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Her Excellency Kaja Kallas
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
European External Action Service
Rond-point Robert Schuman 9A
1046 Brussels, Belgium

Subject: Urgent need for EU vigilance and action ahead of general elections in Honduras

Dear High Representative and Vice-President Kallas,

We are writing to you in our capacity as Members of the European Parliament (EP) to urge you to monitor the political situation in Honduras with the urgency it deserves.

As the country prepares for its next general elections in November 2025, we are receiving mounting and credible concerns regarding potential attempts to undermine the transparency and legitimacy of the entire electoral process. The current Government, led by President Xiomara Castro and heavily influenced by her husband and Secretary General of the official party, former President Manuel "Mel" Zelaya, appears increasingly willing to manipulate and instrumentalize public institutions already under their control to prolong its hold on power¹.

Key warning signs include significant irregularities in the primary process held in March, the politicization of the National Electoral Council (CNE), and the growing harassment of opposition figures, journalists, and civil society; as well as the intimidation of prominent elected officials including Cosette López, Head Counselor of the National Electoral Council², who has recently been subpoenaed by the Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE) -affiliated Attorney General on unfounded accusations of offences as grave as "treason, malfeasance, abuse of authority, and violation of official duties."

¹ <https://www.hondudiario.com/2025/07/31/oposicion-acusa-a-libre-de-querer-elecciones-en-honduras-al-estilo-venezuela/>

² <https://aztecahonduras.com/cossette-lopez-denuncia-ambiente-intimidacion-cn-alerta-ataque-proceso-electoral/>

With this, the ruling party—following the Chavista playbook—is potentially seeking to corner Cosette López so that she steps down from the CNE, allowing them to fully seize control of it. The CNE is currently the sole public institution that can assure balanced, free and transparent elections.

As stated by the EP in many different resolutions during the last years, the world has already witnessed similar antidemocratic schemes in countries such as Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba, where democracy has been obliterated and authoritarianism has taken rule. The tandem Castro-Zelaya seems to be following instructions on how to destroy Republics: ideas clearly conceived within criminal organizations such as the São Paulo Forum and the Puebla Group.

These developments, taken together with more that will surely come, raise the real possibility of an orchestrated electoral fraud—one that is already on rails and could further erode freedom and democracy in Central America³.

During the period 2021-2024, the European Union (EU) allocated more than 290 million euros through several different financial instruments, such as the NDICI-Global Europe, the Global Gateway, the PRRAC reconstruction programme, and humanitarian aid through the DG ECHO⁴⁵⁶.

Moreover, according to the Honduran Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (and nephew of Honduran President Xiomara Castro de Zelaya), Gerardo Torres Zelaya, who met with MEP Gabriel Mato in mid-July, the EU has allocated more than 168 million euros plus an additional 59 million euros in non-reimbursement funds to Honduras executable through 2027⁷.

The EU is allocating hundreds of millions of euros while there is no guarantee that the Honduran Government will abide to the democratic principles that partner nations share with the EU or a minimum of Articles enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Not a single euro from the European taxpayers should be funding regimes that are contrary to freedom and fundamental rights, as is unfortunately happening right now in Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua, a situation that deserves our strongest condemnation.

At this critical moment, it is imperative for the EU to send a clear and firm message: the European nations and leaders are watching closely, and we will not remain indifferent to violations of democracy and rule of law, as well as basic electoral guarantees in our partner regions.

European engagement, whether through electoral observation, public statements, diplomatic initiatives and funds, should play a decisive role in preventing authoritarian drift. Unfortunately, in this case, the EU is subject to be utilized as part of a Castro-Zelaya-led scheme to legitimize potentially fraudulent results come the November elections.

Madame High Representative,

³ Sharon Ardon, *Riesgo de fraude*, EXPEDIENTE PUBLICO (July 25, 2025).

⁴ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/honduras_en?

⁵ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/honduras/european-union-celebrates-europe-day-highlighting-shared-values-and-cooperation-honduras_en?

⁶ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/mip-2021-c2021-9102-honduras-annex_en.pdf

⁷ <https://x.com/gtorreszelaya1/status/1945188486975287441>

Iberoamerica is entering a pivotal electoral phase. Seven countries will head to the polls between 2025 and 2026. The EU must ensure that any form of participation in any of the phases of these processes respect the European principles and values and serves to ultimately guarantee the integrity of the will of the people at the ballot boxes.

Thus, we respectfully, and with great concern, urge you to, firstly, propose that the Council of the EU adopt targeted sanctions, under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, against all those Government officials, or affiliated actors, that are currently involved in attacking the independence of the CNE and any other Honduran institution, threatening clean and fair general elections in the country.

Secondly, we urge to immediately suspend any European approved funding to Honduras for the coming years, given the coordinated attack against its democracy and rule of law, led by the Castro-Zelaya tandem to remain in power at any cost.

Finally, we respectfully, urge you to ensure the EU closely monitors the situation in Honduras with the seriousness and urgency it deserves and that, if necessary, it decisively uses all its political and diplomatic force to address this potential electoral fraud before it is consumed, in order to ultimately avoid another Ibero-american nation falling victim to authoritarianism.

With sincere regards,

Jorge Martín Frías
Hermann Tertsch
Members of the European Parliament, Patriots for Europe

Co-signed by:

- Paolo Borchia.
- Susanna Ceccardi.
- Carlo Fidanza.
- Enikő Győri.
- Nora Junco.
- Sebastian Kruis.
- Marcin Sypniewski.
- Antonio Tânger Corrêa.
- Roberto Vannacci.