



To Whom It May Concern:

In light of the travel warning first issued by the U.S. State Department on November 21, 2012 (and most recently updated on January 23, 2017), there have been concerns about the safety and security of traveling within Honduras. It is important to note that this warning is not based on any new event or incident that has taken place in Honduras, nor is it based on any short-term development that has occurred within the country. Rather, it is a general warning discussing the prevalence of crime in certain regions of Honduras. The government has enacted measures to combat crime, and fortunately the rate of violent crimes has declined in recent years. We at Global Brigades take these warnings very seriously and remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for Brigade participants.

The high-crime areas identified by the U.S. State Department are located in urban centers (Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula) and generally the north coast and central section of the country. These areas are far from the areas where Global Brigades' participants are lodged and the communities in which they work. Global Brigades maintains strong relationships with both the Honduran National Police and Honduran Military. Armed security personnel accompany Brigade groups at all times, including at all lodging facilities. These security personnel are carefully selected and supervised by our in-country security manager after extensive background checks. Upon arrival to Honduras, Brigade groups are met by our in-country staff and are immediately transported to our secure, gated lodging compounds which are far from the large urban centers of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. Brigade participants remain with their group during the entirety of their in-country stay and are explicitly prohibited from separating from their group at any time. Apart from the pick-up and drop-off at the airport, Brigade participants do not spend any time at their ports of arrival and departure.

Global Brigades maintains a strong relationship with the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa and is a constituent member of the Overseas Security Advisory Council, and as such receives up-to-date security reports and other support from the U.S. State Department. Prior to the brigade, all volunteers are enrolled in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) operated by the U.S. State Department. Lastly, Global Brigades has detailed emergency and evacuation plans and procedures in place should an unforeseen situation arise.

The safety and security of our participants and in-country staff is our number one concern. We are fortunate that the extensive precautions we have taken have allowed us to maintain an excellent track record in providing a safe and secure environment for our participants. Should you have any questions or concerns relative to the safety and security measures implemented by Global Brigades, please don't hesitate to contact the Chief Legal Officer Pallav Vora at pallav@globalbrigades.org or the Chief Executive Officer Shital Chauhan at shital@globalbrigades.org.