

Human Rights & Security Deteriorate in Honduras



Journalists in Tegucigalpa hold a coffin as they protest against the murder of colleagues on December 13, 2011. Photo credit: ORLANDO SIERRA/AFP/Getty Images

Honduras now has the highest homicide rate in the world — 82.1 murders per 100,000 residents. [A recent article](#) in *The Miami Herald* documents the widespread police corruption that is plunging the nation deeper into a human rights and security disaster.

In recent months in Honduras, [evidence has turned up](#) of police units involved in murder-for-hire plots, drug trafficking, extortion, auto theft and kidnapping.

“It never occurred to me when I took over this ministry that inside police stations there were people committing crimes and acting against human life,” said Security Minister Pompeyo Bonilla, named recently to lead a sweep of law enforcement. “We have a serious problem.”

Indeed, Honduras has become the most violent country in the world with a police force that is too ineffective to stop crime and too corrupt to reform and improve itself. Deep-rooted police corruption is just one reason for the deterioration of public security that’s shredding the social fabric of Honduras. Increasing criminality, drug cartels, and high unemployment are also major concerns.