

01/12/16

Berta - Impunity; Militarization; IACHR; UN; UNA; Banks; National Police; Reelection; Fiscal Policy; Japan; HIV/AIDS; and COFADEH - 34 Years of Keeping the Memory Alive

ConfidencialHN cites a unknown ILO representative, which said that

Honduras could be labeled a Pariah state if it fails bring about justice in the case of Berta.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/11/30/si-honduras-no-esclarece-crimen-de-berta-sera-catalogada-como-estado-paria/>

<http://www.outsideonline.com/2136786/most-dangerous-place-earth-be-environmentalist>

JOH: "Today I tell you Honduras that investigating in the Armed Forces is investigating in the development of the country..." No further comment.

<http://notibomba.com/invirtiendoenarmas-militares-y-equipo-de-guerra-crece-honduras-segun-hernandez/>

The IACHR is currently holding its 159th session in Panama.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/11/30/cejil-participa-del-159-periodo-sesiones-la-cidh-panama/>

Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, returned from her trip to Honduras to Geneva with confidence that the new office in Honduras will be fruitful.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/item/136070-la-onu-confia-en-el-pleno-compromiso-de-honduras-con-la-nueva-oficina-de-ddhh.html>

The crisis at the National Agricultural University continues. El Libertador denounces that the Liberal congressman Darío Banegas won't participate at the discussion with the students, even though he sits in the special commission intended to solve the crisis. Furthermore, there are threats by the ambassador of El Salvador to cut financial support for students from his country who participate in the protests.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1887-amenaza-y-diputados-haraganes-parte-de-crisis-universitaria>

Javier Suazo has an interesting article on the mindsets behind the announced merger of Banhprovi and Banadesa.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/182066>

Security Secretary Pacheco Tinoco spoke out in favor of police director Félix Villanueva even before the investigation into his case started. The purging committee, meanwhile, is evaluating 291 members of the police force to find out if they should be promoted.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/11/30/secretario-de-seguridad-se-derrite-en-halagos-hacia-director-de-la-policia-nacional/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/11/30/comision-depuradora-analiza-291-policias-ascenso/>

Rene Adán Tomé, the former coordinator of the Special Prosecutors Unit for the Defense of the Constitution filed a complaint against 24 high state officials - among them JOH and Oscar Chinchilla - for pursuing the presidential reelection.

<http://tiempo.hn/24-funcionarios-denuncian-en-mp/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/11/30/denuncian-formalmente-los-24-indignos-que-ya-no-pueden-continuar-como-funcionarios/>

Congress debated yesterday the so-called "Monotributo" which intends to broaden the tax base. Nevertheless, it is feared that it strikes micro and small companies most.

At the same time, another bill was approved, changing Honduras from a universal tax system to a territorial tax system. This allows to transfer money abroad without paying taxes

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/11/30/monotributo-un-nuevo-golpe-a-la-escualida-economia-hondurena/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/11/30/zapateros-remendones-senoras-venden-baleadas-ahora-pagaran-impuestos-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/11/30/exoneracion-renta-territorial-podria-prestarse-sacar-capitales-mal-habidos/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2016/11/30/honduras-renuncia-la-renta-mundial/>

Proceso Digital reports that Japan supports the Honduran government's 20/20 Development Plan.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/136094-japon-expresa-su-respaldo-al-plan-20-20-en-misiva-oficial-entregada-a-secretario-coordinador-de-gobierno.html>

According to Conasid, 49% of Hondurans with HIV don't know that they have it.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1022664-410/el-49-de-los-hondure%C3%B1os-con-vihsida-no-saben-que-lo-tienen>

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/derechos-humanos/derechos-humanos/cofadeh-34-a%C3%B1os-construyendo-memoria-viva>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-derecho-de-las-victimas-a-la-reparacion-integral/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/11/30/cofadeh-celebra-34-anos-defender-los-desaparecidos-los-derechos-humanos-honduras/>

02/12/16

COPINH - Berta; HRDs; Indigenous Peoples; MACCIH; IHSS; Fiscal Policy; UNA; Crime; National Police

Today nine months ago, Berta was murdered. Aware of that, and what,

therefore, can only be interpreted as a worrisome sign of force, the Honduran police captured Mauro Gomez of Rio Blanco yesterday, alleging he illegally cut down a tree. At the same time 3 DESA vehicles were also seen in Rio Blanco with the police. Currently, no one from COPINH knows about the whereabouts of Mauro Gomez. The police told them that they were taking him to the police station in La Esperanza but COPINH went to the police station and the police in La Esperanza say he is not there and neither is he in Santa Barbara.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/01/copinh-denuncia-detencion-desaparicion-mauro-gomez/>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2016/12/se-cumplen-nueve-meses-del-asesinato-de.html>

The World Organization against Torture (OMTC) presented together with Honduran organizations a report at the current session of the IACHR on the situation of the Honduran human rights defenders.

With the report, the human rights organizations denounce the inefficacy of the mechanism to protect human rights defenders in Honduras.

