

# **Public Security** Central America HONDURAS

### **Historical and Political Context**

The end of the dictatorship in 1980 began a long transition to democracy in which the Executive passed to civilian control and little by little the system of state security institutions was also democratized through a series of reforms in which new civilian-controlled institutions replaced those subordinate to the military. Initially, the Armed Forces maintained a central role in everyday politics and institutional reform, with the 1982 Constitution preserving their extensive authority, but a changing regional context in which peace accords were signed in El Salvador and negotiated in Guatemala accompanied a period of transition in which the power of military

institutions was reduced and a new and autonomous national police force was created. Whilst the interruption of civilian democratic rule in 2009 brought questions regarding the role of the military to the forefront, after a period new elections were held later that year. Honduras is facing chronic public security challenges: the growth in violent crime has led the country to have one of the highest murder rates in Latin America. Policies focused on institutional initiatives, an improved management of crime statistics and information, and a comprehensive process of police reform have been embarked upon.

Country Information		
Political System:	Presidential Republic / Unitary	
Administrative Organization:	18 Departments, 298 Municipalities	
Population:	8,555,072*	
Territorial Extension:	112,492 km2	
GDP (US\$ / current prices)	18,388,000,000 (2012)	
Minimum Monthly Salary (current US\$):	341.9	
Illiteracy:	15.2%**	

2013 projection based upon 2001 census and growth models.	
2013 projection based upon 2001 census and growth models.	
*in those above 15 years old. 2005-2010.	
III those above 15 years old. 2005-2010.	

Basic Security Indicators (2012)		
National Police:	12,805 personnel	
Homicides:	7,172 homicides reported. Homicide rate of 85,5 per 100,000 inhabitants	
Drug Trafficking:	982 people arrested for drug trafficking.	
Traffic Accidents:	1,243 deaths resulting from traffic accidents.	
Border Flows:	Total annual border movements average 1,320,368 people.	
Estimated Number of Gang Members:	4,728	
Private Security:	402 private security firms .	
Penal Centers:	There are 24 correctional facilities with a prison population totaling 12 263 inmates.	
Femicide:	606 violent deaths against women were registered.	
The Perception of Security:	84% of the population has little or no trust in the Police.	
Military Personnel dedicated to public security:	1,960	

## ost-dictatorship (1982-1993)

Constitutional Reform but the military political hegemony continues as the 1982 Constitution gives the military power over the government.

### Reform of the security sector (1993 - 1998)

Security sector reform is advanced through talks and military draft is eliminated, but the Armed Forces continue to play a major role in public security through the Public Security Force (FUSEP), despite the creation of a civilian police force (DIC)

### Constitutional and Legislative Reform (1998 – 2009)

Development of a new legislative framework through constitutional reform and the Organic Law of the Police, completing the full separation of the Police from the Armed Forces, whilst a new Law of Military Organization and reform of the Penal Code is approved.

# nstitutional Crisis and Political Reorganization (2009 -2010)

The Armed Forces are a central factor in the ousting of President Zelaya (2009).

### Current stage (2010 - now)

Citizen demands regarding the security situation in general and for police reform in particular lead to a series of legislative initiatives and the creation of two special forces: a special unit of the Police, and the Military Police within the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces. Truce process: commitment between gangs to reduce the level of violence

Ad-hoc commission Two police forces operate: proposes the creation **Directorate of Criminal** of the Public Ministry Investigation (DIC) and the Directorate of civilian character, and the Public Security Force **Criminal Investigation** (DIC) (FUSEP) - a branch of the **Armed Forces** 

# **Constitutional**

Reform. **New Organic** Law of the Police.

### **Anti-Gang Law**

Reform of the **Penal Code** 

### Crisis and Institutional Reorganization

**Police Reform** Creation of a Military Police and a Special Police Unit-TIGRES

**Sources:** National Statistics Institute; GDP: IMF, World Economic Outlook Database; Average Salary: Secretariat of Jobs and Social Security; Illiteracy: UNDP, Human Development Report 2013; National Police: Secretariat of Security, Politica Integral de Convivencia y Seguridad Ciudadana para Honduras 2011 a 2022, (2011); Homicides: UNAH-IUDPAS Observatory of Violence Boletín No. 28, (January 2013); The Perception of Security: Encuesta de Opinión Pública Centro América y República Dominicana, February 2013, CID-Gallup, available in cidgallup.com/documentos; Drug Trafficking: Secretariat of Security, Boletín de Incidencia Delictiva y Accionar Policial Anual de enero a diciembre 2012; Traffic Accidents: CONADEH, Informe Anual del Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos sobre el estado general de los derechos humanos en Honduras, (2012); Border Flows: Honduran Tourism Institute, Boletín de estadísticas turísticas, 2012; Gang members: National Prevention, Rehabilitation and Social Reinsertion Program, Situación de maras y pandillas en Honduras, (2010); Private Security: United Nations General Assembly, Informe del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Mercenarios, A/HRC/24/45; Penal Centers: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Informe sobre la situación de las personas privadas de libertad en Honduras, (2013); Femicide: CONADEH, Informe Anual del Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos sobre el estado general de los derechos humanos en Honduras, (2012).

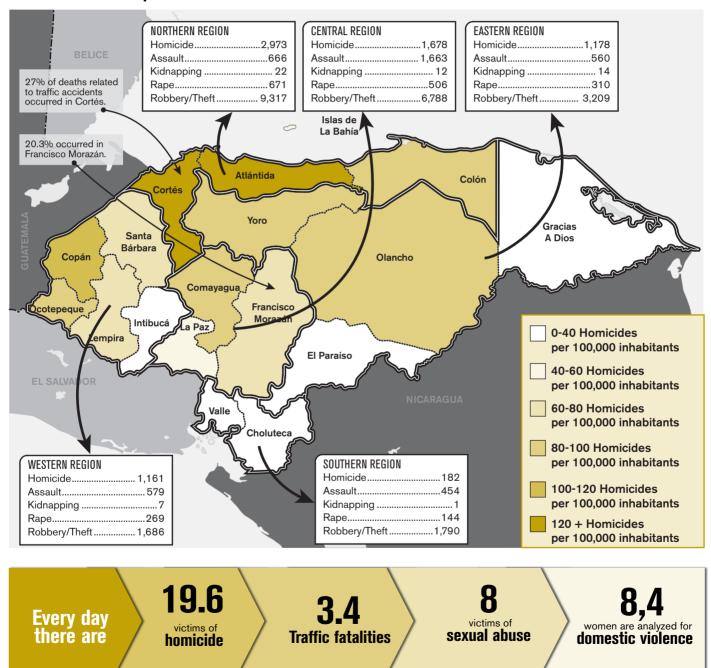
# **Security Challenges: An Overview**

One person is a victim of homicide every 73 minutes in Honduras; in the last decade the public security situation has deteriorated exponentially, with the homicide rate moving from 30.7 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2004, to 85.5 in 2012.

The impact upon the population is acute. The lack of citizen security in public spaces leads to a culture of fear: 7 taxi drivers

were murdered per month and 60% of female victims killed in the open street in 2012. Whilst the unrelenting rise in the homicide rate was halted in 2012, and in fact decreased slightly from a rate of 86.5 in 2011, with 91% of cases of female homicides and 85% of murders of police officers unresolved, the situation remains defined by violence, impunity and insecurity.

