

Hondurasgate - May 26, 2026

CASE DESCRIPTION

Earlier this month, audio recordings related to the Hondurasgate case were leaked through the media outlets Radio Red and Canal Red. These audio recordings point to an alleged international plot to destabilize left-wing governments in Latin America under a plan devised by the United States and Israel, with the mediation of former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, who was pardoned in December 2025 by Donald Trump, despite having been convicted in 2024 of drug trafficking. According to [Hondurasgate](#), the audio recordings were analyzed by Phonexia, which states in its report that there is a high probability that they are human voices.

The audios have generated significant public debate in Honduras and have contributed to an increasingly polarized environment. Our partners got in touch with Phonexia who claimed they did not contribute to the verification of these audios, and as such, the authenticity of the audio recordings remains uncertain. They ask whether the audios have been AI-generated or manipulated.

The three audio recordings

1. *Juan Orlando Hernández pide dinero a Asfura para montar célula digital contra México, Colombia y la familia Zelaya*: Audio allegedly featuring former president Juan Orlando Hernández requesting funds from Nasry Asfura, president of Honduras, to establish a digital media and influence operation from the United States targeting political figures and governments in Honduras, México and Colombia.
2. *Juan Orlando Hernández dicta doctrina de terror: fuerza, opresión y violencia para controlar Honduras*: Audio allegedly featuring former president Juan Orlando Hernández discussing the use of force, oppression, and violence as mechanisms to maintain political and social control in Honduras.
3. *Juan Orlando Hernández ordena alinear iglesias para borrar el pasado y culpar a la izquierda*: Audio allegedly featuring former president Juan Orlando Hernández discussing efforts to align Churches in support of a political narrative aimed at reshaping public perception, minimizing past events, and blaming the political left.

Referred by Criterio.hn

Link: <https://hondurasgate.ch/audios>

Downloaded links:

audio 1:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HiP_KoYd8WwofklygO_1m3AV6rxZd3MT/view?usp=sharing

Audio 2:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_e_3XgojWp09q0QIIQ-fgYdRVTlumWPv/view?usp=sharing

Audio 3:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iGSnGGwOBD7Qpv4YaZXcP2MyxHAgLCj-/view?usp=sharing>

ANALYSIS PROCESS

Two teams analysed the audio recordings and found possible evidence of manipulation in some of them. Team 1 found evidence suggesting manipulation in all three recordings but could not identify the specific method in which they were manipulated. Team 2 concluded that the first recording is likely authentic while the remaining two may be manipulated. Based on different observations made by both teams, we can conclude that Audio 2 and Audio 3 are likely manipulated. Because of inconsistent results, we can't confirm whether Audio 1 is authentic or manipulated.

UPDATE: After providing more detail on the analysis of each specific recording, Team 1's results align more with the assessment provided by Team 2 stating that Audio 1 is least likely to be manipulated and Audios 2 and 3 are possibly manipulated. Team 1 highlighted that while there are some anomalies that would suggest manipulation, there is not enough evidence for the results to be conclusive.

1. Team 1: Deep Media [UPDATED]

Results: Possibly Gen AI.

Audio 1 is the least likely of the three files to have been manipulated, showing a highly stable and clean profile throughout the vast majority of its runtime. Machine detection registered only a single significant probability spike around the 1:56 mark, leaving the entire rest of the audio completely free of any notable anomalies. Because of this overall lack of systemic evidence, human and machine analysis conclude that this file is highly likely to be authentic and is classified as probably real.

Audio 2 represents the file most likely to have been manipulated, though the findings remain a matter of possibility rather than absolute certainty. The AI detection ensemble flagged a major probability spike at the 12-second mark, alongside three minor spikes occurring at 4 seconds, 18 seconds, and 27 seconds. While these recurring localized anomalies strongly suggest that the file may be manipulated, they do not provide a definitive, conclusive confirmation of AI tampering on their own, resulting in a final assessment of possibly manipulated.

