

Presidency of the Republic of Honduras

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPEECH TO THE NATION BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT OF HONDURAS ROBERTO MICHELETTI

Good Evening. Today, the Honduran people are once again a protagonist in the international political stage.

As a temporary guest of the Brazilian embassy, former President Manuel Zelaya has returned to Honduras in an irregular way.

Despite that, our country remains calm. Law and order prevail; and there are no reports of riots or violence. And Honduras shall stay like that.

I call on all my fellow citizens to stay calm. Mr. Zelaya's presence in the country does not change our reality.

Last June 28, former President Zelaya was legally removed from his post, by decision of our nation's Supreme Court and Congress.

As Article 30 of our Constitution dictates, by deciding to return to Honduras, Mr. Zelaya accepts his duty to face the authorities and the charges against him for repeatedly violating Honduras' laws.

It is unclear why Mr. Zelaya has returned now to Honduras. Only he knows. But I cannot surmise another conclusion but that he is here to continue standing in the way of the November 29 elections, as he has been doing for weeks.

His presence in the country does not change the commitment of all Hondurans to the electoral process that started under Mr. Zelaya's own government almost a year ago and that will culminate with the November 29 elections.

My government respects the international statute by which Brazil is represented in Honduras.

This is the case, despite the fact that Brazil has not extended to us the courtesy of recognizing the constitutional government of Honduras.

I call on the Brazilian government to respect the court order against Mr. Zelaya, by handing him over to the relevant Honduran authorities. The Honduran State is committed to respecting Mr. Zelaya's right to due process.

The eyes of the world are placed over Brazil and also Honduras; let us not allow that the fervor of a few stain the reputation and image of our people.

The problem that Honduras faces is an internal one that should be resolved by the Honduran authorities in compliance with domestic laws.

This is not a problem of concern to international peace and security.

Relying in the respect of law, we will defend our representative democracy, sovereignty and self-determination, together government, people and civil society.

Good Night.