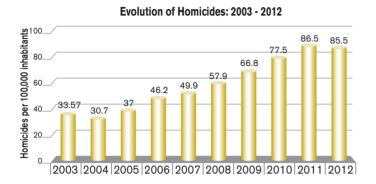
### Territorial Comparison of Crimes Committed (2012):

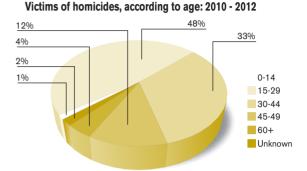


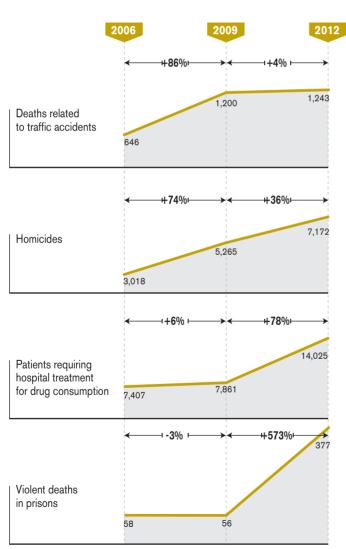
Sources: Informe Anual del Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos sobre el Estado General de los Derechos Humanos en Honduras y el Desempeño de sus Funciones 2012; Boletin Annual 2012, Human Rights Observatory.

The national rate of 85.5 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants was passed by those zones along Honduras's coast and towards the border with Guatemala: Atlántida (129.4), Cortés (128.9), Copán (104.7), Ocotepeque (99.8), Yoro (93.4), Olancho (92.5), and Colón (90.3), in comparison to just 17.1 in the far eastern department of

Gracias a Dios. Only 3% of the country's homicides were recorded in the Southern Region, bordering with Nicaragua. 80% of victims are between 15 and 44 years old, thus having a significant debilitating impact upon the economically active part of the population and draining the country's human capital.

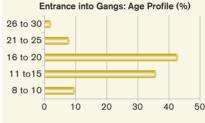




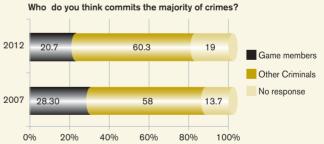


### The Question of the Gangs

The presence of gangs in Honduras is said to have broad impact upon public security. The few available studies suggest that it is a clear factor in school attendance, violence within educational institutions, and even the relocation of families to other neighborhoods. According to a study of 14 municipalities\*, there are approximately 4728 gang members, of which 447 are situated in jails.



In May 2013, leaders of 2 main gangs, the Mara Salvatrucha and Barrio 18, announced a truce to "stop the violence", in an initiative that would be mediated by representatives of the Catholic Church.



20	07	20	12
A lot	9.8%	Yes	23.8%
Partly	17.1%		
A little	30.3%	No	70.1%
None	39.8%		
NR	3.0%	NR	6.1%

Is your neighborhood harmed by gangs?

\*Situación de Maras y Pandillas en Honduras 2010-2011, National Prevention

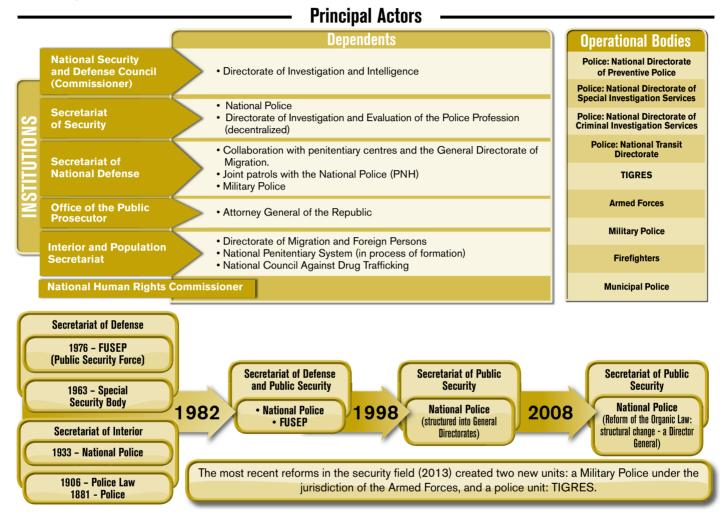
Sources: Informe Anual del Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos sobre el Estado General de los Derechos Humanos en Honduras y el Desempeño de sus Funciones 2012; Boletin Anual 2012, Human Rights Observatory; Situación de Maras y Pandillas en Honduras 2010-2011, National Prevention Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration Program; Reforma del Codigo Penal (DL 23 – 2013). Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Informe sobre la situación de las personas privadas de libertad en Honduras, (March 2013). National Council Against Drug Trafficking-Honduran Drug Observatory, Informe anual: El Problema de las drogas y su situación en Honduras, (2012).

Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration Program.

Borge y Asociados, *Encuesta Sobre Inseguridad CONADEH*, May 2012, available in http://www.conadeh.hn/index.php/7-conadeh/232-encuesta-sobreinseguridad

# **Security Institutions and Guidelines**

The institutional setting has been modified in the last two decades. In 1994 the Office of the Public Prosecutor was created as the body that exercises public criminal prosecutions and leads criminal investigations (carried out by the Directorate of Criminal Investigation of the National Police of Honduras (PNH)). A vear later, the constitutional figure of the National Human Rights Commissioner (CONADEH) was legally created. In 1998, a reform separated the military and police and created the Secretariat of Security, into which a new National Police body organized across different directorates was located.



### **Commission for Public Security Reform**

In October 2011, two university students were killed by police without any motive whilst in Tegucigalpa at night. The brutality and impunity of the act (the agents involved escaped punishment), plus the fact that one of the victims was the son of an important public figure, enraged citizens and an important movement to demand police reform began to dominate the agenda. A month later, in December, former security secretary Alfredo Landaverde was killed by gunmen in broad daylight in the capital. In response to this, on January 31st, 2012, Decree 4-2012 was passed, creating the Commission for Public Security Reform (CRSP), as a temporary (3 years) and independent body responsible for designing, planning and certifying a comprehensive reform of public security.

The Commission presented proposals for reforms to the Executive and Legislature, but due to a lack of political will, the reform process finds itself stalled.

- · Modifications to the Organic Law of the National Police
- Draft Law for the Police Career
- New curriculum for police education
- Anti-corruption policy
- · Mechanisms for preventing corruption
- Code of Conduct
- · Regulations for disciplinary procedures

• Judicial Council Law • Judicial Career Law udicial

- Draft Law for the Career within the Public Prosecutor's Office
- Modifications to the Organic Law of the Public Prosecutor's Office

Two constitutional reforms to allow the creation of new organs of internal control have also been proposed.

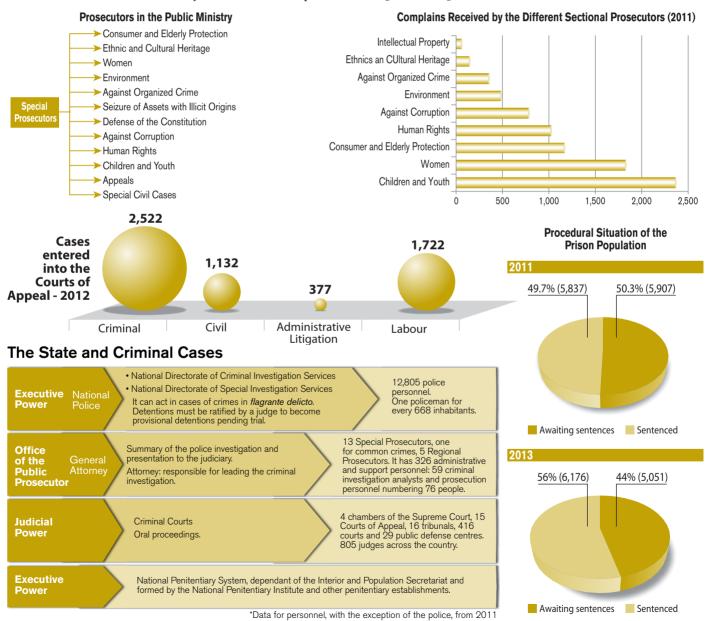
# The Criminal Justice System

Effective transition from the inquisitorial model to the new double accusatory system was regulated by the Penal Code of 1999 (Decree No. 9-99-E); specifically for structural and organizational adecuacy of the Office of the Public Prosecutor, which is responsible for investigating offenses and public criminal prosecutions.

