

## **Extreme Femicide Rates in Honduras, Violence and Impunity Capital of the World Since the U.S. and Canadian-backed Military Coup in 2009**

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### **Honduras Fights Growing Femicide as One Killed Every 16 Hours**

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Honduras-Fights-Growing-Femicide-as-One-Killed-Every-16-Hours-20160217-0041.html>

Honduras has some of the highest femicide rates in the world, and rampant impunity fuels the crisis by perpetuating gender violence as acceptable. As Honduras continues to suffer a crisis of gender violence with one woman killed every 16 hours, international organizations launched a campaign against violence against women in the Central American country Wednesday to combat the rampant problem.

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### **These Honduran Women are Fed Up**

In this 2 minute film report, meet the Matria Collective. Enraged with endemic and gender based violence in their country, they take to the streets to fight for change.

- View: <https://www.facebook.com/telesurenglish/videos/786944488115622/?fref=nf>

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Under the banner, “I am a woman and living without violence is my right,” the new campaign launched by the International Organization for Migration and the U.N. Population Fund [...] aims to reduce shocking rates of violence against women by raising awareness.

In Honduras, the rate of violent killings of women increased by over 260 percent between 2005 and 2013. In 2014 alone, at least 513 women were victims of femicide in Honduras, according to Cepal statistics. Honduras’ Center for Women’s Rights reports that one woman was killed every 16 hours in Honduras in 2015.

Along with being home to soaring rates of femicide, Honduras is also considered among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest rates of impunity. According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, impunity has a particularly heavy impact on women and “perpetuates the social acceptance of the phenomenon of violence against women.”

During the kick-off event, IOM representative Evelyn Andino stressed the importance of the campaign by explaining that gender violence negatively impacts women’s health, freedom, and survival. The advocate called on the Honduran government to step up its efforts to promote equality and autonomy for women and enshrine respect for human rights in public policy.

The campaign goal is to educate society and empower youth to fight to break the cycle of violence, while encouraging women to not be afraid to report abuse, [...].

Many Honduran feminists have called attention to structural causes of violence against women that demand deeper reforms to get to the root of the gender crisis.

In the same period that femicide in Honduras has skyrocketed, the country also lived through a military coup that ousted former President Manuel Zelaya in 2009 and aggressively recharged neoliberal politics in the country. The coup ushered in a wave of grave human rights abuses, increased militarization, criminalization, and impunity.

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## **Why So Many Central Americans Flee North, Decade After Decade?**

The exploitation and poverty, violence and government repression, corruption and impunity of Honduras and Guatemala are American and Canadian issues. The U.S. and Canadian governments, the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank, and North American companies and investors (including pension funds) maintain profitable economic and military relations with the Guatemalan and Honduran regimes, turning a blind eye and/or directly contributing to environmental harms, exploitation, repression, corruption and impunity that are the norm in these countries, that force so many to flee.

Keep on sending copies of this information, and your own letters, to your politicians and media, to your pension and investment funds, asking: Why our governments, companies and investment firms benefit from and turn a blind eye to the poverty, repression and violence, and environmental and health harms in Guatemala and Honduras?

### **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & United States)**

To support community groups in Honduras and Guatemala, working and struggling for fundamental change, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

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