



AMERICA/HONDURAS - Youth in march to stop violence in the country

Tegucigalpa (Agenzia Fides) - About 4,000 young Hondurans will participate in a march that will begin on June 8 from Tegucigalpa and will arrive in the town of Talanga on June 10, in the same central region of Honduras Francisco Morazán, to ask the government to disarm the Civil population and stop the violence in the country, which records an average of 19 deaths per day. According to information received by Fides, the march (approximately 50 km) entitled "Samaritans for love", is organized by the youth ministry of the Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa with an invitation to all the youth in the area to participate.

One of the organizers of the march, Marvin Cruz, told the local press that during the march a request will be made to the government of President Porfirio Lobo "the disarmament of civilians and to stop the violence in Honduras," which in 2011 recorded an annual number of murders equal to 86,5 for every 100,000 inhabitants, according to figures provided by the Human Rights Commission (HRC). The march, also coordinated by the pastor of Talanga, Father Miguel Mejia, wants to be a manifestation of religious fervor and "an opportunity to raise the awareness of Hondurans on the possibility of changing the climate of violence suffered by the Honduras," according to the organizers. "We want to sensitize the public and all citizens, to show that not all young people are criminals," said Marvin Cruz, who wanted to note that this is not the only initiative for peace in the country. There were also several events and marches in the town of Cedros, east of the Honduran capital, in Danli, in Juticalpa (east), in Choluteca (south), in Comayagua (center) and Esperanza.

Also from the data of the HRC (Human Rights Commission), we learn that violence in Honduras made 46,450 victims between 2000 and 2011, including 12,838 registered in the first 23 months of President Lobo's government. According to statistics from the Observatory on Violence at the University Institute of Democracy, Peace and Security, 80 percent of people who die are young, and 78.6 percent of homicides are committed with firearms. (CE) (Agenzia Fides 01/06/2012)