Prosecutors formulate their requirements, requests and findings orally in a clear, precise and substantiated manner at the initial hearing, as well as during debates and other hearings that judges or magistrates convene. In other cases, they are made in writing. In the case of Honduras, pre-trial detention may last up to a year, with an allowance for two years in cases where the sentence for the offense exceeds six years. In no case will pre-trial

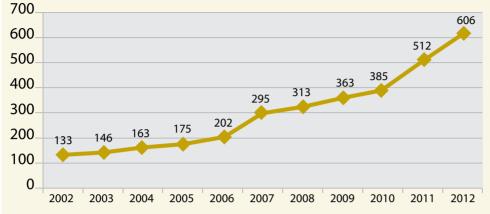
detention exceed half the length of the minimum penalty applicable for the offense. For minors who violate criminal laws, the procedure is regulated by the Children and Adolescents Code.

The relationship between the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the National Police (PNH) occurs through the different directorates. In the case of criminal investigation, the Public Prosecutor's Office has its own Investigation Directorate, which in turn works in a coordinated manner, providing legal and technical orientation to the PNH's National Directorate of Special Criminal Investigation Services during the investigative process. In turn, PNH's National Directorate of Special Criminal Investigation Services works together with the Directorate Against Drug Trafficking.



**Sources:** Código Procesal Penal; Secretariat of Security; Office of the Public Prosecutor, Memoria de Labores 2011, Judicial Power, Informe de Gestión Judicial 2012. Procedural Situation: Informes 2011 and 2012 of the National Human Rights Commissioner of Honduras.

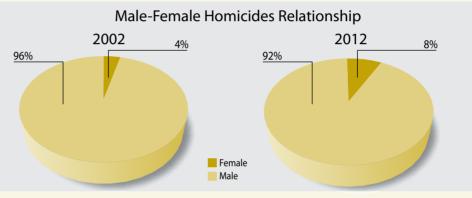
# **Female Homicides: A Growing Trend**



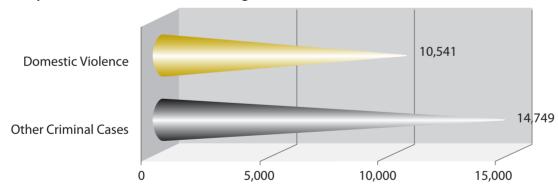
Female homicides have increased 355% in the past 10 years, with the rate of this increase accelerating further since 2010. This compares to a 97.6% growth in total homicides. displaying that the public security situation of women has deteriorated exponentially within the wider context of an already rapid decline in public

Consequently, the proportion of female homicides as a percentage of total homicides has risen from 4% in 2002 to 8% in 2012.

In order to tackle the rise in violent deaths of women, in April 2013, Decree No 23 - 2013 was passed, reforming the penal code. It places a minimum sentence of between 30 and 40 vears for the crime of femicide.



### Comparison of Cases entered to Magistrates: Criminal Vs. Domestic Violence (2012)



If it is considered that recorded cases of domestic violence tend to under-represent the true number of cases, it is very striking that for every 3 criminal cases brought to court, there are 2.1 cases of domestic violence.

### Other Effects of Insecurity



Sources: Informe Anual del Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos sobre el Estado General de los Derechos Humanos en Honduras y el Desempeño de sus Funciones 2012; Website of the National Human Rights Commissioner; Boletín Anual 2012, Human Rights Observatory; Situación de Maras y Pandillas en Honduras 2010-2011, National Prevention Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration Program; Reforma del Código Penal (DL 23 - 2013). Ley contra la trata de personas (Decree 59-2012).

# The Security Budget

The total security budget in 2013 amounted to two hundred and eighty-one million dollars, representing 1.5% of gross domestic product.

The Honduran budget presents within its functional classification the objective of "defense and security", incorporating the entire resources allocated to the Secretariat of Defense and the administration of justice in general in addition to that of the specific security area. In other areas, such as "general public services" the budget allocated to institutions such as

the National Council against Drug Trafficking, General Directorate of Migration, and the Human Rights Commissioner are added.

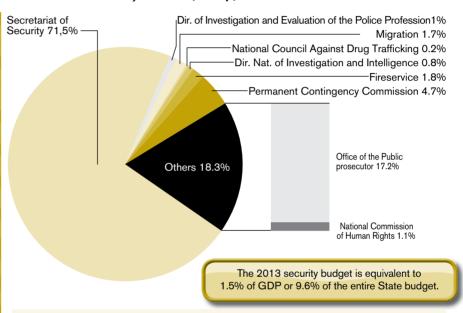
The largest portion of the budget falls institutionally within the Secretariat of Security, and more specifically the National Police, to which 70 % of the resources are allocated. Other items related to the crime problem, such as resources devoted to the defense sector for support to internal order, are not discernible using the current levels of budget disaggregation.

### **SECURITY BUDGET, 2013 (US\$)**

Secretariat of Security		%		
National Police	195,538,848	69.5		
Other	5,586,570	2		
Interior and Population	on Secretariat			
Migration	4,763,574	1.7		
National Council Against Drug Trafficking	453,238	0.2		
Firefighters	5			
5,201,200	5,201,200			
Permanent Contingency Commission				
13,289,081		4.7		
Office of the Public	Office of the Public Prosecutor			
48,454,404		17.2		
National Commissioner of Human Rights				
3,139,002		1.1		
Directorate of Investigation and				
Evaluation of the Police Profession				
2,659,468		1		
Dir. Nat. of Investigation and Intelligence				
2,207,098		0.8		
Total Security Budget (2013)*				
US\$ 281,292,483				

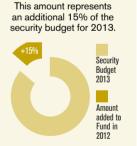
<sup>\*</sup> In current US\$ at 1 dollar to 20.57 Lempiras, in accordance with the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, 2013.

Between January and July 2013, the Commission for Public Security Reform received a total of US\$ 477,103 (for 2012, the amount totaled US\$ 750,951) from the Secretariat of Security.



### **Population Security and Protection Fund**

This Fund, which functions through a trust financed through special contributions generated through the Population Security Law (which taxes financial transactions, the exploitation and commercialization of minerals, and the commercialization of food and beverages, for a period of five years) was created towards the end of 2011. The funds are destined to crime prevention and control activities carried out by the Judicial Branch, Public Prosecutor's office, Secretariat of Security, Secretariat of Defense and the National Electricity Company. In 2012, U\$\$43,241,450 (contributions and interest gained on the Fund's own investments) was entered into the Fund.



Source: Decreto-Ley de presupuesto general de ingresos y egresos de la República para el ejercicio fiscal 2013. Fund: Memoria Anual 2012, Central Bank of Honduras. Reform Commission: Reportes de Ejecución del Presupuesto 2012, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs. GDP and Exchange Rate: World Economic Outlook Database, IMF. All data in IUS current dollars.

