



**Convention against Torture
and Other Cruel, Inhuman
or Degrading Treatment
or Punishment**

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Committee against Torture

**Information received from Honduras on follow-up
to the concluding observations on its third
periodic report***

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* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. The Committee against Torture considered the third periodic report of Honduras¹ at its 2076th and 2079th meetings, held on 17 and 18 April 2024. At its seventy-ninth session, held from 15 April to 10 May 2024, the Committee approved the concluding observations² and requested Honduras³ to provide, within one year, information in writing on the action taken in follow-up to the Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs 13, 17 (a) and (b) and 31 of the concluding observations.
2. Honduras, in due compliance with its international commitments, prepared this report on the actions taken in follow-up to the Committee's recommendations, through the Ministry of Human Rights, which is responsible for coordinating the preparation of human rights reports.⁴
3. The information contained in this report was provided by State institutions that are part of the Honduran Recommendations Monitoring System.⁵
4. Honduras reaffirms its resolve to fulfil its international commitments and remains committed to submitting its next periodic report in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the concluding observations.

II. Additional information relating to the concluding observations (CAT/C/HND/CO/3)

A. Information relating to paragraph 13

5. Pursuant to article 35 of the Organic Act on the Judiciary, the National Congress set up a dedicated committee to develop a law on the Council of the Judiciary with the mandate to support legislative measures related to the development of that law.⁶

B. Information relating to paragraph 17 (a)

6. Since 2024, the National Prison Institute has been working on the formulation of a prison policy, within the framework of strengthening the national prison system. The policy will be a public management tool for the reform of the national prison system. It will take as its basis the Constitution, the National Prison System Act and other related national and international norms, especially those of the international human rights treaties and for crime prevention and control, social inclusion and respect for the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty, their families and their visitors, and of prison staff.
7. In addition, efforts are being made to break up criminal groups and to develop procedures for classifying prisons and persons deprived of liberty by legal status and established classification criteria.
8. The Rehabilitation, Re-education and Social Reintegration Programme was established to provide progressive treatment to prisoners. The Programme continues to be implemented prior to the granting of prison benefits, focusing directly on the factors that encourage the criminal tendencies of persons deprived of their liberty and emphasizing job training to improve such persons' employment prospects upon release.
9. In addition, educational programmes tailored to individual needs have been established, in order to close academic gaps and promote lifelong learning. Specific

¹ CAT/C/HND/3.

² CAT/C/HND/CO/3.

³ Recommendation contained in paragraph 44.

⁴ Executive Decree PCM-055-2017, dated 12 September 2017, article 87-D, *La Gaceta*, No. 34,441.

⁵ Executive Decree PCM-028-2017, dated 7 August 2017, *La Gaceta*, No. 34,410, <http://simoreh.sedh.gob.hn/>.

⁶ File of the Honduran Recommendations Monitoring System.

activities for prisoners with mental health problems and addictions are also held, providing the necessary support to improve their psychological well-being.

10. Various types of technical vocational training have been introduced jointly with the National Institute for Vocational Training, in line with the conditions of each prison and the vocational needs of the persons deprived of their liberty; a total of 7,744 persons are currently in one of the various phases of rehabilitation.

11. With the support of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, an inter-institutional agreement was signed in fulfilment of the State's shared responsibility efforts, to launch the "Father Andrés Tamayo" National Reforestation and Watershed Protection Programme. The purpose of the Programme, which benefits around 60 families, is to facilitate the social and labour market reintegration of persons deprived of their liberty who currently enjoy prison benefits such as early release and thus reduce the risk of recidivism.

12. In addition, the Government is in talks with private businesses, with a view to drawing up an employability agreement for persons deprived of their liberty who have technical skills so that they may be reintegrated into society. In addition, a plan for immediate action is being developed to support the work carried out by the interdisciplinary technical committees in the country's various prisons.

13. The National Congress adopted Legislative Decree No. 56-2024, amending the National Prison System Act of Honduras, specifically with the addition of article 75-A to Legislative Decree No. 64-2012. Pursuant to this amendment, the Prison Authority is tasked with planning, designing, managing, implementing and improving the national network of technical workshops. Decree No. 40-2024, for its part, amends the Organic Act on the Ministry of Security and the National Police of Honduras, the Judicial Service Act and the Act on the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in favour of the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty.⁷

C. Information relating to paragraph 17 (b)

14. The Intervention Commission reported that there is already a plan in place for the gradual transfer of military personnel from the Armed Forces. In this regard, the personnel of the Public Order Military Police has decreased considerably, owing to the completion of training of two cohorts of prison officers as part of the aforementioned process.

15. There are currently 15 prison officers in the positions of deputy directors and 27 technical and administrative assignments in the country's 23 prisons. The training of a third cohort of prison officials and officers, which is ongoing, will serve to consolidate the penitentiary service. At the same time, amendments to the Prison Service Act and Regulations are being prepared to account for the technical human resources that work in the various departments of the institution.

D. Information relating to paragraph 31

16. Legislative Decree No. 7-2025 introduces amendments to the Act for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Officials in Honduras, including an article related to the participation of communities affected by extractive projects in consultation processes that upholds such communities' territorial rights in line with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169). It instructs the State to develop programmes to detect and prevent socio-environmental conflicts in communities affected by extractive projects and declares 24 January as Defenders' Day in recognition of the work of the environmental defender, Juan Antonio López.

⁷ File of the Honduran Recommendations Monitoring System.

17. The attacks, threats and reprisals to which human rights defenders, environmental defenders and journalists are subjected to in the legitimate exercise of their duties constitute violations of fundamental rights and a direct threat to the rule of law. Addressing them is therefore an institutional priority.

18. Since its creation in 2018, the Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators has been responsible for investigating violations of the human rights of defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice operators, bringing criminal proceedings and monitoring the defence of human rights. Cases involving the murder or homicide of human rights defenders are under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Offences against Life jointly with the Special Unit.

19. The Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators is an active member of an expert committee tasked with designing an action protocol for the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against human rights defenders. This expert committee was set up as a methodological tool to strengthen the prosecutorial response capacity and to facilitate the execution of urgent measures aimed at the immediate protection of the life and physical integrity of the complainant and his or her family, in coordination with the Directorate General of the Protection Mechanism, attached to the Ministry of Human Rights.

20. The protection of Indigenous human rights defenders, especially those who defend the right to land and natural resources, is ensured by the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Ethnic Groups and Cultural Heritage. In this regard, measures are needed in areas including security, access to justice, participation in decision-making processes and the creation of enabling conditions for their work in the communities.

21. The protection of Indigenous human rights defenders requires a comprehensive approach encompassing security, justice, participation and the promotion of an enabling environment for their work based in their communities. It is important that governments, civil society and the international community work together to ensure that these defenders can continue to defend Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories and natural resources without fear of reprisals.
