



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REPORT ON ANTI-UNION VIOLENCE IN HONDURAS, 2019

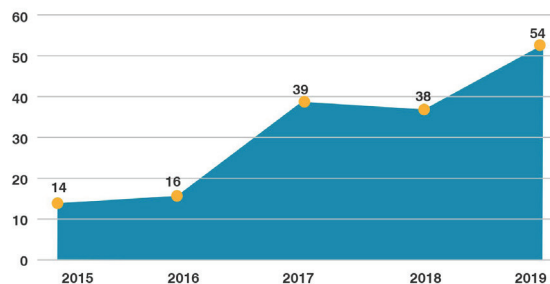
Anti-Union violence has existed since the very beginning of trade union organizations. However, its manifestation varies according to the historical moment in which it takes place.

In Honduras, between 2009 and 2019, at least 36 trade unionists were killed. From July 2009 to the end of 2019 alone, 14 teachers were killed in the course of resistance against the breakdown of constitutional order in June 2009.

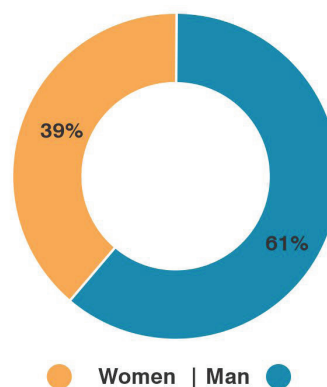
Since the formation of the Network Against Anti-Union Violence (2015) each annual report has shown a continual increase in the number of violence cases documented (with the exception of 2018). This is due, in part, to increased capacity of the Network to document cases through its expansion nationally. In 2018, the figure was somewhat lower and during the period of 2019, 54 attacks were documented, mostly related to actions in defense of the right to health and public education.

While anti-union violence is practiced against men and women alike, there are differences in

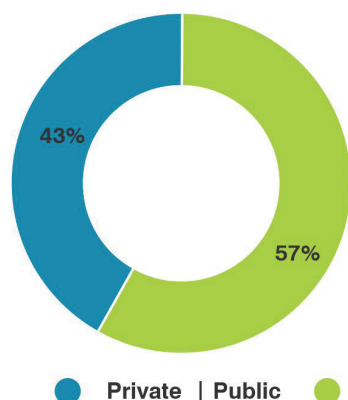
CASES OF VIOLENCE BY YEAR



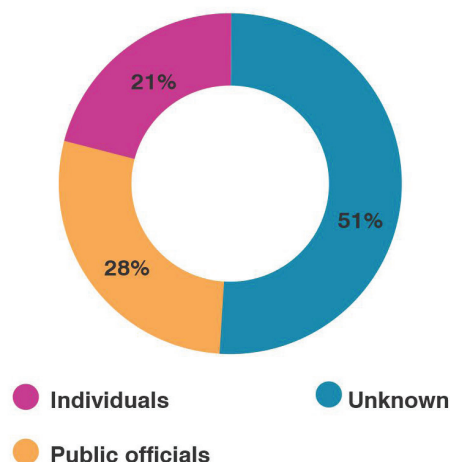
VICTIMS BY SEX, 2019



UNIONS AFFECTED, 2019



ALLEGED VICTIMS, 2019



the forms, intensity and places in which the violence takes place. In addition, women are often sexually harassed and verbal assaults or threats are loaded with high sexual content.

Of the individualized acts of violence in 2019, 61% were against men and 39% against women. This difference is partly in response to the labor market and trade union leadership being mostly occupied by men.

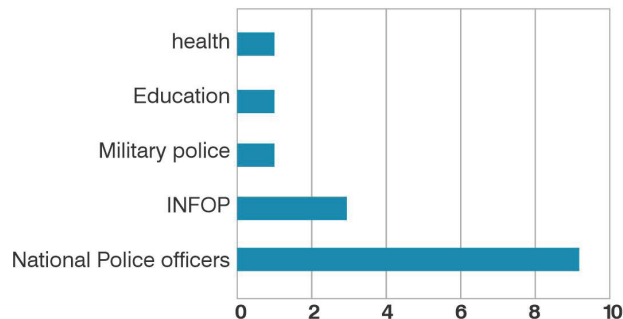
As a matter of principle, the State of Honduras is responsible for the enforcement of workers' rights. Yet, it has not only failed to ensure that the private sector respect the rights of workers as established in the Constitution and the Labor Code, but it has also directly been responsible for violently and disrespectfully violating the rights of workers in some of the public enterprises and institutions.

The lack of investigation and the high level of impunity that characterizes the Honduran justice system, makes it difficult to name with certainty the material authors of these crimes against trade unionists, and even less so the intellectual authors. This makes it difficult to guarantee the right to truth for the victims, their relatives, and trade union organizations.

From the testimonies collected, we determined that in most cases (51%) the perpetrators are unknown persons who act anonymously, sometimes through fake profiles on social networks, or through threatening calls or text messages, covering their faces, etc. In 15 instances (28%) they allegedly are public officials; and 11 of the cases (21%) they were private individuals, whether private security guards or working for companies.

Of the total number of cases in which public officials are presumed responsible, 60% correspond to acts committed by officers of the National Police force, in the context of public demonstrations in which people were protesting against the deterioration of the health and public education systems.

ALLEGED PERPETRATORS FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR



Finally, harassment stands out as the main form of persecution against trade unionists, followed by threats and attacks.

The murders correspond to that of Joshua Sanchez (SITRAGVSA) who was killed on the night of May 31, during a public demonstration convened by the Platform for the Defense of Health and Education, and; Jorge Alberto Acosta (SITRATERCO), killed on November 16, after having received information from the National Anti-extorsion Police Force Unit that he would be the target of an attack, after having filed a complaint with the National Police and the Public Prosecutor’s Office for death threats, and having requested protection measures from the State of Honduras.

TYPE OF INCIDENTS REGISTERED, 2019

