



SOCIAL MEDIA AREA

*NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN RIGHTS – OMBUDSMAN (CONADEH, by its initials in Spanish)*

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## **REPORT ON LAWYERS' VIOLENT DEATH**

**2010 – MARCH 2015**

### **LAWYERS' VIOLENT DEATHS**

Around 18,000 lawyers are part of the Honduras Lawyers Association (CAH, by its initials in Spanish).

The Honduran State is obliged to guarantee, to lawyers, to do their work without any intimidation.

Furthermore, it is part of the authorities' duties to provide an adequate protection when physical integrity and Honduran lawyers' lives are threatened by the exercise of their profession.

Unfortunately, in Honduras, the practice of law has become a high-risk profession for those who practice it.

### **Summary of the facts occurred between 2010 and March, 2015**

- I. The National Commissioner of Human Rights (CONADEH, by its initials in Spanish) registered between 2010 and March 2015, 89 cases of violent death against the same number of lawyers.
- II. During the administration of President Porfirio Lobo Sosa (2010- 2014), died in violently circumstances 76 lawyers, while so far the government of President

Juan Orlando Hernández 13 have died under those same circumstances (until March, 2015).

**VIOLENT DEATH OF LAWYERS BY DEPARTMENT\***  
**2010 / MARCH 2015**

F.M	CORTES	YORO	ATLANTI DA	COLON	OLANCH O	COPAN	COMAY AGUA	CHOLUT ECA	EL PARAISO	TOTAL
34	29	6	5	5	4	2	2	1	1	89

Source: CONADEH

\*Honduras has its political-geographical division on Departments, so the territory of the Republic of Honduras is divided in 18 Departments. F.M. is the abbreviation for the Department of Francisco Morazán, where is located the Honduras' capital, the Municipality of the Central District (M.D.C., by its initials in Spanish), conformed by two cities: Tegucigalpa and Comayagüela; the M.D.C. is informally known as Tegucigalpa. In the capital is where the highest incidence of murders against lawyers occurs.

The exercise of law has become a high-risk profession for those who practice primarily in the Departments of Francisco Morazán, which reported 34 dead lawyers violently; Cortés, 29; Yoro, 6; Atlántida, 5; Olancho, 4; Copán, 2; Comayagua, 2; Choluteca, 1, El Paraíso, 1; and, Colón, 5.

III.

**VIOLENT DEATH OF LAW PROFESSIONALS**  
**BY GENDER**  
**2010 / MARCH 2015**

MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
72 (81%)	17 (19%)	89

Source: CONADEH

Of the 89 casualties reported by CONADEH: 72 (81%) were men and 17 (19%) were women.

- IV. Among the lawyers who died violently in the past five years are included: former Judges of letters; Judges of Childhood; Specialists in Criminal Law, Labour Law, Commercial Law and Civil Law; Judges of Youth Persons; Judges of Vehicular Traffic; Judges for Criminal Matters; Judges of Peace (Judiciaries); and Judges and Magistrates of the Tribunal of Judgments.

They are also among the victims: Public Prosecutors working at the General Attorney's Office; Counsellors of several government agencies; Counsellors of peasant groups; Counsellors of trucking companies; Directors of the Lawyers' Bar of Honduras; Candidates aspiring to be elected for a public charge; pensioners, public defenders, lawyers who were practicing in private firms and others who combined their work with other business and religious activities.

- V. Most of the victims were executed inside their vehicles, sometimes in the company of his children, wife, his worker, his driver, friends and even customers. Others were killed in their own home or a few steps of it and on public roads.

VI.

#### **DEATHS BY TYPE OF WEAPON 2010 / MARCH 2015**

FIREARM: 80

ASPHYXIA: 4

SUPPOSED SUICIDE: 1

WHITE ARMS (KNIVES, MACHETES): 3

WHITE ARMS AND FIRE WEAPON: 1

Source: CONADEH.

80 lawyers, representing 90%, were executed by firearms; 4 died from asphyxiation by strangulation; 1 for a supposed suicide; 3 were killed with knives; and one in which the perpetrators used fire guns and knives.

- VII. In at least 5 cases the courts of justice have ruled against those responsible, however, 94% of all cases would be unpunished.