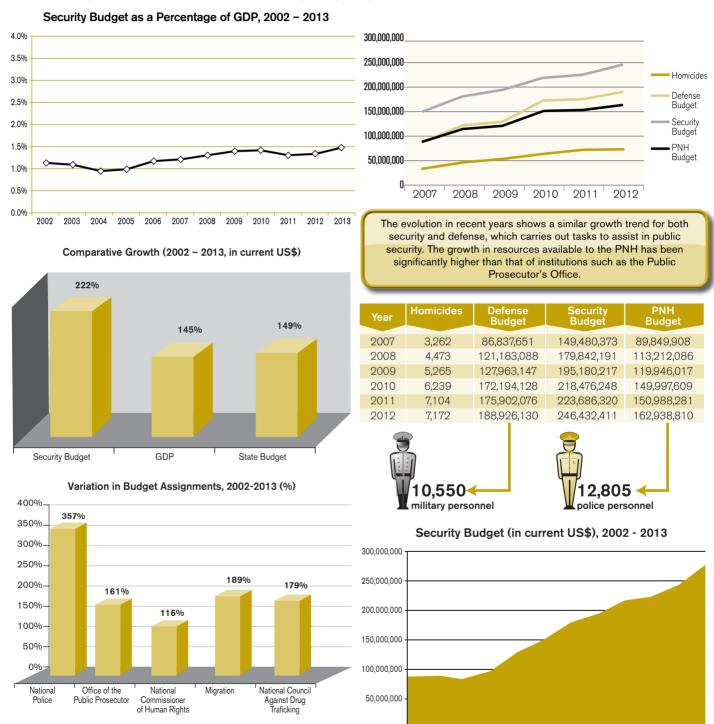


**Source:** Decreto-Ley de presupuesto general de ingresos y egresos de la República para el ejercicio fiscal 2013. EAP: Panorama Económico y Social 2012, Technical Secretariat of Planning and External Cooperation, Honduras. Tax Revenue: Informe de la liquidación del presupuesto general de ingresos y egresos de la República correspondiente al Ejercicio Fiscal 2012. The value of the dollar corresponds to the exchange rate according to the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, for each year considered. All data is expressed in current dollars.

## **Evolution of the Security Budget**

The relationship between the security budget and GDP has remained stable at an average of 1.2%, displaying a slight increase in recent years in terms of the proportion of GDP allocated to the area. The growth in absolute terms of the security budget

stands out, principally those resources assigned to the National Police, which grew by 357% between 2002 and 2013 (while other institutions saw their budgets grow in a similar proportion to the growth in resources available to the State).



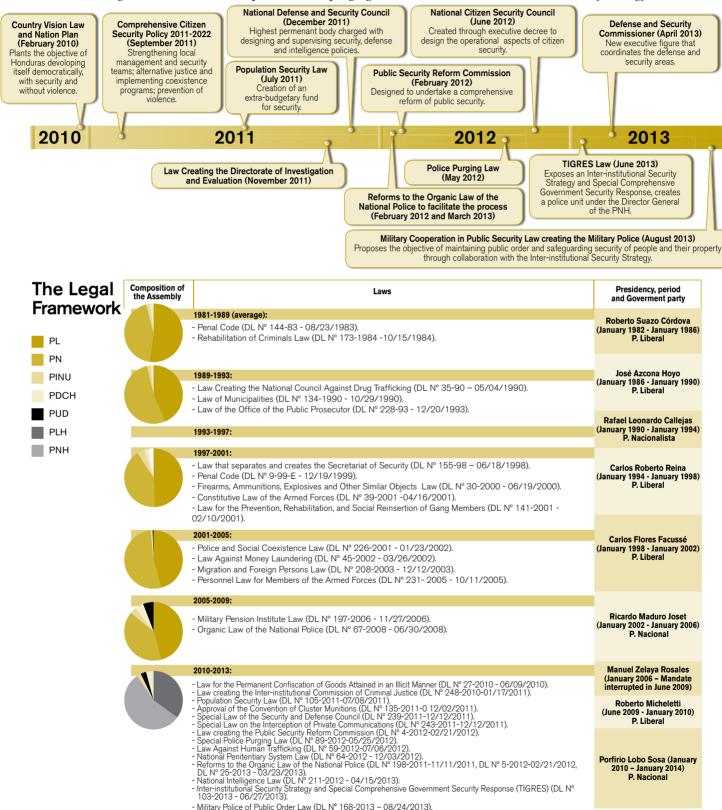
Sources: Decreto-Leyes de presupuesto general de ingresos y egresos de la República para el ejercicio fiscal from 2002 to 2013. For 2012, those resources assigned by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs to the Commission of Public Security Reform are included (Reportes de Ejecución del Presupuesto 2012, Secretariat of Foreign Relations). GDO and Exchange Rate: World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, for each yeah considered. All figures are expressed in current dollars. Homicides: Reporte Anual del Comisionado de Derechos Humanos, CONADEH, 2012. Military personnel: Comparative Atlas of Defence in Latin America and Caribbean. 2012 Edition, RESDAL. Police personnel: Secretariat of Security.

2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

# **Legislation and Security Initiatives**

A series of laws and measures of various kinds have been passed, all with the stated aim of addressing existing security demands. In the last three years there have been three amendments to the Organic Police Law and a special law for purging

the police; recently two new bodies have been added: the Military Police and TIGRES unit, headed by the PNH. The acronym stands for Special Comprehensive Government Security Response *Unit, within the Inter-institutional Security Strategy.* 

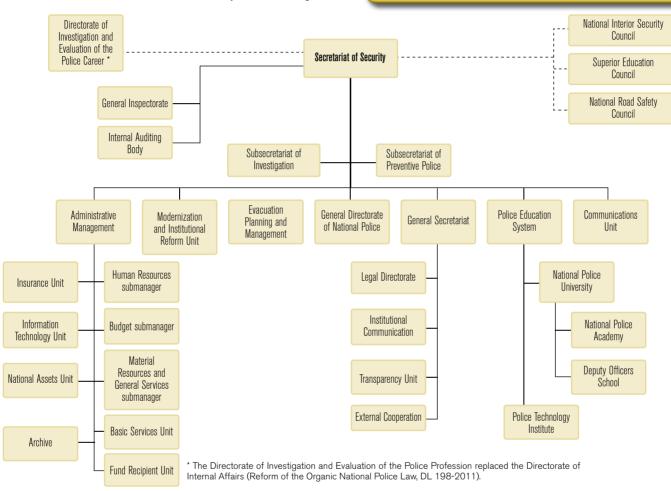


# The Secretariat of Security

The Secretariat of Security was created in 1998 through Decree 155-98 as part of the reforms that followed the constitutional changes seperating the Armed Forces and the Police. The National Police is under its jurisdiction.

In April 2013, the National Security and Defense Commissioner was created as coordinator of security and defense portfolios and representative of the President on national defense and security issues. The Council, established in 2011, is the highest organ for the design and supervision of security policies

The Secretariat is structured into two vice-ministries. One with a headquarters in Tegucigalpa and the other in San Pedro Sula.



#### **Security Sector Support Program (PASS)**

PASS is a program supported by the European Union for institutional strengthening within the security sector.

#### It's the largest security program financed by the European Union in the world.

The Program has 3 main areas: prevention, security and rehabiliation. Includes the donation of equipment to security institutions.

Supports the design of a national sectoral security policy.

European Union Honduran Government

9,000,000 euros. 1,090,000 euros.

#### Phase two:

Reform program to address the 3 main areas. Total planned budget: 35,000,000 euros.

#### **Association of Honduran Municipalities (AMHON)**

AMHON is a civil association that brings together the 298 municipalities.

One of the programs carried out received funding from the Spanish Agency for Developement Cooperation (AECID).

The democratic governance strengthening program began in 2010 and ended in early 2013. Its aim was to increase the capacity for the development of local security policies at the municipal level.

One of its products has been a Manual for the Elaboration of Local Public Security and Violence Prevention Plan, a proposal to be used in municipalities, for example in the formation of local committees.

Budget: 1,300,000 euros.

#### **Program Areas:**

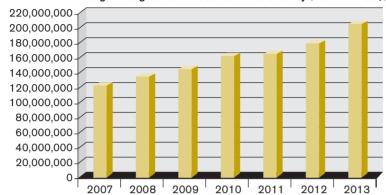
Institutional strengthening of AMHON. Improve citizen security and access to local justice. Strengthening the capacity of medical forensics. Gender violence and access to justice.

