

Urgent Action: Defend Democracy in Latin America

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." (Edmund Burke)

In the early morning hours of June 28th, the Honduran military captured the democratically-elected President Manuel Zelaya in his pajamas, and whisked him out of the country. ([see end for the latest updates on the situation](#))

This overthrow of the democratically elected president spurred a *nearly* unanimous and unequivocal condemnation on the part of the international community including the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organization of American States - [which threw Honduras out of the OAS](#).

In contrast, the US government has responded slowly with mixed messages and little concrete action. While the plane [made a stop at Soto Cano](#), a Honduran military base with at least 500 US troops, the [US military denied any knowledge of or role in](#) his ouster.

[President Obama stated](#) that Mr. Zelaya was democratically elected, that his illegal removal [sets a terrible precedent](#), and that he should be reinstated. However when questioned by the media, Secretary of State Clinton offered "no comment" on Zelaya's reinstatement. Additionally the State Department told the US Senate that President Zelaya was responsible for his own ouster and has [refused to officially classify it as a military coup](#) (thus legally requiring the cut off of all aid). Some members of Congress have even proposed a resolution to accept the military putsch as a legitimate means of transferring democratic power. [The coup government has a lot of support from Washington](#).

Since the coup, peaceful protesters and supporters of president Zelaya have experienced the most [brutal repression](#) and violation of human rights in over 20 years by a [military force trained and supported by the US](#). Amnesty International [reports](#) that "mass arbitrary arrests and ill treatment of protesters" remains a "serious and growing concern."

Meanwhile the [story has been virtually buried](#) by the mainstream US media who selectively focused on the contested elections in Iran and Afghanistan while ignoring the threat to democracy on their doorstep. What little coverage exists has been [laden with misinformation](#) while widespread human rights violations have gone largely unreported. Within Honduras the military occupation has included the shutdown of most independent media outlets and arrests of reporters who attempt to cover what is happening. Radio and TV stations supporting Zelaya have been bombed off the air. Peaceful nonviolent protests have been met with live gunfire.

What ultimately sparked Zelaya's expulsion was his attempt to conduct a non-binding democratic opinion poll asking whether the November Presidential elections should include a referendum on changing the constitution. If approved, the long process of drafting a new constitution would go on long after he left office - belying the oft repeated misinformation that he was attempting to get re-elected unconstitutionally.

The de facto regime in Honduras has remained defiant in the face of massive pressure from within and outside the country. Attempts to broker a negotiated solution have been rejected time and again as they slow-pedal negotiations to reinstate democratic order and [run out the clock](#) on the rest of President Zelaya's term. The latest attempt by Secretaries of State from throughout the hemisphere to move towards reconciliation was met by the declaration "We have no fear of an embargo by anyone. We can go on without your support."

The question is what is emboldening them to hold on to power? The Honduran National Front Against the Coup D'état asserts that due to Honduras' enormous economic dependence on the US, a solution to the crisis could be reached if the United States Government were to reject the coup d'état with the threat of [concrete actions](#) - such as a cut off in diplomatic relations and all non-humanitarian aid and trade. Some analysts contend that the US is merely avoiding action that [could be seen as interventionism](#)." But given its heavy involvement in Honduras already, US *unilateral inaction* is the biggest obstacle of all to a restoration of the country's democratic order.

Indeed, [Witness for Peace](#) has declared that the U.S. response to the coup is a litmus test and is a "matter of supporting or rejecting a flagrant usurpation of Hondurans' right to exercise their democratic will." What is at stake is not just democracy in Honduras, but the danger that the success of the coup would be ["a signal to would-be coup plotters](#) throughout the region [that military ousters are once again a viable means](#) of attaining power."

The future of democracy in Latin America is at stake: do we continue on the road to democratic norms and the rule of law, or are we to head back down a dark path where power is seized and held through violent means.

"If Honduras does not reverse this coup, every president is going have to watch his back because they too could be ousted every time the economic elite and military feel like it," Zelaya

We can help: To demonstrate your solidarity with the Honduran people and urge the US government to take clear, concrete action to condemn what has happened:

1.) Call the State Department at 202-647-5171 or 1-800-877-8339 and ask for Secretary Clinton. Deliver the following message: " Work for the unconditional immediate reinstatement of President Zelaya. Pressure the Honduran military to stop the violence against the people. Do not recognize the presidential elections as legitimate without the return of President Zelaya to serve what remains of his term and without recognition of the new reality of a vast social movement of Hondurans demanding a real voice in the future of their country. "

