

SIF attends conference in Honduras on combating violence



U.S. Ambassador Lisa Kubiske speaks at the summit on "Building Safe Communities" in Honduras. Photo credit: *La Prensa*

[Prensa](#) to share best practices on combating crime and violence and [constructing safer communities](#). This [learning exchange](#) brought together a variety of sectors including government, private sector, and NGO communities from U.S. and Central America to explore: the societal effects and impacts of direct and indirect exposure of narco-related violence on youth and families in the US and Central America; the most pressing transnational issues and the development of interdisciplinary strategies and solutions to strengthen institutions and communities in addressing civil insecurity; and partnerships and the prioritization of distribution of resources towards practical and workable solutions that will yield significant impact.

The event was [covered by the local press](#), highlighting relations between the US and Honduras and this joint effort to effectively address the high levels of violence.

Various panelists and speakers came from the US cities including Chicago, Boston and Los Angeles, to discuss their experience with combating gang violence in the US. These panelists touched on topics such as: how to involve youth in program design, [different methods](#) around working in cities divided by gangs, and exploring programs that encourage constructive dialogue between youth gang members and police.

Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras, highlighted the importance of willing communities, as well as the integration of education and employment into violence prevention strategies. "The key point is that we want to help the communities that want to break the cycle of violence through education and employment," said Ambassador Kubiske. "It is clear that the key to success for each of these efforts is the active participate of each of these communities because they have the most to lose or gain. The U.S. and Honduran governments are working together to utilize CARSII funds to prevent the illegal entry of drugs by providing local authorities with the necessary skills to develop the capacity to investigate and prosecute crimes, and put in to practice a crime prevention strategy; all in an integrated manner."

Closing remarks were given by [Enrique Roig](#), Coordinator for the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSII) under USAID. "We are not alone in this fight," said Roig. "The good outnumber the bad. And all of us here are the future. With all the things we heard about during these few days, we can continue to work as agents of change."

The World Bank recently presented some [alarming statistics](#) about the economic toll that crime takes on the Honduran economy. Honduras' record level of violent crime is costing the Central American country 10 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) every year.

Honduras is now among the most dangerous places on Earth, with a homicide rate of 86 per 100,000 inhabitants a year, according to a 2011 United Nations Report. And it is worse in San Pedro Sula, [often cited as Honduras' most violent city](#), with a murder rate almost double the national average.

SIF Program Officer Michele Frix recently attended a conference hosted by [USAID](#), the [US Embassy of Honduras](#), the [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#), the [World Bank](#) and [La](#)

SIF is pleased to announce new grants to three Honduran NGOs working to prevent violence, as well as empower marginalized populations, such as women and youth, to engage in dialogue with local and national government around the main issues and policies affecting their communities. [To view the official press release, click here.](#)

\$45,000 was awarded to [Organismo Cristiano de Desarrollo Integral de Honduras \(OCDIH\)](#) to support OCDIH's work around the socio-economic and political empowerment of women leaders in Western Honduras.

\$25,000 was awarded to [Organization for Youth Empowerment \(OYE\)](#) to support OYE's work around promoting education, youth leadership and youth community action in El Progreso, Honduras.

\$25,000 was awarded to [Organización Fraternal Negra Hondurena \(OFRANEH\)](#) to train 500 indigenous, Garifuna women across ten communities in northern Honduras, with a focus on personal leadership and increasing access to government resources for critical issues in these communities.