The organizations strongly disputed the picture the Honduran government tried to draw.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/derechos-humanos/derechos-humanos/entre-la-espada-y-la-pared-panorama-de-defensores-y>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/01/denuncian-ante-la-cidh-la-ineficacia-del-mecanismo-hondureno-proteccion-personas-defensoras-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1569-ante-la-cidh-estado-defiende-el-avance-de-mecanismo-de-proteccion-mientras-organizaciones-senalan-que-no-es-aun-idoneo-por-practicas-no-democraticas>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1568-la-alianza-por-los-derechos-humanos-desmiente-a-gobierno-que-participe-en-espacio-de-interlocucion-con-este>

OFRANEH, COPINH and other Honduran organizations held a second audience at the current IACHR session. There, they described the situation of the indigenous peoples in Honduras and the ongoing violation of their right to a free, prior and informed consent.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2016/12/01/estado-de-honduras-en-audiencia-tematica-cidh-acepta-responsabilidad-del-estado-en-los-conflictos-ambientales/>

MACCIH presented yesterday its first report before the OAS. They highlighted the fact that Honduras agreed to have them in their country as their first success. Criterio printed the complete speech of its spokesperson Juan Jiménez Mayor.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/01/maccih-asegura-que-la-fusion-nacional-e-internacional-dara-resultado-en-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/01/lea-discurso-completo-del-vocero-la-maccih-juan-jimenez-mayor-la-presentacin-del-primer-informe-semestral/>

In an abbreviated trial, after accepting her guilt, Ilsa Vanessa Molina Aguirre now awaits her prison sentence in the IHSS corruption case.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/01/dentro-de-tres-dias-palillona-conocera-su-condena/>

Martín Barahona, the former president of the Honduran Economists College (CHE), warns that the recently approved "Monotributo" will lead to a lot of small business closing down.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/01/comienza-la-persecucion-contra-el-sector-economico-informal/>

Criterio nicely presents the ties of Marlon Escoto and his family members at the UNA.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/01/conozca-familion-marlon-escoto-la-universidad-nacional-agricultura/>

According to Verisk Maplecroft, Honduras is the sixth worst country in the world regarding crime.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/01/segun-verisk-maplecroft-honduras-ranking-mayor-criminalidad-del-mundo/>

CODEH demands that Félix Villanueva steps down as the head of the police, as long as he is being investigated.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/item/136071-codeh-lamenta-que-generales-villanueva-mejia-y-juarez-sigan-en-la-policia.html>

03/12/16

Berta - UN; COPINH; National Police; MACCIH; Corruption; (Re)Elections; Freedom of Expression; UNA; Toll System; Migration; Inequality; Infrastructure; and Militarization in One Picture

The UN Environment Program awarded Berta posthumously with the Champions

of the Earth award.

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=27090&ArticleID=36314&l=en>

<http://tiempo.hn/reconocimiento-postumo-berta-caceres-recibe-maximo-premio-ambiental-la-onu/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/136210-naciones-unidas-otorga-premio-postumo-a-berta-caceres.html>

Mauro Gómez, a member of COPINH, was released from custody yesterday morning. COPINH denounces that the police lied about his whereabouts.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2016/12/el-companero-mauro-gomez-fue-puesto-en.html>

According to research by ConfidencialHN, a former police official was purged from the police force because he hadn't wanted to participate in rewriting the past of police director Félix Villanueva.

At the same time, two police agents filed a complaint for defamation against the purging committee.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/02/asi-purgaron-a-oficial-que-no-quiso-blanquear-expediente-de-jefe-policia-felix-villanueva/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/02/depurador-asegura-que-querrela-no-frenara-la-purga-policia/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/1651-polic%C3%AD-depurados-en-7-meses-de-gesti%C3%B3n-de-la-comisi%C3%B3n-especial>

Honduras Culture and Politics critically analyzes the first report by MACCIH or rather the way Honduran officials try to use it.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2016/12/honduras-lacks-institutionality-to.html>

The MP started looking into the TRANS-450, a infrastructure project in Tegucigalpa started by the former Nationalist mayor Ricardo Álvarez. Criterio denounces that this only happened after two years of filling complaints against the project.

Criterio also reports on a further anti-corruption operation called Typhoon. Operation Typhoon also investigates irregularities at the hydroelectricity project Patuca III.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/02/millonario-proyecto-fallido-trans-450-en-la-mira-de-autoridades/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/02/seria-especular-decir-por-que-fueron-secuestrados-los-documentos-del-proyecto/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/02/fin-tras-mas-dos-anos-denuncias-mp-le-cae-al-trans-450/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/02/operacion-tifon-le-sigue-la-pista-operadores-justicia/>

<http://tiempo.hn/investigacion-supuestas-irregularidades-proyecto-patuca-iii/>

Marlene Alvarenga filed a complaint against the TSE for their refusal to let her run for the presidential primaries inside PAC.

PAC president Salvador Nasralla, meanwhile, demands that MACCIH includes in its first report the illegal power grab by JOH by running for reelection.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/02/marlene-alvarenga-acusa-a-magistrados-electorales-ante-ministerio-publico/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/02/informe-de-maccih-debio-incluir-que-la-releccion-en-honduras-no-existe/>

According to ConexiHon, there is a growing trend of threats, attacks and official complaints against those who voice their ideas on social medias in Honduras.

At the same time, JOH blocked Amnesty International on his Twitter account.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n/contin%C3%BAa-estrategia-para-censurar-redes-sociales-en-honduras>

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n/presidente-hern%C3%A1ndez-bloquea-amnist%C3%ADa-internacional-en-twitter>

Students at the National Agriculture University denounce new threats against them. Meanwhile, they got support in an open letter by the National Indigenous Lenca Organization.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n/supuesto-polic%C3%ADa-persigue-estudiantes-de-la-unag>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/exigen-respeto-para-universitarios-lencas-y-sus-companeros-que-mantienen-toma-en-catacamas/>

Radio Progreso published a new article on the continuous protests against the toll booths in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3347-con-hostigamientos-intentan-imponer-pago-en-peaje-de-san-manuel-cort%C3%A9s>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/item/3344-su-mentira-es-insostenible-y-su-afinidad-a-ella-incomprensible>

Radio Progreso has produced a short video on migration.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/audiovisual/item/3342-no-se-van-documental-sobre-la-multicausalidad-de-las-migraciones>

CEPAL just published a new report on inequality in Latin America. Criterio lists ten reasons why this will continue to be a problem in the region for the coming years.