2.) Call the White House at 202-456-1111 and repeat the same message " Work for the unconditional immediate reinstatement of President Zelaya. Pressure the Honduran military to stop the violence against the people. Do not recognize the presidential elections as legitimate without the return of President Zelaya to serve what remains of his term and without recognition of the new reality of a vast social movement of Hondurans demanding a real voice in the future of their country. "

For further actions, visit the following websites:

[Contact your representative](#) . . . [Expose the truth](#) . . . [Bear witness](#) . . . [Stay informed](#) . . . [Take Action](#)

Download the latest version of this document with updates at http://lutheran_peace.tripod.com/honduras_coup.pdf

Websites on the coup in Honduras in English:

[America Latina en Movimiento - English](#) - Latin American Information Agency

[Honduras Coup 2009 Blog](#)

[Americas Mexico Blog](#)

[Emergency Committee Against the Coup in Honduras](#)

[Honduras Coup Exposed](#)

[Honduran coup - The Real News video coverage](#)

[Honduras Resists Blog](#)

[Video: 100 Days of Resistance](#)

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/honduras-coup/>

[Coup in Honduras - LANIC Newsroom](#)

The latest news on the coup in Honduras:

[Zelaya crisis puts Honduras under pressure](#)

[What's in Store for Ousted Honduran President?](#)

[EU urges all sides in Honduras to seek dialogue](#)

[Leaders back ousted Honduran president](#)

[Zelaya wants aid reclaiming Honduran presidency](#)

[Reject vote in Honduras, Zelaya urges](#)

[Ibero-American countries demand Zelaya's restitution to Honduran presidency](#)

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[Video: Honduras: Elections as coup laundering](#)

[LatAm leaders: Return ousted Honduran president](#)

[On recognition and Brazil](#)

[Elections in Honduras: Whitewashing the Path to a Past of Horrors](#)

[International voices against coup elections](#)
[Latin America rejects elections in Honduras under dictatorial regime](#)
[Elections not observed by mainstream bodies - Amnesty reports abuse.](#)
[National Resistance Front: Elections were a farce, new regime will not be recognized, struggle for constitutional assembly continues](#)
[Indigenous leader: "The electoral farce is a failure. The oligarchy will never be able to hold back the deep desire for justice."](#)
[U.S. has bungled Honduran crisis](#)
[Latin American summit to end amid bickering over Honduras](#)
[Brazil Refuses to Recognize Honduran Election](#)
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[Zelaya claims fraud in Honduras election, but some nations recognize Lobo's win](#)
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[Conservative Appears to Have Won in Honduras](#)
[Analysis: As conservatives win power in Honduras, coup precedent sets in](#)
[Int'l Community at Odds on Honduran General Elections](#)
[EU pleased with broadly peaceful' Honduran election](#)
[Honduran "Electoral Observers" Launch Verbal Attack on Americas Program Director](#)
[Honduran political stalemate after presidential election](#)
[New Honduran president banks on U.S. support](#)
[Elections not to solve Honduras' crisis, says U.S. ambassador](#)
[OAS: open to dialogue with Honduran opposition leader Lobo](#)
[International reaction mixed after election in Honduras](#)
[Please Brief Valenzuela](#)

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[Region Finds U.S. Lacking on Honduras](#)
[Honduras: US backs fraudulent vote](#)
[Honduras' upcoming vote a boon to de facto rulers](#)

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[Honduras to Have "Free and Fair" Elections with Disrespect for Human Rights](#)
[Pre-election update](#)
[Ecuador: EU must boycott Honduras poll](#)
[Center for Democracy in the Americas \(CDA\) to U.S. Policymakers: Don't Ratify Honduras Elections as 'Free and Fair'](#)
[Honduras warning for Latin America](#)
[Amnesty fears crackdown around Honduras polls](#)
[Legitimacy of Honduran vote questioned](#)
[Costa Rica: Honduras vote must be backed if fair](#)
[US sees Honduran elections as "critical step" to restore legitimacy](#)
[Honduran frontrunner aims for Brazil recognition](#)
[Hondurans in Washington D.C. to Protest Controversial Elections in Honduras](#)
[Leading voices in Britain call for non-recognition of Honduras coup elections.](#)
[Brazil not to recognize new Honduran gov't: FM](#)
[Despite US's Stand Brazil Warns It Won't Recognize Honduras' New President](#)
[Brazil and the US confirm differences over Honduras Sunday elections](#)
[Brazilian FM, Clinton Discuss Honduran Crisis](#)

