

Hurricane Beta Grows, Lashes Nicaragua

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CBC - Hurricane Beta strengthened to a Category 3 storm Sunday as it battered Nicaragua's Caribbean coast, forcing thousands of people into shelters.

www.cbc.ca

Image: NOAA

http://images.usatoday.com/weather/_photos/2005/10/28/inside2-beta-fri-am-closeup.jpg

[Strong hurricane pounds Nicaragua](#)

CBC News

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Overnight in Puerto Cabezas, authorities ordered the evacuation of the 60,000 inhabitants, most of them Miskito Indians. The coastal fishing town lies directly in the path of the hurricane.

Troops earlier moved 10,000 people from the port of Cabo de Gracias a Dios, and from along the River Coco, both on the Honduras border. But some families along the coast refused to leave their flimsy wooden shacks, even as Beta began pounding the area.

Both Nicaragua and Honduras can expect heavy rains and storm surge flooding of up to five metres, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

As in Nicaragua, authorities in Honduras have also issued a maximum state of alert.

Beta is the 13th hurricane of the Atlantic season ? a record. The season has seen 23 named storms, more than at any point since record-keeping began in 1851. The previous record of 21 was set in 1933.