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Honduras: Health Ministry Official Calls On Catholic Prelate To Retract Statement Related To A.i.d.s.

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Sept. 9, Dr. Enrique Zelaya, president of the National Commission against AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), and the Health Ministry's director of epidemiology, called on Bishop Oscar Andres Rodriguez to retract statements in which he claimed that use of condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS was a mortal sin. Zelaya said 2,400 AIDS cases diagnosed thus far in Honduras represent 52% of all AIDS cases in Central America. He added that 60 persons contract AIDS every month, and 50,000 persons were asymptomatic carriers. Three million condoms are sold annually in Honduras. (Basic data from AFP, 09/09/91; ACAN-EFE, 09/10/91)

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