

# *Honduras Creates New Agency to Aid Children*

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Tegucigalpa, June 5 (EFE-RHC) -- The Honduran government has created a new agency to attend to the needs of children at social risk after it dissolved the Honduran Institute of Children and the Family (IHNFA) earlier this week, due to alleged irregularities and violations of the rights of the minors, an official said.

The executive secretary of the Council of Ministers, Ebal Diaz, said that IHNFA was dissolved on Monday on the order of Honduran President, Juan Orlando Hernandez.

In the wake of that decision, the government on Wednesday approved in the Council of Ministers the creation of the Childhood, Adolescence and Family Directorate (DINAF), Diaz told reporters.

DINAF was created by virtue of "the urgent need to provide Honduran children with the efficient and comprehensive attention they require for the correct inclusion in the country's development process," Diaz said.

He said that the Honduran government will disburse some 500 million lempiras (about \$23.8 million) over the coming years, to different municipalities to "attend in a direct manner to children and adolescents."

In late April, in Tegucigalpa, the U.N. special rapporteur on trafficking of children, child prostitution and

pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid, expressed her concern over the "violation of children's rights" at various children's centers operated by IHNFA.

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