



[Home](#) > [Research](#) > [Responses to Information Requests](#)

RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIR's](#) | [Help](#)

13 November 2009

HND103316.FE

Honduras: the presence of the Hidalgo Niño gang and their activities, including the treatment of their members by police officers, and whether the gang has been disbanded (2007 - November 2009)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

An article published in 2008 by *La Prensa*, a daily newspaper in San Pedro Sula, states that four people, identified as Rafael Antonio Hidalgo Niño, who was also known as El Fay, his wife and two bodyguards, were killed in Mezcalito, in the department of Santa Bárbara (3 Aug. 2008). The article notes that the police considered Rafael Antonio Hidalgo Niño to be one of the leaders of a gang that specialized in automobile thefts in the city of La Entrada, in the Department of Copán (*La Prensa* 3 Aug. 2008). The police surmise that his murder was an act of vengeance (*ibid.*).

An article published on 12 March 2009 by par *El Heraldo*, a daily newspaper from Tegucigalpa, states that Rodolfo Antonio Hidalgo Niño was allegedly arrested for the murder of a cousin of a judge with the Supreme Court of Justice (Corte Suprema de Justicia, CSJ). This source also states that Rodolfo Antonio Hidalgo Niño is thought to be one of the members of [translation] "the new generation of the "Hidalgo Niño gang"" (*El Heraldo* 12 Mar. 2009). He has allegedly been arrested many times and has been implicated in the theft of vehicles and in cases of extortion (*ibid.*). According to an article published in 2009 by *La Prensa*, he is the brother of El Fay (2 May 2009).

An article that appeared in *El Heraldo* on 30 April 2009 reports on the arrest of three members of a gang linked to Hidalgo Niño. They allegedly mugged people and robbed stores, among other activities (*El Heraldo* 30 Apr. 2009). According to the individuals quoted in the same source, they were acting under the orders of Hidalgo Niño who demanded that they procure goods, vehicles and money (*ibid.*). According to an article published by *La Prensa*, the mother of the Hidalgo Niño brothers complained that the alleged members of the so-called new generation of Hidalgos are being persecuted by the police (2 May 2009). Further information on the presence and the activities of the Hidalgo Niño gang could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

In an article published by *La Prensa* in 2008, the Bishop of Copán explained that 20 years ago there were three gangs of offenders: the Chinchilla, the Pacheco and the Hidalgo Niño (15 Aug. 2008). According to the same article, the police shut down the Chinchilla and the Pacheco gangs (*La Prensa* 15 Aug. 2008). Further information on the treatment of members of the Hidalgo Niño gang or on whether the gang has been disbanded could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

El Heraldo [Tegucigalpa]. 30 April 2009. "Policía desarticula peligrosa banda de asaltantes en Copán."
<<http://www.elheraldo.hn/content/view/full/120156>> [Accessed 28 Oct. 2009]

_____. 12 March 2009. "Asesinan a primo de magistrado de la CSJ."
<<http://www.elheraldo.hn/index.php/Sucesos/Ediciones/2009/03/13/Noticias/Asesinan-a-primo-de-magistrado-de-la-CSJ>> [Accessed 30 Oct. 2009]

La Prensa [San Pedro Sula]. 2 May 2009. "Los Hidalgo no son miembros de banda."
<<http://www.laprensahn.com/Apertura/Ediciones/2009/05/03/Noticias/Los-Hidalgo-no-son-miembros-de-banda>> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2009]

_____. 15 August 2008. "El que hable lo matan."

<<http://www.laprensa.hn/layout/set/print/content/view/print/8008>> [Accessed 3 Nov. 2009]

_____. 3 August 2008. "Ejecutan a Hidalgo Niño."

<<http://www.laprensahn.com/Ediciones/2008/08/05/Noticias/Ejecutan-a-Hidalgo-Nino>> [Accessed 28 Oct. 2009]

Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: Amnesty International (AI), Freedom House, United States (US) Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The attached reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.