

# *Honduran Protests Continue Ahead of Presidential Inauguration*

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Tegucigalpa, January 24 (RHC)-- Tensions continue to escalate in Honduras as anti-government protesters are continuing demonstrations against ruling right-wing President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who will be sworn in for his second term on Saturday, January 27th.

The country's leftist Opposition Alliance has announced a nationwide strike set for that day to denounce Hernandez's National Party, which was accused of committing election fraud late last year.

"It is our constitutional right to protest fraud and we should continue at the national level until the 27th with the national strike," said former Honduran President Manuel Zelaya, leader of the Opposition Alliance. "In defense of the victory of the Alliance and Salvador Nasralla, the whole country will mobilize and there will be a complete work stoppage."

Protests reignited last weekend when the National Congress announced its provisional committee members in government. During the protests, demonstrators were repressed by security forces, who used tear gas to disperse them. One person was killed, several were injured and dozens were arrested.

Military forces opened fire on protesters in Honduras last Saturday, killing a 60-year-old man and severely wounding another, according to the Committee of the Families of Detained and Disappeared of Honduras, or Cofadeh.

Since last November, Hondurans have taken to the streets to defend their votes in favor of Nasralla and demand that Hernandez resign from his position.

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