

## U.S. & Canada say ‘Merry Christmas and F-U to Honduran people: Accept as “legitimate” the fraudulent, violent re-election of Juan Orlando Hernandez

By Grahame Russell, Rights Action

- <http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/us-canada-say-merry-christmas-happy-new-year-and-f-u-to-the-honduran-people>

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**DECLARACIÓN SOBRE LAS ELECCIONES EN HONDURAS**  
HEATHER NAUERT, PORTAVOZ DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE ESTADO

Felicidades al presidente Juan Orlando Hernández por su victoria en las elecciones presidenciales del 26 de noviembre, según lo declarado por el Tribunal Supremo Electoral de Honduras (TSE).

Los estrechos resultados electorales, las inquietudes de procedimientos expresados por observadores internacionales y las fuertes reacciones de los hondureños a través del espectro político subrayan la necesidad de un robusto diálogo nacional y un esfuerzo significativo a largo plazo para sanar la división política en el país y promulgar reformas electorales muy necesarias. Hacemos un llamado al TSE para que revise de manera transparente y completa cualquier impugnación presentada de acuerdo con la ley hondureña.

Reiteramos el llamado para que todos los hondureños se abstengan de la violencia. El gobierno debe garantizar que los servicios de seguridad hondureños respeten los derechos de los manifestantes pacíficos, incluso asegurando la rendición de cuentas por cualquier violación de esos derechos.

HN.USEMBASSY.GOV

**Embajada de Canadá**  
@CanAmbCRHDNC

reconoce la confirmación de Juan Orlando Hernández como presidente de #Honduras. Instamos al gobierno a proteger los #ddhh y a garantizar que los responsables de las violaciones rindan cuentas. Se necesita de diálogo político para la paz y la estabilidad de los hondureños.

11:53 AM · 22 dic. 17

U.S. government congratulates Juan Orlando Hernandez on election “victory”;  
Canadian government follows soon after.

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At least 34 Hondurans -young and old- have been killed by Honduran police and military while protesting the fraud-mired elections of November 26, 2017. Hundreds more have been shot, beaten and wounded; hundreds illegally detained.

Late on election night, Salvador Nasralla (Opposition Alliance party) was winning by an unsurmountable margin when the voting computer system “crashed” (the government’s explanation). Once up and operating again, votes favoured the U.S. and Canadian choice.

The Organization of American States (with the largest election observer mission in country) concluded there were too many irregularities and credible allegations of electoral fraud to support the official results, and formally called for new elections to be held under international supervision.

**When you are a rich and powerful country, you can do anything**

No matter. Ignoring the 34 people killed (so far) by the regime, ignoring documentation by the O.A.S. (and others) of blatant electoral fraud, the governments of Canada and the U.S. have chosen to try and legitimize the illegitimate.

No surprise here; no policy change here.

*“You know, I just start kissing them. I don’t even wait.  
When you’re a star, you can do anything ...  
Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything.”  
(U.S. President Trump)*

Since the U.S. and Canadian backed military coup in June 2009 – that ousted Honduras’ last democratically elected government - our two countries have in fact enabled the organized crime, repression, corruption and impunity that now characterize the Honduran government, military and police. In 2009 and 2013, the U.S. and Canada “recognized” elections similarly marred by widespread fraud, corruption and repression.

Since the coup, our countries -by policy and action- have been complicit with Honduras’ descent into infamy as the ‘murder capital of the world’, as the ‘repression, corruption and impunity capital of the Americas’, all while being a good place for the expansion of U.S. and Canadian investments in tourism, mining, garment factories, African palm and banana.

As rich, powerful countries, the U.S. and Canada might as well be saying: 'F-U Honduran people, we can support any regime we want. We want this one because it benefits our political, economic and military interests. Merry christmas, happy new year and -PS- now that tens of thousands more of you will be forced to flee government repression and violence, exploitation and joblessness, organized crime, corruption and impunity, we will consider accepting a few hundred more refugees, but remember to thank us for our generosity and to abide by the laws of our democracies.'

Our crassly self-serving complicity with Honduras' on-going nightmare is based on public policy decisions and actions, not fundamentally different than municipal, provincial, state or federal public policies and decisions. These foreign policies and actions –power abuse and public misrepresentation at the highest levels- are being enabled and justified by our dominant political parties and leaders, media, pundits and opinion-makers.