Sources: Secretariat of Security; Convenio de Financiación entre el Gobierno de Honduras y la Unión Europea, DL 163-2008, 02/10/2009; Association of Honduran Municipalities.

# The Budget for Security Institutions

The Secretariat of Security has the National Police within its orbit, and in 2013, 97% of the resources assigned to the Secretariat corrsponded to the Police.

Evolution of the Budget Assigned to the Secretariat of Security (in current US\$)

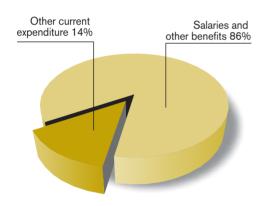


On average, 91% of the Ministry's budget corresponds to the National Police.

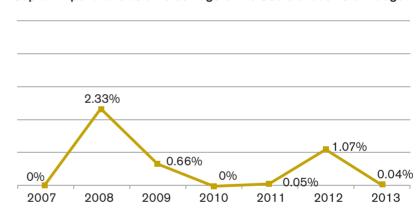
In recent years, resources for investment in the Secretariat were assigned within the PASS program (Security Sector Support Program, financed by the European Union with a small contribution by the State).

Between 2009 and 2013 the program's budget assignment was US\$12,895,053, of which US\$9,067,635 was destined to current expenditure and US\$3,827,418 to capital expenditure.

#### Distribution of the Police Budget, 2013

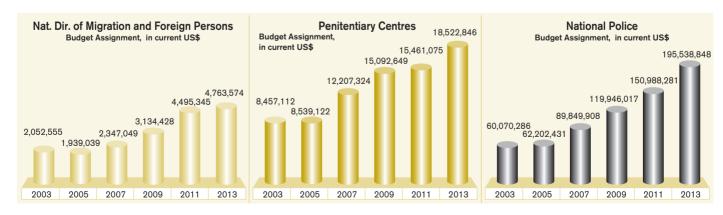


### Capital Expenditure as a Percentage of the Secretariat's Total Budget



The 2013 budget (elaborated in 2012) presents what was finally passed in the Penitentiary Service Law at the end of the year: the emergence of the Directorate of Special Preventive Services within the National Police as a separate budget program

independent of the overall police program. It is estimated that by 2014 the new Penitentiary Institute will have its own budget, which will include funding for police personnel deployed in prisons.

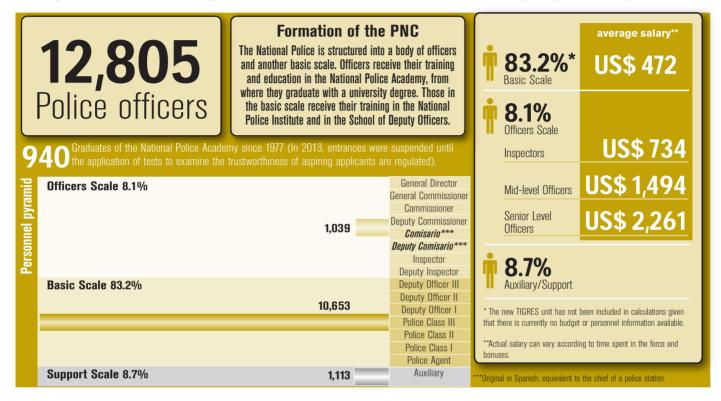


Sources: Decreto-Leyes de presupuesto general de ingresos y egresos de la República para el ejercicio fiscal from 2003 to 2013. The value taken for the dollar corresponds to the exchange rate according to the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, for each year considered. All figures are expressed in current dollars.

# National Police: 15 Years as the Only Police Force

The first police law in Honduras dates back to 1906. From this date onwards, in addition to police bodies, other organizations that carried out policing functions, such as the Civil Guard and FUSEP (Public Security Force), also existed. The Police operated under the authority of the defense sector up until 1996, when, within the framework of a series of constitutional reforms, a single unified police institution was developed: the National Police of Honduras, following the ratification of its Organic Law in 1998. The Honduran National Police are notable for its structure, which is divided across various national directorates.

The National Police are currently undergoing a comprehensive process of reform and purging of corrupt officials, whilst interinstitutional public security forces have also been formed as part of efforts to increase the strength of public security forces.



### New Police Unit: TIGRES

In 2013 a new security force that will operate within the Inter-institutional Security Strategy and Special Comprehensive Government Security Response was created. The strategy aims to provide a comprehensive response to the principal threats to public security through coordination between State institutions, such as the National Police, Armed Forces, Public Prosecutor's Office and Judicial Branch.

#### **Municipal Police**

There are municipal police bodies present in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, and the most touristic municipalities. These bodies organize parks and parking in gen-eral, and work in conjunction with the National Police to arrange parking and order in cities. On occasions the municipal police request assistance from the National Police to train personnel.

	Personnel from Municipal Police*	
	Tegucigalpa	San Pedro Sula
2012	171	132
2013	132	140
* Figures taken from August of each year.		

#### Special Comprehensive Government Security Response Unit (TIGRES)

Inter-institutional Security Strategy and Special Comprehensive Government Security Response (TIGRES) (DL 103, June 27th, 2013)

Special unit of the National Police, integrated by active members of the Judicial Branch, Public Prosecutor's Office, National Police and Armed Forces.

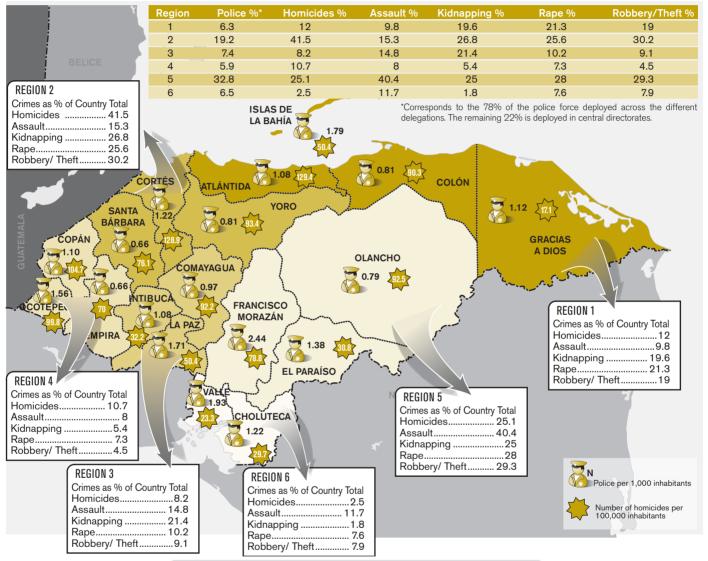
- Combat all manifestations of insecurity through police and interdisciplinary activities.
- Protection of the lives and property
- Maintenance of public order, crime prevention and control and arrests
- The TIGRES have a specialist investigation unit
- All members must pass trust tests.
- National deployment.

Sources: Ley de Policia Militar del Orden Publico (DL 168 - 2013); Ley Estrategia Interinstitucional en Seguridad y Toma Integral Gubernamental de Respuesta Especial de Seguridad (TIGRES) (DL 103 - 2013), Ley de Creacion de la Comisión de Reforma de la Seguridad (DL 4 - 2012). Municipal Police: Central District Municipality, Reporte de planillas de los meses de agosto de 2012 y 2013 available in www.capital450.hn/transparencia; San Pedro Sula Municipality, Nómina General Municipal de San Pedro Sula al mes de agosto de 2012 and information provided by the Municipality.

### Indicators of Violence and the Distribution of Police

One of the functions of the National Police Directorate is to distribute its personnel according to demographics and security demands, but an insufficient resource capacity couples with the chronic security situation to create a situation in which the territorial distribution of police fails to achieve this objective, a point that is recognized by the General Directorate of the National Police.