<http://crds.cepal.org/1m/es/noticias/cepal-presenta-ministros-desarrollo-social-analisis-la-desigualdad-propuestas-combatirla>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/02/10-razones-las-la-desigualdad-seguir-siendo-noticia-latinoamerica/>

El Heraldo reports on infrastructure projects in Honduras with funds by CABI and IDB.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1023192-466/con-fondos-del-bid-y-bcie-construir%C3%A1n-286-kil%C3%B3metros>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/02/militarizacion-orlandista-refleja-una-mentalidad-retorcida-de-la-democracia/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/declaracion-contr-el-continuismo-militarista/>

04/12/16

HRDs; National Police; Old Age; Astropharma; and the Four Horsemen of Impunity

The human rights prosecutor emitted an arrest warrant against police

officer Marlon Enrique Lagos for illegally detaining the two human rights defenders Sandra Maribel Sánchez and Karla María Lara one month ago.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/03/fiscalia-presento-requerimiento-policia-delitos-defensoras-derechos-humanos/>

Eight police agents and two soldiers were detained during the "Operation Typhoon"

A four day event under the title "Constructing Together a New Police" will start tomorrow in Honduras.

<http://tiempo.hn/operacion-tifon-se-lleva-8-policias-2-militares-abuso-autoridad/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/03/proximo-lunes-inicia-la-semana-la-reforma-policial/>

According to Help Age, Honduras is the worst country to grow old in in Latin America.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2016/12/03/honduras-peor-pais-envejecer-latinoamerica/>

The Astrophrama trial continues to encounter obstacles - now the judge conducting the case María Fernanda Castro retired from it.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/honduras-magistrada-renuncia-conducir.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/02/los-cuatro-jinetes-de-la-impunidad-en-honduras/>

05/12/16

HRDs; Reelection; Gender Violence; and the EEH

Honduras Solidarity produced a video with some of the attacks on

international human rights defenders happening this year in Honduras.

<https://vimeo.com/193956512>

In an interesting spin on reality, Nationalist Congressman Antonio Rivera Callejas admits that they won't get the 86 votes in Congress to regulate the reelection, but this is the fault of the political opposition, because it wants an indefinite reelection as opposed to a one-time reelection as the National Party.

<http://tiempo.hn/rivera-callejas-seguro-no-alcanzaran-los-86-votos-regular-reeleccion/>

The National Bureau of Police Education organized a forum on gender violence.

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-preocupa-alarmante-ascenso-violencia-hogar/>

The labor union CUTH denounces how the new Energy Company Honduras (EEH) installed meters for pre-pay energy.

<http://notibomba.com/denuncian-la-instalacion-forzada-de-los-contadores-prepago-de-la-eeh/>

06/12/16

Drug Trafficking; Reelection; TSE; Judicial Power; Budget; Tegucigalpa; BID; CCG; and a Lack of Freedom

El Pulso published a study by Juan Carlos Garzón-Vergara on the link

between drug trafficking and homicides in Latin America.

<http://elpulso.hn/cual-es-la-relacion-del-crimen-organizado-y-el-homicidio-en-america-latina/>

The "Indignados" movement of San Pedro Sula wrote an open letter to MACCIH, asking them to also investigate the reelection bid by JOH. At the same time, the former Liberal presidential candidate Mauricio Villeda filled an objection against the reelection at the TSE.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/05/grupo-300-dignidad-pide-la-macchih-no-calle-tema-reeleccion-joh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/05/villeda-presenta-impugnacion-inscripcion-joh-ante-tse/>

The TSE and some of the movements inside Libre are in a dispute regarding their inscription to run in the elections.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/05/precandidato-de-libre-cuestiona-transparencia-de-organo-electoral-por-inscripcion-de-corrientes/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/05/cuestionan-misteriosa-reunion-entre-mesa-amplia-y-autoridades-del-tse/>

<http://elpulso.hn/zelaya-espera-que-el-impase-del-tse-sea-superado/>

The Judicial Power confirmed the results of an internal audit - the theft of 1.4 million Lempiras from one of its offices (Oficina de Títulos Valores).

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1023967-466/honduras-poder-judicial-confirma-hurto-de-14-millones-de-lempiras>

Pasos de Animal Grande published the analysis by CESPAD of the new Honduran state budget.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1571-en-donde-se-concentra-el-gasto-del-proyecto-de-presupuesto-de-la-republica-para-el-2017>

The budget for the mayoralty of Tegucigalpa will rise by 680 million Lempiras for next year.

<http://tiempo.hn/mas-lps-680-millones-aumentara-presupuesto-la-alcaldia-capitalina-2017/>

Honduras signed an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

<http://tiempo.hn/gobierno-honduras-suscribe-convenio-idb/>

JOH inaugurated yesterday the construction site of what may become the Civic Governmental Center (CCG).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/05/el-centro-civico-significa-para-el-pueblo-tener-lo-propio-tener-su-casa/>

<http://notibomba.com/honduras-en-el-ranking-de-paises-con-menos-libertades-para-las-personas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/05/honduras-nuevo-ranking-paises-menos-libertades-las-personas/>

07/12/16

HRDs; Hydroelectricity; UNA; Secrecy Law; Labor Rights; (Re)Elections; Zacate Grande; Deportation; Journalists; Migration; Tegucigalpa; Infrastructure; and No to Violence Against Women

According to an analysis by ACI-Participa, 27 human rights defenders

have been murdered in Honduras between November 2015 and October 2016.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/06/27-defensores-derechos-humanos-asesinados-honduras-ultimo-ano/>

The former sub-secretary for natural resources, Marco Laínez Ordóñez, will be tried for handing out an environmental license for the hydroelectric project Aurora II in indigenous territory in La Paz.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/06/exfuncionario-hondureno-ira-a-juicio-por-autorizar-represa-aurora-en-territorio-indigena/>

For the protesting students, the dialogue has failed and they call for a intervention commission.
At the same time, Marlon Escoto fired ten more teachers from the UNA.

