



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

lutheranworld.org

Office of the General Secretary

Statement on Central America

On 18 June 2013 the LWF Council adopted the following Public Statement

The Council of The Lutheran World Federation expresses its deep concern about the continuing situation of violence and violations of human rights in Central America, especially in Honduras and Guatemala. These are countries with exceptional social insecurity—the homicide rate in Honduras is the highest in the world, and Guatemala is in the top ten. These crimes are mainly associated with gangs and organized crime, but they affect all people, especially those who are the poor and weak.

We believe it is urgent to seek peace, and that it is our duty as churches to be supportive of the peace initiatives that are being attempted in response to the cries of the people of Guatemala and Honduras. They ask for our prayers and expressions of love and solidarity.

The LWF Council:

Calls for concrete actions to help bring calm to the region--actions to address the continuing situation of violations of human rights and the high levels of violence. In particular, the Council:

- a) Repeats the LWF's appeal for the establishment of a Honduras Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), to complement the OHCHR's existing Guatemala Office, and urges both these offices to redouble the UN's efforts to overcome the current impunity of those who commit murders and who attack human rights defenders.
- b) Gives thanks for the peace processes that have started in Honduras and El Salvador between the gangs and the government authorities, with the important participation of the churches and civil society. We call upon the international community to redouble efforts in support of these processes, with an aim to consolidate a lasting peace for the benefit of all citizens.
- c) Welcomes the upcoming visit of the LWF General Secretary to the Central American region in October, with the hope that he can make the respective governments aware of the concerns of the Communion about the violations of human rights and urge them to take immediate action to manage an end to the violence.



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- d) On behalf of the Communion, we extend our prayers and solidarity with the churches and people of Central America. May they be encouraged in their continuing struggle for peace and for the defence of the human rights of the weak and the most vulnerable in society.

18 June 2013
Geneva, Switzerland