



Statement by the Coordinator of Private Institutions Pro girls, children, adolescents, young people and their rights (COIPRODEN). Council of Human Rights

UPR Pre-session, Geneva, April 9th 2015.

1. COIPRODEN, composed by 27 grassroots organizations and member of the UPR-Honduras Platform, consist of more than 50 organizations, spaces and networks that address the diversity of issues of human rights, STATES:
2. That for the process of construction of the UPR Report, Coipoden generated query spaces in six cities around the country, which included strategic players in the childhood and youth sector, the participation of children and youth networks, in addition to the 27 member organizations at the national level.
3. This statement refers to the following problems: (1) Fighting poverty and all forms of vulnerability for children, (2) Violence in general and in particular the murderer against children, (3) National System of Comprehensive Protection for children.
4. **Statement 1: Fighting poverty and all forms of childhood vulnerability.** Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Poverty is a phenomenon that has generated unacceptable levels of vulnerability among many sectors of the population and which caused concern spaces like this one, which promptly made recommendations on the first examination; promptly referred to the Human Trafficking (**Ecuador**), child labor (**Uruguay and Azerbaijan**) on the internment for violations (Mexico), the unaccompanied child migration (**Uruguay**), the mass deportation of minors (**Mexico**), for which there was significant progress in its formal approach, including the adoption of national and international legal standards harmonization with international human rights legal instruments; Likewise, administrative structures for implementation, made up of government officials and representatives of civil society related spaces, which ultimately resulted in useless or dysfunctional efforts due to the lack of government commitment to dynamize them, or the rickety allocation of financial resources required for the operation.
5. Under the recommendations, the State was asked by civil society, through the previous government and especially the current one, to deepen via unequivocal actions that facilitate the compliance with the obligations assumed, finding in current authorities, negative and authoritarian attitudes in the vision of human rights, and especially to the necessary coordination with organizations civil society as valid and legitimate actor to jointly promote actions aimed at improving the living conditions of children in Honduras. This was reflected in the autocratic way of suppressing the Honduran Institute for Children and Family "IHNFA", leading to the creation of the Directorate of Children and Family DINAF, which was reduced in its institutional status and reducing its budget by 70%, which generates concern in the sector, having uncertain resources to give attention to children and adolescents who are in the custody of the state.

QUESTIONS:

- Why the current government has not expressed willingness to coordinate strategically with civil society organizations, processes joint to implement their human rights obligations?
- Will the State allocate sufficient financial, technical and logistical resources in order to allow DINAFA to fulfill its obligations for the country's children?

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Implement specific, measurable and effective action through programs and anti-poverty projects that reduce migration and child labor, educational exclusion and all other forms of childhood vulnerability.
- The State should ensure real consensus processes with civil society actors involved in childhood, to promote a comprehensive approach to protection.
- Defines processes of coordination between state institutions and the childhood organizations to implement actions around building a National System of Integral Protection of children.

6. **Statement 2: General violence, especially against children.** Honduras is ranked as one of the world's most violent countries. According to the government in 2014, there was a homicide rate of 66.5 and according to the University Institute in Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS) through the National Observatory of Violence 68 per hundred thousand inhabitants, four times more than the Latin American average and ten times more than the world average. Also the IUDPAS revealed that 55% of violent deaths in the country are for young people under 30 years. According to a report of the Observatory of Violent Deaths of Casa Alianza, a member of COIPRODEN in 2014 there were 21 murders of people under 23 years, more than in 2013. During the first thirteen months of government by president Juan Orlando Hernandez, there have been 1,076 violent deaths and / or arbitrary executions of children and young people under 23 years in the country. (82.76 monthly average).
7. Despite the militarization of prisons and internment of minors, the riots, killings and massacres continue to occur, with the aggravating circumstance that the State does not investigate or punish those responsible, a study of Alliance for the Peace and the Justice (APJ) the level of criminal impunity is 96%.
8. The processes of military and police clearance have not been driven in the most transparent and effective manner. Since the 2009 Coup, militarization of society and its role in public safety functions and the various state institutions increases, which makes us feel like we live in war, far from offering security and protection, the State creates frightening and anxiety in the population, additionally we are concerned about the 100,000 girls, children, adolescents and young people (violation of rights) between 5 and 23 years of age who are being trained in military barracks by the Armed Forces of Honduras through implementation of the "Guardians of the Nation" on issues of civic and educational training and that makes us wonder if and children must save the fatherland, or it should save them.
9. There is a clear lack of democratic attitude by the current authorities, in the care of social demand in general and, in particular, the demands made by public high school students, who in the exercise of their rights of association, petition and mobilization have been faced by police-military violence on the streets and in their own schools, suffering threats of being expelled and even criminal prosecution; all of these represent violations of the Constitution and other treaties and conventions on human rights.