<http://tiempo.hn/estudiantes-la-una-suspenden-dialogo-exigen-junta-interventora/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/06/marlon-escoto-despide-10-maestros-mas-la-universidad-nacional-agricultura/>

<http://tiempo.hn/catedraticos-despedidos-la-una-exigen-reintegro-hoy-despiden-mas/>

Congress' Secretary Mario Pérez tries to portray the Secrecy Law as a crucial piece of legislature for the Honduran state, which cannot be derogated.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/06/ley-secretos-no-puede-derogada-honduras-la-necesita-mario-perez/>

In a new report, the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) denounces the working situation of security guards and cleaning personnel.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/06/estudio-revela-gobierno-honduras-contrata-empresas-violan-derechos-laborales/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/06/exigen-detener-la-explotacion-laboral-de-guardias-y-aseadoras-en-honduras/>

I wonder if it is a good sign if the Finance Secretary tells the TSE and the National Registry of Persons (RNP) to be creative regarding their budget for the coming elections.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/06/presupuesto-destinado-para-elecciones-obligara-a-tse-y-rnp-ponerse-creativos/>

Defensores en Línea reports on 8 year-long criminalization case of human rights defenders in Zacate Grande.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensa-interpondra-ultimo-recurso-a-favor-de-campesinos-criminalizados-en-zacate-grande/>

A Honduran judge allowed the extradition of drug trafficker Roberto de Jesús Soto García, but at the same time, he ordered to have him tried first in Honduras for the crime of illegal firearms carrying.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/06/ee-uu-debe-esperar-extradicion-de-capo-porque-honduras-lo-juzgara/>

The cameraman Sergio Naun Baca was detained by the police while covering an accident.

Xiomara Castro, former presidential candidate of Libre, filed a complaint for defamation against journalist David Romero. This is linked to the internal disputes in Libre about which political movement can propose candidates for the coming elections.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n/polic%C3%ADa-detiene-camar%C3%B3grafo-cuando-cubr%C3%ADa-accidente>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/06/quien-mando-a-querellarme-fue-mel-zelaya-responde-david-romero/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/06/intentan-dividirnos-xiomara-amenaza-con-querellar-a-comunicador/>

According to Fonaminh, Honduras is the country with most disappeared migrants in Central America.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/con-al-menos-600-casos-registrados.html>

The proposed budget for Tegucigalpa (see yesterday's news-roundup) raises some protest.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/06/cuestionan-fuerte-endeudamiento-de-alcaldia-de-tegucigalpa-honduras/>

According to the representative of the BID in Honduras, Rafael Mallen, Honduras has to start back interests in 2018 on the loan for the TRANS-450 infrastructure project - no matter if it works or not.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/06/estado-comenzara-a-pagar-deuda-adquirida-para-construir-trans-450/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1898-un-millon-de-ninas-sufre-abuso-sexual-en-america-central>

08/12/16

Berta - US; Garífunas; MACCIH; Hydroelectricity; HRDs; UNA; National Police; Globo TV; Transparency; Labor Rights; US; and Meet the Judges

US members of Congress wrote an open letter to the US Defense Secretary

John Kerry reiterating their concern regarding the investigation into Berta's assassination.

<http://ellison.house.gov/sites/ellison.house.gov/files/2016.12.06%20Letter%20to%20Kerry%20and%20Lew%20on%20Honduras.pdf>

<http://notibomba.com/congresistas-de-ee-uu-piden-a-kerry-suspender-ayuda-policial-y-militar-al-gobierno-de-joh/>

Giorgio Trucchi spoke with Miriam Miranda, coordinator of OFRANEH. She paints a bleak picture of the consequences of an extractivist development model on the indigenous peoples in Honduras.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/182191>

Javier Suazo offers his analysis on the recent report by MACCIH on its first six months in Honduras.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/182208>

The MP announced more investigations regarding the hydroelectric project Aurora II. The investigation will focus on the role of high government officials and the handing out of an environmental license. As the company belongs to the husband of Gladys Aurora, vice-president of Congress, I hope she is one of those high government officials. According to Criterio, the former sub-secretary of Serna, Marco Jonathan Laínez Ordoñez, is likely to go to prison for handing out the environmental license for Aurora II.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/07/aseguran-que-investigaran-mas-funcionarios-implicados-en-el-caso-aurora-ii/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1902-a-tribunales-represas-de-nacionalista-gladis-aurora>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/07/las-puertas-la-carcel-exfuncionario-otorgo-licencia-ambiental-ilegal-presidenta-del-partido-nacional/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/07/mp-investigara-altos-funcionarios-implicados-hidroelectrica-la-presidenta-del-partido-nacional/>

Two Honduran human rights organizations, C-Libre and CIPRODEH, participate in a regional program to strengthen human rights in Central America.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/derechos-humanos/derechos-humanos/centroam%C3%A9rica-contar%C3%A1-con-programa-para-promoci%C3%B3n-y>

El Pulso discovers further irregularities regarding Marlon Escoto and the National Agriculture University (UNA).