### Indicators of violence and police department distribution



Weaknesses of the PNH, according to General Directorate of the National Police\*:

- 1. Underperformance in its preventive function.
- 2. The quality and quantity of human resources does not seem logical in relation to demographics and crime.
- 3. Lack of a program for updating police competence according to the security demands of the population.
- 4. Limited police logistical and technological capabilities given the "social breakdown of the population"\*.
- 5. Inadequate infrastructure for the provision of police services. Requires improvement to create better working conditions and services that inspire confidence in the population.
- 6. Police educational system requires transformation and greater consistency between the occupational and educational profiles.
- Strenuous workload in terms of responsibilities assigned and working hours. Situation creates behavioral problems that have a negative impact on the service.
- 8. Judicial officers fail to meet responsibilities with due diligence. Pass the blame on instead of improving coordination and communication processes

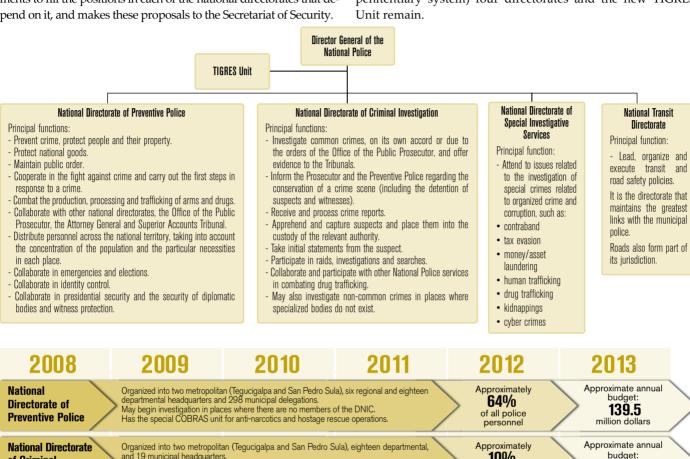
\*Secretariat of Security, Boletín de Incidencia Delictiva y Accionar Policial Anual (enero – diciembre 2012).

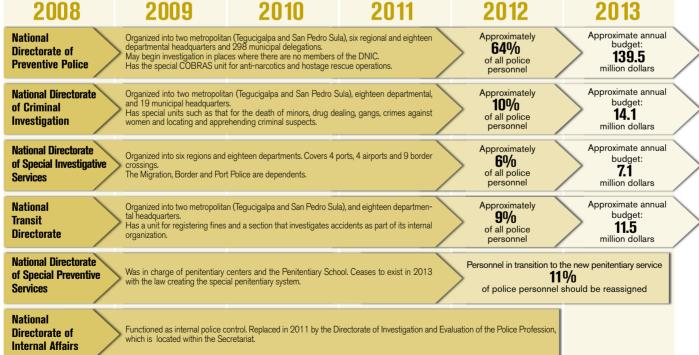
Sources: Secretariat of Security, Boletín de Incidencia Delictiva y Accionar Policial Anual (enero - diciembre 2012); Plantilla de las Direcciones Nacionales de la Policía Nacional a marzo 2011.

# Organization of the National Police

The Organic Law passed in 2008 structured the National Police below the figure of a Director General who is responsible for the management of the institution. The Director General makes appointments to fill the positions in each of the national directorates that depend on it, and makes these proposals to the Secretariat of Security.

Until 2012 there were 6 directorates. With the departure of Internal Affairs in that year (it was passed to the Secretariat) and Special Preventive Services (currently in transition to the penitentiary system) four directorates and the new TIGRES Unit remain.





Note: The percentages of personnel given are approximate given the current process of purging the police force, which was begun by the Secretariat of Security in August 2013, and whose initial results displayed inconsistencies between the size of the police force on paper and the personnel that were actually carrying out their functions.

Sources: Directorate General of the National Police, National Directorates. Ley orgánica de la Policía Nacional. Secretariat of Security, Boletín de Incidencia Delictiva y Accionar Policial Anual (January - December 2012). Ley Estrategia Interinstitucional en Seguridad y Toma Integral Gubernamental de Respuesta Especial de Seguridad (TIGRES), Decreto 103-2013. Decreto-Ley de presupuesto general de ingresos y egresos de la República para el ejercicio fiscal 2013. The value for the dollar corresponds to the exchange rate according to the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, 2013.

### The Police Framework

In the mid nineties a reform process began in Honduras that involved, among other things, that the National Police left the military orbit. Its first organic law dates from 1998, with successive reforms made. The police function is divided into central tasks, such as the maintenance of public order and the prevention and control of crime. In terms of registers, the police are responsible for private security services and arms control. As for collaboration, there exists judicial resolutions between the Honduran National Police (PNH) and the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and the PNH cooperates with immigration control and in emergency and disaster situations. With the creation of the Penitentiary Institute the police are no longer responsible for - unlike up until 2012 - the management, control and monitoring of penitentiary centers.

### Valid Legal Framework of the PNH

Organic Law of the PNH, Decree 156, 07/08/1998

Police and Social Co-existence Law, Decree 226, 12/29/2001

Organic Law of the PNH, Decree 67, 6/12/2008 (reforms in 2011, 2012 and 2013)

Regulations for the control of private security services Agreement 013, 09/21/2009

Creation of the Directorate of Investigation and Evaluation, Decree 198, 11/11/2011

Creation of the Commission of Public Security Reform Decree 4, 02/21/2012

Interinstitutional **Security** Strategy (TIGRES) Decree 103, June 06/27/ 2013

### **Police Education**

\*Translation from

station

Spanish. Corresponds

to a head of a police

#### **Officers**

Director Scale General Director General Commissioner

Scale of Senior Officers Commissioner Deputy Commissioner \*Comisario

Scale of Mid-level Officers Deputy Comisario\* Inspector Deputy Inspector

In 2011, a new incorporation class was opened: service professionals. These professionals, who can be civilians or basic scale police personnel with university degrees and up to 40 years of age, are admitted to the ITP as interns. They receive police training and graduate with the rank of Deputy Inspectors of services.

#### Basic Scale

- G. 3 Deputy Officer G. 2 Deputy Officer
- G. 1 Deputy Officer
- G.3 Police Agent
- G.2 Police Agent
- G.1 Police Agent

### Cadet Scale Second Lieutenant

Cadet Aspiring Cadet

Auxiliary Scale University professional Support Technician Service Technician

For 2013, the suspension of all admissions was announced due to a restructuring of the curriculum.

### **National Police Academy**

- · Trains aspiring officers; following a four year course they obtain a degree and the grade of deputy inspector.
- Entrance requirements are: to be a Honduran national, between 17 and 24 years of age, single without children, with high school education, no tattoos and pass the entrance exams.

### **National Police University**

- Trains officers that are being promoted through superior level education with titles comparable to superior education throughout the country. It also offers Masters courses to both police and civilians.
- Diplomas in: Basic Police Operations (for Deputy Inspectors); Management of Police Resources (Inspectors); Strategic Management (Deputy Comisarios); Advanced Strategic Management (Comisarios).

### **Deputy Officer Schools**

- · Offers superior level studies to members of the basic scale.
- · Requirements are to be a class three police agent, to have served a minimum or 2 years in the grade and not have any disciplinary sanctions in the past two years. If evaluations are passed, promotion is gained to deputy officer grade.

#### Police Technological Institute (ITP)

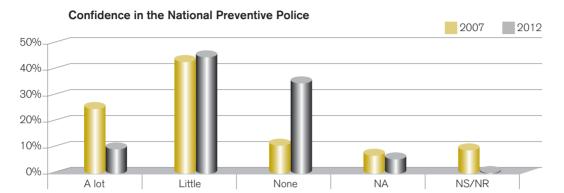
- Training of basic scale police; training courses for class 1, 2 and 3.
- · The course for aspiring police agents lasts 3 months. Among other requirements, applicants must have no children, be aged between 18 and 30 and have a clean police record.

