

Peace Corps scales back in Central America amid violence



A Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras in 2011. Photo Credit: Peace Corps

and Guatemala have some of the [highest homicide rates in the world](#): 82, 66, and 49 per 100,000 populations, respectively, compared to a global average of 6.9 per 100,000 according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Extreme levels of violence in Central America have led the Peace Corps to pull out of Honduras and stop sending new volunteers to Guatemala and El Salvador, [the organization announced last week](#). The U.S. program currently has 158 volunteers serving in Honduras. They are all scheduled to return home early this year on administrative leave.

Over 5,750 Americans have served in Honduras since 1962. Volunteers work in the areas of small business development, agriculture, water and sanitation, youth development, and HIV/AIDS education.

The Peace Corps is [cutting operations in Central America](#) due to security concerns in a region beset by violence linked to the lucrative drug trade. Honduras, El Salvador