<http://elpulso.hn/el-negocio-redondo-de-marlon-escoto-demandante-y-demandado/>

The purging committee asks for international support in evaluating higher ranked police officials.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1024629-466/comisi%C3%B3n-de-depuraci%C3%B3n-pruebas-de-confianza-a-polic%C3%ADas-est%C3%A1n-desactualizadas>

Presidential assessor and head of Conatel, Ebal Díaz, gives contradicting answers regarding the closure and possible re-opening of Globo TV.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/07/conatel-debe-autorizar-apertura-de-globo-tv-reacciona-comisionado-de-telecomunicaciones/>

Being aware of the situation in Honduras, most of all regarding the Secrecy Law, it is unbearably cynical how JOH presents his government at a transparency conference in Paris.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/presidente-hern%C3%A1ndez-%E2%80%99Capoyamos-firmemente-el-gobierno-abierto%E2%80%9D>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/07/presidente-hondureno-participara-en-cumbre-de-transparencia-en-francia/>

Trump nominated the former head of Southcom, general John Kelly, as National Security Secretary.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/inicio/1024533-417/trump-elige-a-exjefe-de-comando-sur-como-secretario-de-seguridad>

The Honduran government denied the accusation that they work together with companies who violate labor rights (see yesterday's news round-up).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/07/gobierno-asegura-que-no-contratará-servicios-de-empresas-que-violentén-derechos-laborales/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/07/entran-en-funcion-nuevos-magistrados-anticorrupcion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/07/prometiendo-lo-todos-toman-posesion-nuevos-magistrados-del-tsc/>

09/12/16

LGTBI; Judicial Power; Impunity; Femicide; Party Financing; National Police; US; UNA; Libre; IACHR; Armed Forces; Lawyers; Transparency; and No Country for Laughter

Jasselyn Shantal Munguía, a transsexual student of journalism, was

brutally attacked yesterday morning.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/08/atacan-punaladas-conocido-comunicador-transexual/>

The MP secured information at the Judicial Power in the case of the missing 1.4 million Lempiras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/08/ministerio-publico-secuestra-informacion-del-poder-judicial-de-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1904-buscan-1-4-millon-en-corte-suprema-de-honduras>

Defensores en Línea spoke with Casa Alianza director Guadalupe Ruelas in his function of a representative of the Monitoring Table of Sentences by the IACtHR. This body was founded in 2015 by ten Honduran human rights organizations which brought cases to the IACtHR, but whose sentences haven't been complied with by the Honduran state.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-impunidad-envejece-al-pais-con-asesinatos-de-ninos-y-jovenes/>

The Movimiento de Mujeres por la Paz Visitación Padilla together with the Women's Tribunal against Femicide organized a discussion for journalists on violence against women.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1574-las-chonas-en-honduras-es-gratis-matar-mujeres-y-los-periodistas-tienen-una-gran-responsabilidad-para-detener-esa-violencia>

PINU congress woman Doris Gutiérrez laments that Congress weakened the bill to regulate party finances initially proposed by MACCIH.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/08/parlamento-hondureno-tuerce-el-brazo-a-la-maccih/>

ConfidencialHN spoke with Omar Rivera, member of the purging committee, about the legal complaints against him by former police agents.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/08/las-querellas-me-tienen-sin-cuidado-responde-depurador-policial-ante-denuncias/>

Jacobin interview Dana Frank, professor of history at the University of California and Honduras expert, on the role of the US in the country. In a further article, Dan Beeton and Rebecca Watts offers their analysis of the results of US security assistance in Honduras.

<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2016/12/honduras-clinton-trump-caceres-zelaya-hernandez/>

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10714839.2016.1258273>

There are more voices calling for an intervention committee at the National Agricultural University (UNA). UNA's authorities, meanwhile, try to attack one of the congress man supporting the students.

The Superior Education Council will meet on December 12 to discuss the recommendations by the legislative committee.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/derechos-humanos/derechos-humanos/comisi%C3%B3n-legislativa-recomienda-una-interventora-en-la>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/08/recomiendan-implementar-junta-interventora-para-resolver-conflicto-en-una/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/08/autoridades-la-una-soslayan-problematika-denunciada-comision-parlamentaria/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/08/consejo-educacion-superior-resolvera-12-diciembre-recomendaciones-crisis-unag/>

Oliva Marcela Zúniga, one of Berta's daughter, will run as a congress woman for Libre.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/08/hija-de-bertha-caceres-aspira-a-una-diputacion-por-libre/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/08/hija-berta-caceres-lanza-candidatura-diputada-libre/>

The IACHR concluded its 159th session on Wednesday.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2016/183.asp>

After France, JOH traveled to Israel, where he signed an agreement to strengthen Honduras' armed forces.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1903-israel-potenciara-a-honduras-fuerza-militar-aerea-y-naval>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/136523-honduras-firma-convenio-con-israel-para-fortalecer-las-fuerzas-armadas.html>

The lawyer and former head of investigation at the DNIC Yigueili Ponce was murdered.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2016/12/08/hallan-muerto-abogado-exagente-la-dnic/>

No comment

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/item/136467-honduras-gana-premio-mundial-por-sus-iniciativas-de-transparencia.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1905-indignante-fiscalia-juzga-familia-de-payasitos-por-mendicidad>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/honduras-esta-noticia-ha-desgarrado-mi.html>

10/12/16

Berta - Agua Zarca; UNA; HRDs; Journalists; Toll Station; Infrastructure; Political Opposition; and Human Rights Day

ATIC searched the offices of the Energy, Natural Resources, Environment

and Mining Secretariat to find more proof of the illegal handing-out of environmental licenses for hydroelectric projects.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/09/buscan-mas-implicados-en-caso-de-la-represa-agua-zarca/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/09/ministerio-publico-secuestra-documentos-oficinas-ambiente/>

The situation at the National Agricultural University (UNA) reached a new low point, when armed men invaded the university intimidating the protesting students and staff supporting them.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/derechos-humanos/derechos-humanos/hombres-armados-ingresan-la-universidad-de-agricultura>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/09/guardias-acosan-estudiantes-universidad-nacional-agricultura-orden-marlon-escoto/>

The German Honduras Delegation, a solidarity network, conducted from November 21 to December 8 a human rights delegation in Honduras. They concluded with a press conference, calling out the Honduran government to stop the defamation, criminalization and persecution of human rights defenders.