Sources: Ley Orgánica de la Policía Nacional Decreto 156 del 8 de julio de 1998 and amendments; Secretariat of Security, Police Education System.

# The System of Police Discipline and Control

Problems of indiscipline and abuse of power have been common within the Honduran National Police. In the context of claims made by citizens against the police, and the commotion regarding the responsibility of the police in the case of the university students murdered in late October 2011, in November 2011 Congress passed a law creating the National Directorate of Investigation and Evaluation of the Police Profession, that functions as a decentralized entity of the Secretary of Security.

The system of external control includes the Human Rights Commissioner, which receives complaints against the police.



According to data prepared by the UNAH using official sources, 149 civilians were killed by the police between January 2011 and November 2012.

### **Purging the National Police**

#### Special Police Purging Law is passed by Congress

Declares a state of emergency in public security and provides the Director General of the NP with exceptional powers to engage in a process of purging, for 6 months. These include ordering personnel to take examinations. These "tests of trustworthiness" basically consisted of psychometric and toxicology testing and an asset evaluation. Failure to pass the tests was justification for dismissal.

#### Public Prosecutor's Office challenges the constitutionality of the decree

In the face of challenges to the constitutionality of the measures, the Public Prosecutor's Office is called upon to review the case, and dictates that the Law suspends the rights and guarantees of members of the police.

#### A Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) declares the decree unconstitutional

The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice rule 4-1 in favor of the objections of the Public Prosecutor.

#### CSJ declares constitutionality of DL 89-2012

The plenary of judges dismissed the judicial review brought against the Special Law by majority, following a lack of unanimity in the Constitutional Chamber. Some analysts question, however, the validity of the Law, given that it has surpassed the six months that the Law had outlines in May 2012.

201*2* 

August

**ORGANS OF INTERNAL CONTROL** 

**February** 

### **National Directorate of Investigation** and Evaluation of the **Police Profession**

The investigation of any offense or crime imputed to any member of the Police profession, ex officio or upon complaint of private individuals or the National Council of Internal Security (CONASIN), corresponds to Internal Affairs. The outcome of each investigation will be written up in a report to be handed to the Secretary of State and the National Council of Internal Security (CONASIN), making relevant recommendations, with a copy to the Attorney General when there is evidence that a crime was committed.

# Inspectorate

Responsible for monitoring and evaluating the actions of staff within the operational and administrative branches of the National Directorates. special units and their dependencies.

# Audit

Responsible for supervising and evaluating economic and financial management; and exercising the functions outlined in relevant laws.

## Social Audit\*

Exercised through the participation of citizens in the agencies created by the Law, which help to promote transparency in the management of the National Police.

### Special National Paymaster **Paymaster**

Administers and executes the operational police budget. The head is appointed by the Secretary of State for Security, who, before taking office, will comply with the guarantees and other requirements outlined in the Law.

\*Given that the Social Audit involves citizen participation, it is thought to fall within the scope of external control. However, the Organic Law does not provide further details on the operation of the system.

Sources: National Commissioner of Human Rights, Encuesta sobre Insequridad, Comparativo 2012, available at http://www.conadeh.hn/doc/GraficosInsequridad.pdf. Ley Orgánica de la Policía Nacional, Articles 13 to 21. UNAH-IUDPAS, National Observatory of Violence, Boletín Especial sobre Criminalidad Policial, Edición Nº 5, November 2012.

# The Penitentiary System

The penitentiary system in Honduras is undergoing a process of transformation that began with the enactment of the Penitentiary System Law, passed in December 2012. One of the most relevant transformations of the Law is the creation of a National Penitentiary Institute. The custody and management of prisons will thus no longer be under the jurisdiction of the National Police.

Honduras's prison system is made up of 24 centers.

In accordance with the law for the rehabilitation of criminals, they are classified as the following:

- National Penitentiary Centers: for serving sentences in excess of 3 years.
- Departmental or Sectional Prisons: for serving sentences less than 3 years in duration.
- 3. Local Prisons: for serving the minimal prison sentences.

This system would change with the new penitentiary system law, which establishes a division according to security regimes and the establishmnet of centers for pre-trial detentions.

As of January 2013, prison capacity in the 24 penitentiary centers totalled 8,120. The actual population was 12,263, representing 51% overpopulation.



The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) has been created as a decentralized entity within the Interior and Population Secretariat. Within its bodies, the Board of Directors, composed of five members including the Secretary for Security, stands out. The National Director is appointed by the President of the Republic.

The penitentiary service law foresees a transition from the old structure of the **National Directorate of Special Preventive Services (DNSEP)**, under the National Police, to the new Penitentiary Institute. Within a period of two years, the assets, rights, duties, archives and inventory concerning prison activity will be transferred. The whole process will be led by a Special Transition Committee.

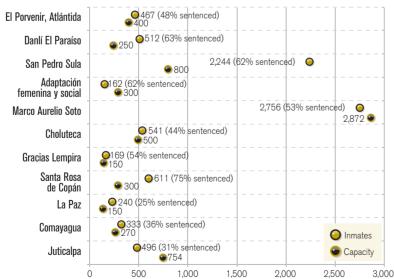
The INP will be responsible for organizing and developing the **penitentiary service career** .

Police personnel currently deployed on penitentiary functions may request transfer to the Penitentiary Institute, for which their seniority and benefits will be taken into account. Upon transferring, they will resign their police position and become part of the Institution's personnel structure. The Commission is responsible for assessing each of these transfer requests. In practice it is expected that most of the police personnel enter this system .

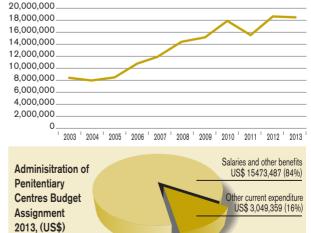
1 enforcement judge for each 603 prisoners.

1 penitentiary official for every 11 inmates in the penitentiary centers.

The average wage of penitentiary agents is 315 dollars a month.





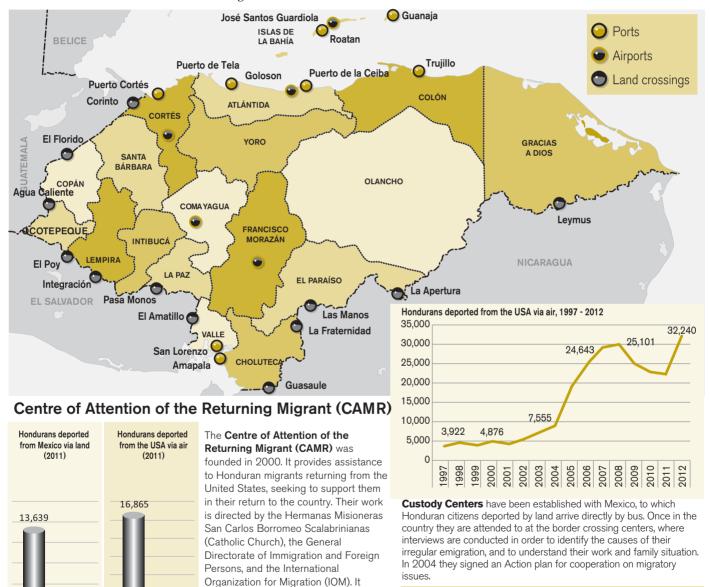


**Sources:** Ley del Sistema Penitenciario Nacional (DL 64-2012 of 12/03/2012); National Human Rights Commissioner of Honduras, Informe anual sobre el estado general de los derechos humanos en honduras, año 2012; Informe de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos sobre la situación de las personas privadas de libertad en Honduras (March 2013); Decreto-Leyes de presupuesto general de ingresos y egresos de la República para el ejercicio fiscal from 2003 to 2013. The value of the dollar taken corresponds to the exchange rate according to the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF, for each year considered. All figures are expressed in current dollars.

