

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
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To: H
Subject: Fw: 158 Peace Corps volunteers leave Honduras (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2012 07:38 PM
To: NEWS-Mahogany
Subject: 158 Peace Corps volunteers leave Honduras (AP)

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras - (AP) The entire Peace Corps delegation in Honduras has left the country weeks after the United States decided to pull them out of for safety reasons.

U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Ledy Pacheco says 158 volunteers have left the Central American country notorious for the world's highest homicide rate.

Honduras President Porfirio Lobo said Monday that the group was affected by rising crime, but he and the U.S. haven't specified attacks.

The Peace Corps had operated in Honduras since 1963.

In December, Peace Corps announced it was bringing home volunteers from Honduras and suspending training for new volunteers in El Salvador and Guatemala. The region is plagued by drug gang violence.

Volunteers remain in the other two countries.

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