Among the growing pressure, the Honduran government announced a revision of the protection mechanism for human rights defenders.

Radio Progreso also sees some hope in the recent, official, opening of

the Honduran Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/derechos-humanos/derechos-humanos/piden-poner-fin-la-constante-difamaci%C3%B3n-contra-defensores>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/zedes-proyectos-extractivistas-persecucion-y-criminalizacion-amenazan-a-pueblos-originarios/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/honduras-directora-del-mecanismo-de.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3358-la-oficina-en-honduras-del-alto-comisionado-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-los-ddhh-una-oportunidad-08-de-diciembre-2016>

The journalist Efrén Bonilla had to publicly ask forgiveness for demanding respect of the labor rights of former El Tiempo employees.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n/periodista-se-disculpa-para-evitar-prim%C3%B3n-al-reclamar-derechos>

A new nation-wide protest against the toll station is announced for today. At the same time, new plans to privatize highways come to light.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/09/hondurenos-salen-a-las-calles-a-repudiar-la-privatizacion-de-las-carreteras/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3367-mientras-en-el-norte-se-oponen-a-privatizaci%C3%B3n-de-carreteras-comienzan-a-instalar-peajes-en-occidente-de-honduras>

Honduras Culture and Politics explain reasons behind the failure of the infrastructure project Trans-450 and its devastating consequences, e.g. paying interests on a \$33 million loan.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2016/12/incompetent-design-failed.html>

Salvador Nasralla, the president of PAC, announced that his party would join forces with Libre in the case of a reelection bid by JOH.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/09/pac-y-libre-acuerdan-candidatura-unica/>

Radio Progreso reports on a mining project in Arenales, Santa Bárbara. The concession for the project was handed out by the de-facto government of Roberto Michelletti. It expands by 900 hectares and threatens to wipe the Arenales community from the map.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3363-2016-a-%C3%B1o-mort%C3%ADfero-para-defensores-y-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21009&LangID=E>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/dia-internacional-de-los-defensores-y-defensoras-de-los-derechos-humanos/>

11/12/16

UAH; Toll System; and Human Rights

Marlon Escoto threatens employees supporting the students with

withholding their salary if they don't stop their strike. The MP, meanwhile, asked the police and armed forces to protect the students. The students also get support by CONADEH.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/10/rector-de-universidad-agricola-pagara-aguinaldo-a-empleados-si-rompen-huelga-estudiantil/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/10/ministerio-publico-pide-la-policia-militares-resguardar-estudiantes-la-universidad-agricultura/>

<http://tiempo.hn/conadeh-pide-respetar-acuerdo-preliminar-la-una/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/intransigencia-del-ministro-de-educacion-en-la-una-traeria-graves-consecuencias/>

Yesterday the protests against the toll system took place with protesters coming from Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and El Progreso to Siguatepeque demanding their right of free movement.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/10/soberania-vial-manda-al-regimen-hondureno-a-resguardar-casetas-de-peaje-de-covi/>

C-Libre held a joint press conference with Canada's ambassador on the International Human Rights Day to discuss the situation in Honduras and Canada's role.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/10/derechos-humanos-honduras-van-involucionando/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/136655-canada-aboga-por-respeto-a-los-dd-hh-y-la-libertad-de-prensa-en-honduras.html>

12/12/16

Deportation; Reelection; Homicide Rate; UNA; Palmerola; Remittances; and Greetings from Brazil

Even though it has become quiet about the topic of child migration in

Central America, this year more Honduran children are expected to have been deported back to Honduras than in 2014.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/cifra-de-ninos-repatriados-honduras.html>

PAC demands that 14 National congresswo/men are banned for the coming elections because they voted in favor of the presidential reelection.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/11/piden-a-la-autoridad-electoral-bloquear-candidatura-reeleccionista-de-joh/>

Both the National Police via SEPOL and the Violence Observatory expect a minor decrease in the homicide rate for 2016.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1025688-466/reducci%C3%B3n-de-131-puntos-en-la-tasa-de-homicidios-de-2016-proyectan>

ATIC searched the National Agricultural University for proof of corruption.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/11/ministerio-publico-secuestra-documentos-en-la-una-por-actos-de-corrupcion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/11/ministerio-publico-secuestra-documentacion-la-universidad-agricultura/>

Businessman Olban Valladares demands that the Palmerola contract goes back to Congress due to changes made to it after its approval.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1025619-466/contrato-del-aeropuerto-internacional-de-palmerola-debe-regresar-al-congreso-nacional>

The remittances flowing to Honduras may reach \$4 billion this year.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1025636-466/honduras-las-remesas-aumentan-en-212-millones>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/11/banco-brasileno-suspende-desembolsos-honduras-operacion-lava-jato-2/>

13/12/16

MILPAH; UNA; (Re)Elections; Extractivism; MACCIH; Irregularities; APP; and Children Living on Honduras' Street

Members of MILPAH denounce new death threats by National Party activists

linked to the mayor of Santa Elena, Víctor Ventura.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/derechos-humanos/pueblos-indigenas/activistas-del-partido-nacional-amenazan-de-muerte>

El Pulso talked with Adolfo Chávez, a student at the National Agricultural University, about their situation, the repression and their hopes for the intervention.

Meanwhile, Carlos Manuel Ulloa was nominated as the deputy dean of the UNA to head the intervention.

The suspended dean, Marlon Escoto, filed a complaint against a Honduran living in the US for defamation.