# **Border and Migration Control**

Interior and Population Secretariat: Migration control and regulation correspond to the Secretariat of Interior and Population, through the General Directorate of Immigration and Foreign Persons, which regulates the State's migration policy, the entry and exit of nationals and foreigners, the permanence of the latter in Honduras and the issuance of migration documents, including passports and special travel permits. There are 11 land, 5 air and 8 maritime border delegations. It has a staff of approximately 250 people, divided between the central office and the various delegations.

Secretariat of Security: The National Directorate of Special Investigation Services is in charge of the Immigration, Border and Port Police. Its function is to investigate special crimes, such as smuggling contraband, fraud and tax evasion, money or asset laundering, corruption, human trafficking, drug trafficking, cybercrime, transnational crimes and all that is related to organized crime



Sources: National Police; General Directorate of Immigration and Foreign Citizens.

1,097

Female

1,888

Female

coordinates its activities with the

National Police and the Secretariats of

Foreign Affairs, Health, Labor and Social

Security. Deportations are carried out via

air, with arrivals three times a week at

the airport in Tegucigalpa and twice in

San Pedro Sula.

**Activities:** 

• Temporary housing, food and transport

· Contact with families

• Medical care

· Assistance with paperwork

• Assistance finding employment and support through educational

and training centers.

# Cooperation of the Armed Forces in Public Security

According to the Constitution, the Armed Forces cooperate with public security institutions at the request of the Secretariat of Security to combat terrorism, arms trafficking and organized crime. The most frequent cooperation mechanism is developed through specific requests made by the Secretariat of Security, from which an order or operational plan between the Armed Forces and the Police is established in order to establish the details of the operation. The most frequent activities are urban patrol tasks and patrols and operations to combat drug trafficking.

In August 2013, a law created a new command for public security tasks: the Military Police of Public Order.

The mixed urban patrol teams are formed by one policeman and two military personnel. They accompany the policeman, who in turn is in charge of making arrests.

The Army collaborates in particular in urban and border zones, deploying 1,960 personnel. Both the Navy and on occasions the Air Force collaborate in operations in zones such as la Mosquitia.

### "Guardians of the Motherland" Program

The program was initiated by the military in 2000 and the support and collaboration of different institutions was added.

It has the stated aim of contributing to the preparation and comprehensive development of youth, strengthening moral, spiritual, ethical and cultural values. In 2011, the project received greater interest from the Secretariat of Defense and the Secretariat of Development. The latter summoned two consultants to evaluate the program over a period of 30 days. As a result of this its expansion to the national level was planted.

It is financed through the budget of the Armed Forces.

It is aimed at children and youth, from 9 to 23 years, which are divided across 3 different age groups.

It links up with trustees and neighborhood associations to discuss the project and solicit contributions, especially from parents, for each area.

In the case of children, they attend the military unit on Saturdays from 8am to 4pm.

### Stated Objectives

Strengthen physical and mental development.

Strengthen ethical, moral and spiritual values and principals. Prevent dropout.

Improve school performance.

Develop skills and abilities.

Promote sport.

Strengthen the culture of community service and community ties.

Prevent sexually transmitted infections.

Promote sexual abstinence to reduce pregnancies in young girls.

Reduce youth crime and gangs.

Strengthen family ties in the community.

Raise self-esteem.

Avoid the use of drugs in youth.

### Military Police of Public Order (PMOP)

Military Police of Public Order Law (DL 168, August 24th, 2013)

Character

Special command of the Armed Forces.

Authorizes the Armed Forces to increase their force size by 5,000 personnel.

Troops that form the Military Police must undergo the same 'confidence tests' that are currently practiced within the National Police.

Must be accompanied by judges and prosecutors with national competence and jurisdiction. These may reside outside the country.

- Act rapidly in circumstances that affect public order, constitute emergencies, and/or affect people or their properties
- Cooperate in the recuperation of areas where there is a presence of organized criminal groups or their activities
- Carry out investigation and intelligence tasks.
- Make arrests and place those arrested into the custody of the relevant authorities.

Batallion with 480 Military Police personnel in San Pedro Sula. Mosquitia. The new Military Police plans to cover the entire country. with an estimated total of 5,000 troops. The law instructs the Technical Committee of the Population Batallion with 480 Security Trust Fund, under DL No. 199-2011, to expeditiously, Military Police

personnel in Tegucigalpa.

immediately and through transparent mechanisms, acquire the equipment and accessories necessary for the force's functioning, and expenses of up to the amount of one million one hundred and twenty thousand US dollars.

Sources: Ley de Policía Militar del Orden Publico (DL 168 - 2013); Ley Estrategia Interinstitucional en Seguridad y Toma Integral Gubernamental de Respuesta Especial de Seguridad (TIGRES) (DL 103 - 2013). Joint Chief of Staff, Directorate of Policies and Civil Affairs.

## **Private Security**

Regulated by DL 67-2008 of the Legislative Assembly, June 30th 2008, and by Regulations for the Control of Private Security Services of the Legislative Assembly, September 21st, 2009.

### 402 registered private security firms and 303 registered self-defence groups employ

14,787 Personnel

According to the law, no firm is able to surpass 6% of the total personnel size of the National Police.

Quantity of Private Security Firms Registered		
City	%	
Tegucigalpa y San Pedro	80%	
Choluteca	5%	
Comayagua	3%	
Ciudades de occidente	3%	
La Ceiba	2%	
Resto de ciudades	7%	

Licenses for the provision of private security services are valid for two years and then renewable for equal periods. The provision of an updated list of personnel and clients, along with a copy of the contracts, among other items, is necessary prior to renewal of contracts.

The Private Security Firms Control Unit recognizes that there are between 60,000 and 80,000 personnel employed in the sector. The difference is due to the Regulations for the Control of Private Security Services, 2009, which encourages companies that have licenses to renew them from November 2010, without a deadline for the process.

Foreign companies seeking to attain permission for the provision of private preventive security services must partner with Honduran companies engaged in the same activity and appoint a manager that is Honduran by birth.

Self-protection groups are organized by neighborhood communities in some municipalities, and employ security officers. If we add together personnel from the Armed Forces, police bodies and private security firms what we could call the entire personnel devoted to security tasks, be it national or public and citizen security - the resulting figure would be\*:



\*Comparison using 2012 figures. It takes into account the number of private guards registered in the formal system supervised by the State. It does not include informal guards.

### **Preventive vigilance**

Type A: with authorized personnel from two hundred (200) security guards upwards (200).

Type B: with authorized personnel of between one hundred (100) and two hundred (200) security quards.

Type C: with authorized personnel of between ten (10) and one hundred (100) security guards.

Type D: with ten (10) or less authorized security guards.

### Private investigation services

Professional detectives may obtain individual licenses within this modality.

#### **Training services**

Training programs are approved and monitored by the Private Security Firms Control Unit and assisted by the National Directorates of the Honduran National Police. The Secretariat of Security, through the Police Education system, can train members of private security companies in order to certify their operations.

#### **Related services**

Hunting and shooting services for tourists; services for the introduction of weapons in international sporting events and others; vigilance services at national and international sporting events; vigilance services for dignitaries, official national and international missions; bulletproofing services, training and advice in security; concerts and national and international events.

Sources: Ley orgánica de la Policía Nacional; Reglamento para el Control de los Servicios Privados de Seguridad (09/21/2009); and Unidad de Control de Empresas de Segu-