

**Post Honduras Election Requiem:  
Four More Years Of Exploitation, Repression, Corruption & Impunity**  
By Grahame Russell, December 10, 2013

On June 28, 2009, Honduras' fledgling but stable democracy was stolen by force by a military coup legitimized and then supported by the governments of the United States and Canada.

In November 2009, the candidate of the post-coup regime won violent, illegitimate elections. The electoral process was legitimized by the United States and Canada.

There followed four years of State repression, the highest murder rate in the world, deepening exploitation, and the corruption and impunity of the powerful sectors.

On November 24, 2013, the same sectors that carried out the 2009 coup again stole violent, fraudulent elections. The electoral process was again legitimized by the United States and Canada.

What will follow now are four more years of repression, the highest murder rate in the world, endemic exploitation, and the corruption and impunity of the powerful sectors.

Jesse Freeston:

“These elections mean one more setback in the fight [of the Honduran people] for a more democratic and just society. The same people that took power by force [in the military coup] in 2009 will stay in power, and the coup against the self-determination of the Honduran people continues.”  
(The Real News, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQO7ZZaSq\\_Q#t=28](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQO7ZZaSq_Q#t=28))

The Honduran people will witness (and suffer) four more years of American and Canadian 'business as usual' with the regime in Honduras. Translation: complicity with exploitation and poverty, violence and repression, corruption and impunity.

Amazingly, we will witness four more years of courageous, peaceful resistance and struggle against exploitation and poverty, violence and repression, corruption

and impunity, in favour of the creation of a just and decent society and government.

### **Coup Continuism**

Juan Orlando Hernandez of the National Party has been declared winner of the elections in Honduras, guaranteeing four more years of 'coup continuism'. It is the National Party that conspired with the economic, political, military and Catholic Church elites to carry out the coup in 2009 that ousted Honduras' last fairly elected government.

The National Party has dominated Honduran political, economic and military life for generations, including during the years of U.S. backed militarism and repression in the "cold war" 1980s.

Since the 2009 coup, the National Party has dominated Honduras' corrupted congress, as narco-trafficking infiltrated the military, police, congress and judiciary; as State repression returned to levels last seen in the 1980s; as violence spiked and Honduras became the 'Murder Capital of the World'.

Dana Frank:

"If the ruling National Party's candidate, Juan Orlando Hernández, wins, the future looks even darker. Hernández was an enthusiastic supporter of the 2009 military coup and was elected president of congress in January 2010. In December of last year, he led a "technical coup," in which congress deposed four members of the Supreme Court and named four new loyalist judges the next day. In August 2013, congress illegally named a new attorney general to a five-year term. After that, Hernández controlled all the key institutions of power, including the Supreme Court, the attorney general's office, the police, and the military -- all of which gives the opposition and the public very little recourse. Hernández has built his campaign on promises to end the very security crisis that his government helped produce." (<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/140283/dana-frank/hopeless-in-honduras>)

### **American And Canadian 'Business As Usual'**

Long supportive of the National Party, and most recently the 2009 coup plotters, the U.S. and Canadian governments will spend the next four years providing

political legitimacy to the regime. For this, the exploited, repressed people of Honduras will suffer four more years of expanding North American corporate and investor interests.

Karen Spring:

"Honduras has been a dream for multinational corporations since the [2009] coup, as the illegitimate government hammered through laws to favour international investors in tourism, mining, dams and model cities, while communities trying to protect their land have been criminalised and militarised." ([http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/22/honduras-elections-leftist-party-libre?CMP=tw\\_t\\_gu](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/22/honduras-elections-leftist-party-libre?CMP=tw_t_gu))

Four more years of the Canadian “porn king” (tourism tycoon Randy Jorgensen who made his ‘fortune’ operating an on-line pornography business in Canada) and other global tourism operators carrying out a slow ethnocide against the Garifuna people along the Caribbean coast, to build cruise ship ports, 5 star beach resorts and timeshare condos for North American and European ‘snow birds’.

Four more years of mining companies expanding their illegally obtained and utterly opposed mining interests, building on Goldcorp Inc’s experience. Goldcorp’s San Martin mine, 2000-2008, has left environmental contamination and chronic health harms in the Siria Valley. Not only did Canada’s Prime Minister Harper travel to Honduras in 2011 to sign a ‘Free Trade’ deal with the military backed regime of outgoing President Pepe Lobo, but Canada’s “aid” agency CIDA funded the re-writing of Honduras’ mining law in favour of the global mining industry.

Four more years of World Bank (and other international) investing in the production of African palm (particularly in the violent Aguan region) to produce ethanol and bio-diesel fuels for international ‘green energy’ markets. Since the coup, over 100 small farmers have been assassinated in this region, as Honduras’ land-owning oligarchy use repression and corruption to expand holdings and production.

Four more years of Gildan Activewear, Hanes and other textile companies expanding production in low-wage, no benefits, no unions, unregulated maquiladora sweatshops.

## **Resistance, Struggle And ‘Another World Is Possible’**

And yes, we will witness (and Rights Action will help fund, support and be involved with) four more years of work and struggle to document and denounce the exploitation, rights violations, repression and impunity, and how U.S. and Canadian government policies and programs, and North American corporate and investor interests contribute to and benefit from this.

Fundamentally, this is not a four year struggle. The roots of Honduras’ exploitation, repression, corruption and impunity go back generations. It will take much more than one four year term of a decent government – one that might have been headed up by the LIBRE party that assuredly would have won fair elections – to begin to address the underlying causes of the exploitation, repression, corruption and impunity.

Sandra Cuffe:

“Many organizations and struggles in Honduras have long roads ahead of them, and they don’t all fit into campaign slogans and four-year plans. The incursion of the resistance movement into electoral politics was not a unanimous decision. However, by and large, social movement organizations are more or less supportive of Libre, and many took to the streets to protest electoral fraud. But they also created their own independent space, the Platform of Social and Popular Movements of Honduras, to coordinate mutual support and for systemic change.

““I think it’s necessary for the social movement to be clear that our role shouldn’t be an extension of a political party,” said Cáceres. She hopes the Platform will make progress on and raise awareness about pressing issues that fell by the wayside – or were never on the agenda – for others who focused their energies on working towards the elections. “It doesn’t mean we can’t work with Libre on strategic issues.””

<http://upsidedownworld.org/main/honduras-archives-46/4590-honduras-beyond-the-eye-of-the-electoral-storm>

Having said that, there is no doubt that these stolen, repressive elections can only result in a minimum of four more years of exploitation, repression, corruption and impunity.

## **Let Me Be Mistaken**

I hope I am wrong about the above, or even some of it. I suspect I am (largely) right. This is how the unjust global economic, military and political order works. This is how Honduras works. This is how the U.S. and Canadian government and North American corporate and investor have long worked, in Honduras. There is much courageous and dignified work and struggle to done, and supported.

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