<http://elpulso.hn/estudiantes-de-la-unag-denuncian-abusos-sexuales/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/12/consejo-de-educacion-superior-juramenta-a-representante-suplente-de-la-una/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1911-separan-a-marlon-escoto-para-resolver-crisis-universitaria>

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n/marlon-escoto-querella-hondure%C3%B1o-que-vive-en-estados-unidos>

The TSE was confronted with protests from different parties yesterday. A group of National Party activists demanded the presidential reelection.

This was a reaction to a press conference held by the National Party in which they called out to defend the right to elect and be elected.

In the afternoon, the political opposition came to the TSE, demanding from the magistrates to abstain from allowing the reelection.

Of course the former coup-general Romeo Vázquez Velásquez also chimed in, pointing out the irony that those protesting for the reelection are the same that wanted the coup back in 2009.

Tomorrow the TSE will announce their verdict.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/12/activistas-nacionalistas-exigen-la-inscripcion-de-joh/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/12/regimen-nacionalista-pide-estar-alerta-para-defender-el-derecho-a-elegir-y-ser-electo/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/12/tse-se-convierte-centro-lucha-favor-la-reeleccion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/12/los-mas-bravos-defensores-la-constitucion-2009-hoy-los-mas-bravos-violadores/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1913-hora-cero-del-tse-miercoles-acepta-o-no-reeleccion>

Defensores en Línea reports on the struggle by four communities of Cacautare in Pespíre, Choluteca. There a company wants to drain the river Chiquito to obtain material such as sand.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/comunidades-de-pestpire-no-permitiran-ningun-tipo-de-extractivismo-en-el-rio-chiquito/>

Canada supports MACCIH with \$5 million.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/12/canada-aporta-5-millones-la-maccih-le-preocupa-la-corrupcion-honduras/>

The Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) presented proof of irregularity to the MP in a "social" program by the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1910-exprimera-dama-hondurena-sera-citada-a-tribunales>

The US tries to reassure the governments of the Northern Triangle regarding the Alliance for Prosperity Plan.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/eeuu-garantiza-apoyo-bipartidista-alianza-para-prosperidad-para-el-tri%C3%A1ngulo-norte-de-ca>

<http://tiempo.hn/casa-alianza-alrededor-1500-ninos-ninas-viven-las-calles-honduras/>

14/12/16

Aguán; Extraditions; Irregularities; MACCIH; IHSS; Reelection; UNA; Inequality; and from Standing Rock to Honduras

The Agrarian Platform reacts to the criminalizing press release by Dinant.

The Permanent Human Rights Observatory of the Aguán (OPDHA) also emitted a press release.

See Attachment

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/comunicado-de-opdha-sobre-aguan.html>

The former police officer Ludwig Criss Zelaya Romero was extradited to the US.

Security analyst Arabeska Sánchez thinks that the confessions by such individuals, may serve to find proof of participation in the drug trade by politicians and high officials.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/13/extraditan-a-ee-uu-a-exoficial-de-la-policia-nacional-de-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/13/confesiones-de-extraditados-pone-en-peligro-a-operadores-politicos-del-crimen-analista/>

A new investigation by ConfidencialHN uncovers irregularities in the transition from the National Energy Commission (CNE) to the Regulatory Commission of Electric Energy (CREE). According to the report, MACCIH as well as the TSC are informed about the matter.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/13/abusos-y-acciones-dolosas-incurrio-finanzas-con-recursos-de-la-comision-de-energia/>

It seems that MACCIH felt the need to underline that it doesn't distinguish between political parties when investigating corruption. They presented the financial support by international donors as a proof of independence - Canada gave \$5.2 million, the US \$5 million, the EU apparently is about to give \$1 million and Germany just announced that it will give another \$600'000 to the \$100'000 it already gave. MACCIH also informed about its newly designed Effective Partnership Bill, which currently is waiting for approval by the Attorney General.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/13/maccih-asegura-que-no-distinguiran-color-politico-en-sus-investigaciones-contra-la-corrupcion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/13/la-maccih-garantiza-independencia-financiamiento-viene-la-comunidad-internacional/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/13/maccih-disena-ley-colaboracion-eficaz-desarticular-mafias-corrumpas-criminales/>

Dagoberto Aspra, a former member of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), thinks that MACCIH won't come further in investigating the IHSS corruption case than the CNA did.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/honduras-maccih-no-supera.html>

There are rumors that the Liberal magistrate at the TSE, Erick Rodríguez, will vote against the inscription of JOH to run for president again.

Former president Zelaya thinks that the reelection will fall.

According to El Tiempo, the police sub-commissioner Henry Osorto Canales called the reelection illegal.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/13/votara-el-magistrado-liberal-del-tse-contra-la-reeleccion-de-joh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/13/trasciende-partido-liberal-tse-se-negaria-inscribir-joh-mel-zelaya/>

<http://tiempo.hn/segun-la-ley-no-se-puede-inscribir-candidaturas-ilegales-ex-comisionado-henry-osorto/>

The protesting students at the National Agricultural University emitted a press release, announcing that they won't suspend the protest for the time being. The first want to see some results by the newly formed intervention committee.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/13/estudiantes-la-unag-entregaran-instalaciones-respuestas-concretas/>

According to numbers by the World Bank, Honduras is the most unequal country in Latin America.

<http://notibomba.com/banco-mundial-honduras-es-el-pais-con-mayor-desigualdad-de-america-latina/>

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/38712-native-waters-native-warriors-from-standing-rock-to-honduras>

15/12/16

Reelection; Freedom of Expression; HRDs; Journalists; FPIC; MILPAH; Judicial Power; APP; and Where Have All the Pulperías Gone?

The TSE allowed JOH to run for the presidency again. The vote was 2:1,

with the Liberal magistrate Eric Rodríguez voting against it.

JOH portrays himself as the victor in a fight for the right to be elected.

He know wants Congress to regulate the reelection. Something that various legal scholar still deem illegal.

