

# Honduras

Honduras is a Member State of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: Inter-American System



As a Member of the OAS, Honduras is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide [complaints](#) against the State and may also hold [hearings](#) or issue [reports](#) on the human rights situation there. Honduras has accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which may issue binding [judgments](#) concerning alleged abuses.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Honduras to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, the Commission confirmed that by not investigating and prosecuting the murders of two men, Honduras violated its duty to respect their rights to life, fair trial, and judicial protection. See IACHR, Report No. 13/94, Case 10.437, [Miguel Angel Pavón Salazar and Moisés Landaverde Recarte](#) (Honduras), February 2, 1994. Among other issues, the Court has addressed the State's responsibility to prevent, investigate, and punish killings of environmental and human rights defenders. See, e.g., I/A Court H.R., [Kawas Fernández v. Honduras](#). Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of April 3, 2009. Series C No. 196.

Additionally, the Commission and Court have issued [precautionary measures](#) and [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Honduras.

Honduras has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ("Protocol of San Salvador")
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women ("Convention of Belem do Pará")

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Honduras is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Honduras' policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of three treaty bodies.

Honduras has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

Honduras has ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Honduras has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Honduras has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Honduras has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Honduras has also ratified [optional protocols](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, ICESCR, and CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Honduras has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CED, and CRPD.

On May 12, 2010, Honduras extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they are welcome to conduct visits in Honduras. For example, the Working Group of experts on the use of mercenaries went on a mission to Honduras in February 2013 and published a [report](#) in August 2013.

For more information on Honduras' engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/HNIndex.aspx>.

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