### **Violent incidents recorded in the last 27 months.**

Between 2013 and March 2015, the National Commissioner of Human Rights (CONADEH) conducted a detailed register of each of the violent actions committed against legal professionals, with the following findings:

- I. CONADEH registered 45 violent acts against lawyers, leaving 40 people dead and ten wounded.
- II. Of the 40 killed people, 34 were lawyers and 6 individuals who were at the scene when the crime occurred.
- III. Of the 10 who were injured, 7 are lawyers, 1 employee of a law firm and the mother and the daughter of a legal professional.
- IV. Of the 34 professionals of law violently killed in the last 27 months, 28 were men and 6 women.
- V. Eight of the 18 Honduras' Departments were the scene of bloody events that killed of all these 34 lawyers: In the Department of Cortés 15 lawyers; 10 died violently at Francisco Morazán; 1 in Atlántida; 4 at Colón; 1 at Yoro, 1 at Olancho, 1 at Copán and 1 at Comayagua.

### **Death of lawyers in 2014**

During 2014, the CONADEH registered the death of 11 lawyers, of which 8 were men and 3 women.

Six Departments were death scene for lawyers: 6 killed in Cortés, 1 in Atlántida, Colon 1, 1 in Comayagua, Olancho 1 and 1 in Francisco Morazán.

Of the 11 professionals of law killed, 2 were older adults aged 62 to 78 years. Most of the victims had their own law firms; in addition, one of them was serving as Coordinator of the Office of Common Crimes, and the other as Environmental Prosecutor, both were assigned in San Pedro Sula and killed in the same violent act. A public defender was murdered at Catacamas, a city of Department of Olancho. Also a former prosecutor died violently (*at Tegucigalpa*).

7 lawyers representing 64% died inside their vehicle when they were traveling; one when he was about to enter into his car; one when he was about to enter his home, 1 inside his property and 1 in the street.

In at least 82% of the cases, the or those people responsible for committing the crime were unknown people, in some cases, the police arrested the suspects involved in the killing of lawyers, however, they remain in impunity.

In 100% of deaths of lawyers, the perpetrators made use of firearms to execute the victims, in one case, also used white arms (knives).

### Recommendations:

1. The CONADEH urges the Honduran authorities in charge of security in the country to take the necessary actions in order to make that the nearly hundred violent deaths against lawyers, registered in the last 63 months, does not enjoy impunity.
2. The government of the Republic is obliged to ensure that the Honduran lawyers perform their professional duties without any intimidation and even provide adequate protection especially when their physical integrity and life is at risk as a result of the exercise of their profession.

### LIST OF LAWYERS VIOLENTLY DEAD

2010 / MARCH 2015

No.	DATE	NAME	CRIME LOCATION	TYPE OF WEAPON
<b>2010</b>				
1	26.02.2010	Rossel Edgardo Barralaga Morales (46)	Col. Miraflores, Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
2	03.03.2010	Olga Marina Laguna (52), Judge of Childhood Matter	Col. Prados Universitarios, Tegucigalpa, F.M	Fire gun
3	05.03.2010	Conrado Zavala Castellón (61), accused of child pornography	Barrio Las Tijeras, Villa de San Francisco, F.M	Supposed suicide
4	09.03.2010	Ramón Arturo Bueso Caballero (36)	Barrio El Centro de Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán	Fire gun
5	11.05.2010	Sandra George Osorio (54)	Tela, Atlántida	Fire gun
6	21.05.2010	Félix Ramón Enamorado (37), former Public Prosecutor	Ave. La República, 12 y 13 calles, Barrio Solares Nuevos, La Ceiba, Atlántida	Fire gun
7	05.06.2010	Filadelfo Rodríguez Gámez (57)	Anillo periférico, entre el Coliseum Nacional de Ingenieros y la Villa Olímpica, Tegucigalpa, F.M.	Fire gun

