

HONDURAS
SWOT Analysis

<p>STRENGTHS</p>	<p>After holding elections in the framework of democracy, won by a candidate from a political party other than the one in power, gives new hope for an entire people and for freedom of expression.</p> <p>The repeal of the "law of secrecy" was part of the campaign promises and the Parliament of Honduras has abolished it.</p> <p>The "law on official secrets", approved on January 24, 2014, vested the president and heads of centralized and decentralized agencies with powers to rule official information as "classified" or "confidential" for five and ten years, respectively, according to its nature.</p> <p>The repeal of the Law on Classification of Public National Security and Defense Records, popularly known as the "law on official secrets", allows all confidential information to be declassified. Therefore, centralized, decentralized, and autonomous government agencies should submit records to the Institute for Access to Public Information (Instituto de Acceso a la Información Pública IAIP).</p>
<p>WEAKNESSES</p>	<p>Struggling to dismantle what the new government calls a "narco-dictatorship," under a suffocating foreign debt, political pressures to create jobs, and an international crisis impacting Honduras, the present administration's statements to public opinion have been confusing. Imposing a "democratic socialism" that seeks a radical correction of the unequal distribution of wealth will not be an easy task.</p> <p>The media have not been allocated government advertising funds, which has generated tension between these stakeholders and the government. The latter has decided to upgrade Radio de Honduras and Channel 8 and has created the newspaper <i>Poder Popular</i>, featuring the president and the most outstanding activities of the current administration.</p>
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>National and international pressure to efficiently fight corruption and encourage transparency in public administration will be an opportunity for the national press, which will have more access to public information.</p> <p>The repeal of the "law on official secrets" and the creation of the Committee against Corruption and Impunity (Comisión contra la Corrupción e Impunidad, CICIH), plus the election of a new Supreme Court of Justice (Corte Suprema de Justicia, CSJ), will reduce impunity in Honduras, allowing the press to be increasingly in service of the people.</p>

	<p>A country where justice, the rule of law, and public transparency prevail is a nation where the press can work freely.</p>
THREATS	<p>There is a possibility that, with a leftist government, as happened in Nicaragua and Venezuela, freedoms will begin to be restricted, journalists who do not agree with the present administration will be imprisoned, media that do not align to presidential views will be harassed, and freedom of expression will be attacked in reason of a policy of repression against opponents.</p> <p>In addition, the government has announced the beginning of an advertising budget, with the danger that such funds will be allocated to control media and journalists who have been critical of the regime.</p>