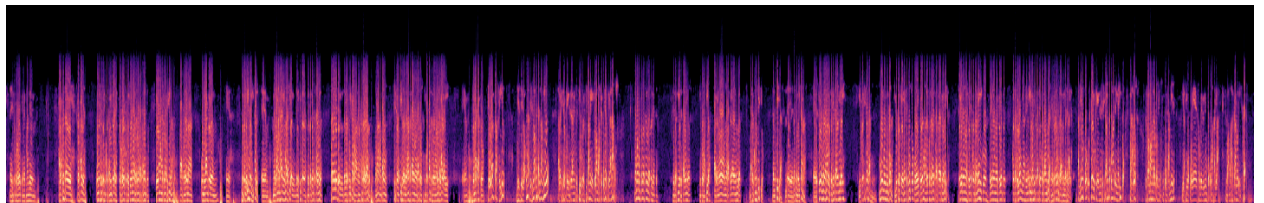
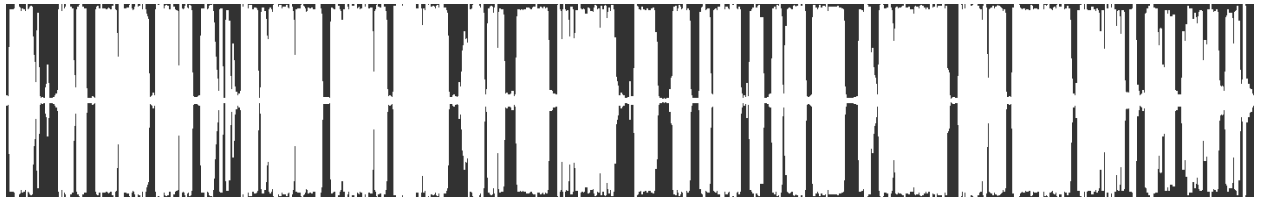
Audio 3 registers little evidence of generative AI tampering, though it does not clear the threshold for zero evidence entirely. Instead of exhibiting sharp, localized probability spikes like the first two files, this audio maintains a continuous, consistent low-evidence score across its entire duration. This flat baseline anomaly indicates that if AI was indeed

involved, the audio was fully generated from scratch by an AI model rather than being an authentic, human recording that was later manipulated or edited.

Process:

The three audio files were initially compiled into a single file for processing. It was converted to MP3 and run through an ensemble of AI-generated audio detectors. While machine detection showed localized probability spikes, it did not provide definitive proof of AI manipulation on its own.

However, a secondary review by human analysts—including a native Spanish speaker—alongside an evaluation of the spectrogram and waveform graphs, revealed subtle inconsistencies deeply characteristic of AI-generated or obscured audio. To pinpoint the source of these inconsistencies, the analysis has been broken down by individual audio files below.



Limitations to keep in mind: There are artifacts here, specifically given the quality of the audio, that suggest that if this was generated using AI, it may have been given a secondary filter to suggest authenticity. In this case, human review and machine review are slightly different, with humans suggesting more likely that it is not manipulated with AI, and machine review suggesting it is more likely that it is not manipulated. A potential reason for this is the context of telephone-like audio sampling which is often added to Deepfakes to obscure their manipulation.

2. Team 2: Cauth AI

Results: Audio 1 - real, audio 2 - may be manipulated, audio 3 - possibly manipulated

Process: The team ran several detectors to understand the nature of the audio signals and artifacts.

Audio 1 passed as real in all of them, carrying natural voice, intonation, ambient, and signal properties.

Audio 2 showed some irregularities: especially around 14-15sec, something changed for the speaker, environment, or recording device (if it is real), or the beginning up to there was generated/spliced (if it is fake). The smoothness and radio-silences also make this a strong candidate for a voice cloning (VC) output. For example, real recordings (like audio 1) have ~250x louder silences than audio 2.

Audio 3 shows a spiking irregularity around 2-3sec, however overall it carries more regular pitch, higher detection scores, smoother temporal characteristics, and repetitive signal structure; all of which points to being generated.

Limitations to keep in mind: Team did not listen to the audio files, all predictions and interpretations are based on automatic detection reports. As the files are in OPUS, the files are narrowband phone-like recordings, which some of the deepfake detector models may not be trained on. The team disregarded the absolute predictions of models with these inherent limitations, however used temporal and structural patterns they discovered.