8	10.06.2010	Oscar Molina (31) , Criminal Law Specialist Lawyer	Colonia El Prado, Tegucigalpa, F.M.	Fire gun
9	24.06.2010	Osman Elder Matamoros Torres (37)	Cañeras, El Progreso, Yoro	Fire gun
10	30.06.2010	Vilma Patricia Turcios Quintanilla (46)	Barrio Los Andes, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Asphyxiation by strangulation
11	15.07.2010	David Dagoberto Banegas Pérez (36)	Barrio Los Andes, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
12	20.07.2010	Marco Tulio Amaya, (45), Criminal Law Specialist Lawyer	Road from Ojo de Agua, El Paraíso to Villa de San Francisco, F.M.	Fire gun
13	27.08.2010	Marco Antonio Vargas Reyes (28)	Colonia San José de los Llanos, Tegucigalpa, F.M.	Fire gun
14	04.11.2010	Erick Neptalí Ponce Elvir (40)	La Talanquera, Juticalpa, Olancho	Fire gun
15	11.11.2010	Isabel Marcos López Rodas, Student of Law at the UNAH	Col. Centro América Oeste, Comayagüela, M.D.C., F.M.	Fire gun
16	26.11.2010	José Edgardo Castellanos Lemus	San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
<b>2011</b>				
17	18.02.2011	Margoth Irías Miralda (61)	San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
18	09.02.2011	Patricia Isabel Patiño	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
19	21.02.2011	Carlos Roberto Marroquín Ortega, evangelical preacher	San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
20	22.02.2011	Carlos Velasco Laínez, lawyer and entrepreneur	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
21	23.02.2011	Luis Octavio Caballero Mejía	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
22	27.02.2011	Armando Palma Reina (40)	Chamelecón, Cortés	Fire gun
23	28.02.2011	Celso Palma	El Progreso, Yoro	Fire gun
24	06.03.2011	Daysi Elisa Escoto López	Comayagüela, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
25	15.05.2011	Oscar Cruz Colindres, Judge of Vehicular Traffic	San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Asphyxiation by strangulation
26	22.05.2011	Milton Geovany González Hernández	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
27	27.05.2011	Raúl Enrique Reyes, Lawyer and Public Prosecutor	Choloma, Cortés	Fire gun
28	06.06.2011	María Lastenia Cruz (57)	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
29	03.08.2011	Juan Carlos García Mariano, (41), INFOP employee in San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Choloma, Cortés	Fire gun
30	08.08.2011	Denny Esperanza López Arteaga	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
31	15.08.2011	Dora Escalante	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
32	27.08.2011	José Efraín A. Cárcamo	Tegucigalpa, F.M.	Fire gun

33	02.10.2011	José Enrique Pagoaga Mejía (47), Judge in Criminal Matter in Trujillo, Colón	La Ceiba, Atlántida	Fire gun
34	05.10.2011	Pastor Enrique Guzman	San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
35	08.10.2011	Ana Melida Hernández	Santa María del Real, Olancho	Fire gun
36	28.10.2011	Máximo Javier Janser Saravia	Col. Montefresco, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
37	28.11.2011	Alfredo Geovani Moradel Ramos (40)	Juticalpa, Olancho	Fire gun
38	07.11.2011	Judith Juventina Alemán Banegas	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
39	21.11.2011	Benigno Alberto Cerrato Avilés	Comayagüela, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
40	22.11.2011	José Isidro García	Col. San Miguel, Tegucigalpa, F.M.	Fire gun
<b>2012</b>				
41	17.01.2012	Ricardo Rosales	Tela, Atlántida	Fire gun
42	23.03.2012	Marco Antonio Cruz Banegas	Siguatopeque, Comayagua	Fire gun
43	02.04.2012	Ramón Benjamín Flores	San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
44	27.04.2012	Juan Fernando Erazo Mejía	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
45	04.06.2012	Héctor Javier Padilla Velásquez	El Progreso, Yoro	Fire gun
46	12.07.2012	Hernán Aplicano Medina	Tegucigalpa, F.M.	Fire gun
47	26.08.2012	Ernesto Velásquez Martínez, Judge of the Municipal Police of El Progreso, Yoro	San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
48	28.08.2012	Julio César Cassaleno, Spokesman of the National Vehicular Traffic Direction	Comayagüela, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
49	22.09.2012	Antonio Trejo Cabrera, Attorney of Movimiento Amplio Reinvidicador del Aguán (MARCA), a peasants organization at El Aguán, Colón	Tegucigalpa, F.M	Fire gun
50	24.09.2012	Eduardo Manuel Díaz Mazariegos, Public Prosecutor in the Department of Choluteca	Choluteca, Choluteca	Fire gun
51	03.11.2012	Edgardo Adalid Motiño, Candidate to the Municipality of Morazán, Yoro	Morazán, Yoro	Fire gun
52	09.11.2012	Marlon Saúl Cerrato Gómez, Criminal Law Specialist Lawyer and Karate Instructor	Comayagüela, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
53	14.11.2012	Mario Francisco Pérez, former Judge	Tocoa, Colón	Asphyxiation
54	22.12.2012	José Ramón Lagos Lobo, President of the CAH Chapter in El Progreso, Yoro	El Progreso, Yoro	Fire gun
55	25.12.2012	Juan Antonio Romero Rodríguez, Attorney of a trucking company	San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun

2013				
56	03.01.2013	Oscar Mauricio Benavides, Labour Law Specialist Lawyer	Col. Los Laureles, Comayagüela, F.M.	Fire gun
57	16.02.2013	Otto René Sorto Morales, Alderman of the Municipality of El Progreso, Yoro, representing the Liberal Party	Road from Puerto Cortés to Corinto (near to Guatemala borderline), at the village of San Martín, Cortés	Fire gun
58	21.02.2013	José Andrés Andrade Soto, Member of a private law firm	Barrio La Esperanza, Tocoa, Colón	Fire gun
59	24.02.2013	Héctor David Quezada, Civil Law Specialist Lawyer	San Pedro Sula, Cortés	White arms
60	23.03.2013	Saíd Alfredo Castrillo Valenzuela, Legal Advisor	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
61	03.04.2013	Robinson Fernando Espinal Ponce, Law student	San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
62	18.04.2013	Orlan Arturo Chávez, Coordinator of the Unit against money laundering in the General Attorney Office	Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
63	14.05.2013	Luis Alfredo Mejía Oyuela, Coordinator of Training Centre of the Honduras' Lawyers Bar (CAH)	Between Col. La Era and Residencial Maya, Tegucigalpa, F.M.	Fire gun
64	16.05.2013	Francisco Erick Rodríguez, Labour Law Specialist Lawyer	Col. El Sitio, Tegucigalpa, F.M.	White arms (knife)
65	09.06.2013	José Manuel Chinchilla	Nearby the village of Marañones, Trujillo, Colón	Fire gun
66	13.06.2013	Walter Díaz, Legal Advisor and Candidate to Major of the city of Trujillo, Colón (Anti- Corruption Party)	Tocoa, Colón	Fire gun
67	24.07.2013	Mireya Mendoza Peña, Judge of the Tribunal of Judgments of El Progreso, Yoro	El Progreso, Yoro	Fire gun
68	07.08.2013	José Angel Pérez Aguilar	Barrio El Centro, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
69	15.08.2013	Pedro Adonay Romero, private litigant	Residencial Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
70	17.09.2013	Dinia Mercedes Acosta, Criminal Law Specialist Lawyer and member of a private law firm	20th. St., 9 <sup>th</sup> . Ave., Barrio Las Palmas, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
71	29.09.2013	Amhed Francisco Zelaya, former Judge on Criminal Matter of San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Col. Los Castaños, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
72	21.10.2013	Víctor José Carias	Barrio La Granja, Comayagüela, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
73	03.12.2013	José Armando Martínez Motiño, Criminal Law Specialist Lawyer	Hato de Enmedio, Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán	Fire gun
74	08.12.2013	José Enrique Reyes Coto,		Fire gun



		Former Candidate to Alderman of the Municipality of Choloma, Cortés, representing the Libre Party		
75	11.12.2013	Luis Alonso Chicas Ramos, Lawyer and Owner of a restaurant in San Pedro Sula, Cortés	8th. St. "B", between 15th. and 16th. Ave., Colonia Las Vegas, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Asphyxiation
76	14.12.2013	Juan Carlos Moreno, Former Judge on Childhood Matter, Former Judge on Civil Matter of Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán	Barrio Santa Teresa, Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán	Fire gun
<b>2014</b>				
77	17.01.2014	Oswaldo Alfredo Lujan (54)	Tela, Atlántida	Fire gun
78	14.03.2014	Lenin Castañeda, Judge of Peace of Iriona, Colón	Barrio Las Flores, Tocoa, Colón	Fire gun
79	14.03.2014	José Nicolás Bernárdez	10th. St., 11th. and 12th. Ave., Barrio Cabañas, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
80	25.05.2014	Rosalío Morales Carrillo	La Pirámide, Comayagua	Fire gun
81	27.07.2014	Juan Eliseo Osorio Aguiriano (62)	Col. La Meseta, Sector López Arellano, Choloma, Cortés	Fire gun
82	16.09.2014	1. Dilmer Reyes Torres, lawyer 2. Elvis Talmiro Reyes Torres (38), Dilmer's brother	Nearby the Río Blanco Bridge, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
83	18.09.2014	Rafael Alberto Paredes (78)	Colonia Prado Alto, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
84	10.10.2014	Marlene Banegas, Coordinator of the Public Prosecutor for Crimes against Life and the Unit of Kills and Social Impact	Colonia Prado Alto, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
85	10.10.2014	Olga Patricia Aufragio, Public Prosecutor of Environmental protection	Colonia Prado Alto, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
86	23.10.2014	Iris Argueta, Public Defender and Former Judge of Peace at Catacamas, Olancho	Parque Central, Catacamas, Olancho	Fire gun
87	11.11.2014	Edwin Geovanny Eguigure Abdul, Former Public Prosecutor	El Chimbo, Road between Tegucigalpa and Santa Lucía, F.M.	White arms and fire gun
<b>2015</b>				
88	14.03.2015	Elvin Roberto Reyes (45), Criminal Law Specialist Lawyer	Barrio Guamilito, San Pedro Sula, Cortés	Fire gun
89	22.03.2015	Sara Lorena Turcios (64), retired, former employee of the Municipality of Tegucigalpa	Col. Godoy, Comayagüela, F.M.	White arm

Source: CONADEH