

Climate Change and Militarization in Central America



Flooding in Zamorano, El Salvador. Photo Credit: Voices from El Salvador.

Tropical Storm 12-E [poured 55 inches of rain on El Salvador](#) just two months ago. Since then, high-ranking government officials have joined communities in the Lower Lempa region in speaking out against climate change.

El Salvador's Minister of the Environment, Herman Rosa Chávez, [spoke at the Durban Climate Change Conference](#) this month. Chávez highlighted the effects of climate change on Central America: "El Salvador is one place on earth that is already suffering from climate change."

In other news, [The Independent offers a detailed critique](#) of militarization in Central America as the U.S. advances a regional security strategy. The System for Central American Integration (SICA) launched the Central American Regional Security Strategy in November, an initiative strongly promoted by the US State Department and the IDB.

The stated objective of the program is to combat the extreme levels of violence in Central America. The initiative calls for the creation of new police forces in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Many fear that police reform is just one more battle in a series of ineffectual reform initiatives that does not address the underlying problems and political decisions that generate impunity.