-PAC
Nidya Sujey Orellana Cerrato	Killing	August 6, 2013	NATIONAL party, daughter of current Standing Mayor Representative and ex-candidate for mayor in Villanueva, Cortes, Sandra Cerrato de Hernandez	Orellana Cerrato was killed along with her husband, Manuel de Jesus Castro Romero, while injuring two of their bodyguards. Her husband was the owner of a car lot in San Pedro Sula. Both were shot multiple times by four hooded men wearing bullet proof vests at approximately 1:30 pm. Castro Romero attempted to flee when the first shot was fired but was killed behind the wheel causing him to crash into a wall nearby. Castro Romero's family has suffered various attacks that has caused the death of two of his brothers and various guards employed by the family. This is the second family member of regidora, Sandra Cerrato de Hernandez that has been killed since March 2013	http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/policias/379531-98/acribillan-a-vendedor-de-carros-y-a-su-esposa-en-san-pedro
Aracely Pavón (39) Omar Armando Rivera Mejía	Armed Attack	August 11, 2013	NATIONAL party, Mayor candidate for Potrerillos, Cortés	Pavón was traveling in her vehicle with her brother-in-law, Omar Armando Rivera Mejía at 11:40 am in Potrerillos, Cortes, when they were attacked by various individuals driving a blue sudan waiting in the street as Pavon and Rivera Mejía left a travel agency. Rivera Mejía who was driving, was killed at the scene of the attack and Pavón was injured by two bullet wounds and rushed to a private clinic.	http://www.laprensa.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Policias/Honduras-Atentan-contra-candidata-a-la-alcaldia-de-Potreriillos-.UhaIPM2DAf8

Freddy Lemus	Killing	September 14, 2013	NATIONAL party, Mayor of Santa Lucia, Intibuca; Mayor candidate for National Party	Returning to his house after attending a political event, Lemus was attacked in a solitary place and killed by unknown individuals.	http://www.tiempo.hn/sucesos/noticias/asesinan-al-alcalde-de-santa-lucia.-intibuca
Terensio Paz	Killing	October 2, 2013	LIBRE party, Subcoordinator of the Political Campaign, municipality of La Iguala, Lempira	Paz was assassinated in the 'Linderos' neighbourhood by heavily armed and unknown men. On September 26, a week before he was killed, Paz is believe to have escaped another assassination attempt by two men on a motorcycle that were waiting for him by a crematorium in the area. Paz was also involved in a land and environmental recuperation and protection Committee in the area that has suffered threats and attacks in the past.	http://www.defensoresenlinea.com
Brayan Ariel Osorto Flores	Killing	October 6, 2013	LIBRE party, son of Congressional candidate, Francisco Morazan, Amadeo Osorto	Osorto was assassinated in the evening while he was on vacation in the southern department of Choluteca. The owner of the hotel where Osorto was staying found his body with a bullet wound in his head.	http://www.laprensa.hn/lasultimas24/391791-98/asesinan-a-hijo-de-candidato-a-diputado-de-libre
Elvin Hernandez	Killing	October 15, 2013	LIBRE party, Congressional candidate runner-up for Mercedes Emilia Avila Panchame, municipality of Olanchito, Yoro.; Leader of elected community council.	Hernandez was shot and killed by unknown individuals riding a motorcycle inside his personal business in Olanchito.	http://proceso.hn/2013/10/16/Caliente/Asesinan.a.candidato/76545.html

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