Pity the majority of Hondurans and the violent, impoverished living conditions forced upon them. More importantly, all respect to the Hondurans taking to the streets day and night, getting killed, beaten, wounded and jailed, working desperately for the return of some semblance of a democratic order, for the re-establishment of the rule of law and respect for human rights, and for a fair and just economic-social system.

Standing in the way of their democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights are the corrupt, repressive Honduran elites and their international partners in crime. If the U.S. and Canada get their way, and Juan Orlando Hernandez is propped up for four more years as "president", there will be more repression and generalized violence, more fraud and corruption, organized crime and impunity, more expansion of North American business interests ... and there will be four more years of dignified and very painful resistance and struggle.

U.S. and Canadian citizens and institutions have a huge responsibility. Honduras' nightmare is caused in significant part by our policies and actions. We have to directly support the Honduran people and their grassroots organizations, and we have to up the ante holding our government, media and business sectors politically and legally accountable for their complicity with and profiting from the regime and its repression and abuses.

(Grahame Russell is a non-practising lawyer, adjunct professor at UNBC (Prince George), writer and, since 1995, director of Rights Action, based in the U.S and Canada. Rights Action supports grassroots organizations in Guatemala and Honduras carrying out their own community development, environmental, human rights and territorial defense projects.)

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### **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)**

**Matching donor:** Two anonymous donors will match donations, up to a total of \$35,000, made by December 31, 2017.

Rights Action is sending relief funds to our long-term partner groups in Honduras and other community groups for their community development, environmental and human rights defense work, and their emergency work in response to electoral fraud and repression. Make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations: <http://rightsaction.org/donate/>

Donations of stock? Write to: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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### **What to do**

Please do not write your letters of protest to the Honduran government. Through our denunciations and activism, we have to hold the “international community” – particularly the U.S. and Canada– accountable for their complicity with Honduras’ now endemic repression, fraud, corruption and impunity.

*If political and legal accountability is not brought to bear on the military, economic and political backers of the Honduran regime, the repression, corruption and impunity – and suffering of the Honduran people - will not stop.*

**U.S.:** Call the Capital Switchboard to get contact information for your Senators and Representatives: (202) 224-3121. Get their phone numbers and email

addresses. Send them copies of this and other information. Insist that they agree to the demands below. Share your efforts with the media, family, friends and networks.

**Canada:** Find your MP contact information by entering your postal code here: <http://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>. Get their phone numbers and email addresses. Send them copies of this and other information. Insist that they agree to the demands below. Share your efforts with the media, family, friends and networks.

### **Demands - short term**

U.S. and Canadian governments and elected politicians must:

- Do an about face, NOT accept the “election” findings, and support the O.A.S. call for new elections;
- Condemn the multiple acts of electoral fraud carried out by government of Juan Orlando Hernandez;
- Condemn the killings and repression against anti-electoral fraud protesters and other citizens;
- Hold the regime accountable for all electoral fraud and repression taking place;
- Suspend all economic, military and police related relations with the corrupt government in power;

### **Demands - medium and longer term**

There must be legislative inquiries in the U.S. and Canada into the causes of Honduras’ endemic repression and exploitation, corruption and impunity, with specific focus on the role played by the U.S. and Canadian governments:

- supporting the 2009 military coup;
- supporting and legitimizing fraudulent and violent elections in 2009, 2013 and 2017;
- supporting the expansion of corporate interests in Honduras (sectors of mining, garment “sweatshop” industry, bananas, hydro-electric dams, tourism, etc.), while turning a blind eye to and – in effect – benefitting from repression, fraud, corruption and impunity.

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**More information / Get involved**

- Rights Action: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org), [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org),  
[www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org](https://www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org), <https://twitter.com/RightsAction>
- Honduras Solidarity Network: <http://www.hondurassolidarity.org/>,  
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<https://twitter.com/hondurassol>
- Witness for Peace: [www.witnessforpeace.org](http://www.witnessforpeace.org),  
<https://twitter.com/WitnessforPeace>,
- School of Americas Watch: [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org), <https://twitter.com/SOAWatch>
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