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[Huffington Post: No Fair Election In Honduras Under Military Occupation](#)
[Day 159 of Resistance: Despite state terror, resistance continues](#)
[Honduran Supreme Court, TV station hit by blasts](#)
[Zelaya: USA Backs Honduran Putschists](#)
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[Post-coup vote likely to push Honduras to center](#)
[PREVIEW: Disputed elections in Honduras might not end crisis](#)

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[U.S. Policy on Honduras Puts Latin Ties at Risk, Brazilian Says](#)
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[INTERVIEW-US risks isolation over Honduras election-Brazil](#)
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['The coup won': In Honduras, US-backed elections sideline president whisked away by soldiers](#)
[The Honduran Coup: A Graphic History](#)
[Government Admits Blocking Channel 36](#)

[Zelaya warns US support for Honduras election divisive](#)

[Zelaya attacks US Honduras stance](#)

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[Ousted Honduran President Urges Int'l Community Not to Recognize Elections](#)

[INTERVIEW - Honduras de facto leader confident U.S. will back vote](#)

[Honduras crisis ending with a whimper](#)

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[Militarized Elections](#)

[A Week Before "Elections" in Honduras, Candidate Resignations, More Censorship and Repression](#)

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[Honduran coup leader a two-time SOA graduate](#)

[SouthCom: Washington Develops its Operations in Soto Cano Airbase in Honduras](#)

[Right is expected to regain power in Honduras](#)

[Armed Forces preparing massive repression for election day](#)

[De Facto Government Preparing Repression in Run-up to Elections](#)

[U.S. Group That Supported Overthrows of Democratically Elected Governments in Haiti and Venezuela Will Observe Elections in Honduras](#)

[Elections: reject, accept, or other?](#)

[Ousted Honduran leader says US weakened anti-coup effort](#)

[Honduran President Zelaya Earns High Marks for Governance, U.S. Agency Scorecard Shows](#)

[SCENARIOS - Road ahead for deposed Honduran President Zelaya](#)

[Commentary: DeMint's views on Honduras prevail](#)

[Honduran Elections Come at Critical Point in Political Standoff](#)

[Honduras back to business as usual after coup](#)

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[U.S. should reject tainted coming election in Honduras](#)

[Guatemala will not recognize elections; El Heraldo complains](#)

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[Honduran Dictatorship is a Threat to Democracy in the Hemisphere](#)

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[Channel 36 Off Air Again](#)

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[Ousted Honduran president Zelaya calls on his supporters to impugn elections](#)

[Zelaya to legally contest Honduras elections – AFP](#)

[Micheletti Will Temporarily Step Aside?](#)

[Honduras de facto leader may step aside](#)

[Interim Leader in Honduras Says He'll Briefly Step Down](#)

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[Zelaya says Honduran Congress has no intention to reinstate him](#)

[In Meeting with Kirchner Lula Demands Prompt Restoration of Zelaya in Honduras](#)

[Brazilian, Argentine presidents not to recognize elections in Honduras](#)

[U.S. affirms support to elections in Honduras](#)

[US backs Honduras polls despite Zelaya rejection](#)

[Zelaya accuses U.S. of inaction on Honduras coup](#)

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[Brazil and Argentina will not recognize elections](#)

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[AFL-CIO Letter to Clinton Opposing Honduran Elections](#)

[Spain Will Not Recognize Elections](#)

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[Decision to Restore Ousted Honduran Leader Is Delayed Until After Vote](#)

[Ousted Honduran president's restitution to be decided after elections](#)

[Russell Athletic shifts course on Honduran workers after pressure from anti-sweatshop groups](#)

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[Priest, Friend of Zelaya, Leaves Brazil Embassy in Honduras. Only 16 Left Now](#)

[Zelaya claims US and Micheletti are involved in laundering the coup](#)

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[US "Response" to Zelaya letter](#)

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[Ousted Honduran president rejects upcoming election](#)

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["My Vote for No One"](#)

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[President Zelaya to President Obama: Walk the Talk](#)

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[Honduras revokes emergency decree during visit by Ros-Lehtinen, Diaz-Balarts](#)

[Honduras shows Latin America's 'strongman' is Jim DeMint](#)

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[Britain 'must get behind Zelaya'](#)

[National Front of Resistance Against the Coup: The elections will not be recognized, the struggle continues](#)

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[U.S. State Department Sells Out Honduran Democracy for Senate Confirmations](#)

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["You don't punish the next guy"... I beg to differ.](#)

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[Honduran Congress awaits court opinion on Zelaya...](#)
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[Zelaya says Honduras crisis deal has failed](#)
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[Honduras pact stalls over unity government](#)
[Zelaya: U.S.-brokered Honduras pact is 'dead'](#)

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[Honduran agreement has failed: Zelaya aide](#)
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