- 10.** It is estimated that more than 15,000 children and adolescents have left the country towards USA, among other things, by the increase of poverty, unemployment, violence, drug trafficking and impunity. According to the International Detention Coalition (IDC), only "in the first five months of 2014, Mexican authorities have arrested 4,239 unaccompanied children" and since October 2013 more than 57,000 have been apprehended in the United States; according to estimates, 29% came from Honduras.

Due to the lack of effective protection by the Honduran authorities to prevent children migrating from the country alone, and at the time of his return after being deported from any country in the north, migrant children remain extremely vulnerable to criminal phenomena such as trafficking for commercial sexual or labor exploitation, trafficking in persons, to be used by organized crime, and situations of violence, insecurity, disease, among others.

- 11.** Despite the efforts of different governments in the implementation of the recommendations for children's protection, those have been frustrated by a child rights administration distant from human rights organizations, lack of focus in investment to implement public policies and consistently assume a discourse of respect for human rights. Therefore we celebrate the installation in the country of the Permanent Office of Human Rights of the United Nations as an adjunct instance monitoring, in order to oversight and enforce human rights in Honduras.

QUESTIONS:

- ¿Why has not there been any strengthening on technical, financial and logistical level to the Unit of Children's Death Investigation and the Office of the Child, to fulfill its role and confront the murderous violence against children?
- ¿Will the Honduran State maintain the Guardians of the Land project, Which is outside the Constitution, Code of childhood and adolescence, Convention and its Optional Protocol on children in armed conflict?
- ¿Will the Honduran State keep criminalizing the exercise of rights protected by the constitution of the republic and rights instruments the human and students, as well as militarizing public schools?

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- "Strengthening steadily, through financial, material and human, to the institutions responsible for the prosecution, investigation and criminal sanction, in particular the Technical Criminal Investigation Agency (ATIC), body responsible for the production and processing of forensic evidence; as well as develop specific lines of inquiry against the phenomenon of death violent children".
- Strengthening urgently with operational, administrative autonomy and Research Unit budgetary Death of Individuals Under year old.
- Refrain from involving children and adolescents in military activities, as school visits to military bases or military events at schools.

- 12. Statement 3: National System of Integral Protection of children.** There's no doubt about the institutional fragility of the State and the dispersal of its efforts to uphold the principle of "best interests of the child" through an effective protection of the rights of children. With the creation of the DINAf and if there is a change of approach to their management and political will at the highest level of the state, a real expectation for progress in structuring a real National System of Integral Protection of Children would take place, integrating all professional, technical and financial capabilities that enable the design and

implementation of programs and projects that address the prioritized emergency Childhood country and start ensuring its protection in a timely and effective manner.

- 13.** The recommendations made at the first examination, on strengthening and institutional funding (Hungary), respect for human rights (Ecuador), protection policies and access to justice, (Brazil), violent executions of minors, research and punishment (Uruguay and Japan) are still pending by the state debt.

QUESTIONS:

- Will The Honduran State continue to criminalize the exercise of the rights protected by the constitution of the republic and the instruments of human rights and students, as well as militarizing schools?
- Is there political will by the current government for the design, creation and implementation of a real system of comprehensive protection for children and adolescents in the country, besides having sufficient financial resources?

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- "Allocate adequate financial resources and the institutions responsible for implementing the protocol for repatriation of migrant children, and ensure that procedures including materials therein are fulfilled in strict adherence to the policies of Integral Protection of Children with Special emphasis on providing medical and psychological assistance."
- Give the necessary technical and financial resources to ensure the operation of the National System of Integral Protection of children in order to effectively protect the rights of children.
- To structure a space of coordination and accompaniment between related entities of the State and organizations of human rights of childhood, in order to guarantee the monitoring and follow-up to the fulfillment of the international obligations, as those of the Committee of Laws of the Child, of the Inter-American Commission of the Human rights and those of the Periodic Universal Examination, between others.
- "Designing and implementing social policies to increase the percentage of children attending school and progressively reduce dropout rates, while attending holistically at appropriate centers for children and youth living in begging because of growing structural problems such as poverty, unemployment, lack of education and inequality".
- "Continue the implementation of the obligations arising from its accession to international instruments to combat child trafficking and sexual exploitation; and in the framework of relevant national institutions, designing and implementing strategic and operational plans for interagency coordination to prevent, investigate and punish these phenomena, particularly in the areas of greater tourist and commercial activity in the country".

Finally, we thank you for listening our Declaration and we wish to encourage all of you to continue this important work in advocacy, to make sure our States include the recommendations when formulating public policies, approving budgets and strengthening the institutions responsible for the welfare of children in our countries.

Tegucigalpa, MDC, to 09 days of April, 2015