PINU congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez speaks of a pyrrhic victory for JOH.

Enrique Ortéz, a former TSE magistrate, speaks of "the worst criminal act in the country's history."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1915-votacion-2-1-tse-inscribe-a-joh-para-la-reeleccion>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/14/joh-empalaga-fallo-de-autoridad-electoral-y-comienza-a-pedir-votos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/14/joh-insiste-congreso-nacional-reglamentar-la-ilegal-reeleccion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/14/inscripcion-joh-tse-una-victoria-pirrica-doris-gutierrez/>

<http://tiempo.hn/enrique-ortez-decision-del-tse-se-ha-cometido-mayor-crimen-la-historia-del-pais/>

Ruy Díaz, a candidate for Congress of Libre, was detained by the police after writing "fuera JOH" (out JOH) on a tree as a protest against the reelection.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n/detenido-por-escribir-fuera-joh-en-un-%C3%A1rbol>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1580-empieza-la-persecucion-profesor-fue-detenido-por-protestar-contr-la-reeleccion-del-presidente-de-la-republica>

In a workshop at the recent 159th session of the IACHR in Panama, the representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from Central America, South America, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico decided to develop together with the IACHR a joint mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cidh-y-oficinas-de-derechos-humanos-de-la-onu-se-comprometen-a-desarrollar-mecanismo-conjunto-para-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-y-periodistas/>

La Tribuna denounces that a member of the Armed Forces threatened its journalist Martín Ramírez.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n/militar-amenaza-periodista-de-la-tribuna>

OFRANEH reports on the audience at the IACHR a week ago about the right to prior consultation by indigenous peoples.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2016/12/13/el-estado-de-honduras-la-distorsion-del-derecho-a-la-consulta-de-los-pueblos-indigenas-y-la-audiencia-tematica-de-la-cidh/>

Pasos de Animal Grande has some more information on the recent death threats against MILPAH members in Santa Elena, La Paz. Those threatened should all benefit from special protection measures granted by the IACHR and of of them, Ana Mirian Romero, recently won the Front Line Defenders Prize.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1581-honduras-actos-de-intimidacion-y-amenazas-de-muerte-contr-integrantes-de-los-consejos-indigenas-de-santiago-apostol-y-san-isidro-labrador>

The former vice-president of the Judiciary Council, Teodoro Bonilla, will face trial for influence peddling.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/14/decretan-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-contr-teodoro-bonilla/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/14/abriran-juicio-teodoro-bonilla-caso-shalom/>

Juan Sebastián González, a US sub-secretary, is "confident that at the beginning of the next year, the funds [of the Alliance for Prosperity] are here."

JOH, meanwhile, proposed that Israel became a member of the Alliance for Prosperity.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/14/incumplimiento-condiciones-paran-desembolso-750-millones-triangulo-norte-c/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/136867-israel-debe-entrar-en-plan-alianza-para-contribuir-en-combate-a-visos-de-terrorismo-presidente-de-honduras.html>

According to the purging committee, next year more than 3000 new police agents will join the force.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/14/proximo-ano-se-incorporaran-3-mil-nuevos-policias/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2016/12/14/masivo-cierre-pulperias-registra-capital-hondurena/>

16/12/16

Reelection; Political Opposition; National Police; US; Tasa de Seguridad; UNA; and Rising Living Costs

El Pulso published the official resolution of the TSE as well magistrate

Erik Mauricio Rodríguez Gavarreteas the minority opinion of regarding the presidential reelection.

Albany Flores published her analysis of JOH.

What can be interpreted as a sign of force, JOH visited yesterday - after the announcement of the reelection - the Armed Forces.

On the occasion, he spoke of the need to strengthen the Armed Forces - maybe that is already his campaign pledge to them.

Libre, PAC and PINU presented an appeal to the Supreme Court. Knowing about its futility, they said it will serve to see how the Liberal judges will vote.

<http://elpulso.hn/con-resolucion-del-tse-gana-joh-2-a-1-inscribase/>

<http://elpulso.hn/yo-presidente/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/15/tras-violentar-constitucion-presidente-festeja-con-militares/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/136925-juan-orlando-hernandez-recalco-este-jueves-su-decision-de-repotenciar-las-fuerzas-armadas-de-honduras.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/15/coalicion-opositora-impugna-candidatura-continuista-de-hernandez/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/15/pac-libre-pinu-interponen-recurso-ampara-ante-la-csj-reeleccion-joh/>

The three opposition parties Libre, PAC and PINU also announced that they are now even more convinced to present a joint candidate for the presidential race.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/15/pac-libre-pinu-aseguran-la-alianza-ya-esta-dada-derrotar-joh/>

Last night, there was an attack against Jorge Machado, a member of the purging committee. One of his guards, Geovany Calderón, died and two were wounded.

The US ambassador as well as MACCIH condemned the attack.

Earlier that day, the purging committee announced the dismissal of another 405 agents, officials and administrative workers.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/15/atentan-contra-depurador-policial-matan-a-guardaespaldas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/136935-atentado-contra-miembro-de-comision-depuradora-policia.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/15/mas-purgas-en-la-policia-de-honduras-mandan-a-la-calle-a-405-agentes/>

A group of 17 US congresswo/men wrote to US Foreign Secretary John Kerry about the worrying human rights situation in Honduras.

See Attachment

<http://notibomba.com/nueva-carta-de-congresistas-a-kerry-condenando-inscripcion-ilegal-y-la-corrupcion-de-joh/>

Cristina Alvarado, a member of the Women's Movement for Peace "Visitación Padilla", denounces that the 'tasa de seguridad' doesn't support projects intended to increase the security of women.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/derechos-humanos/mujeres/tasa-de-seguridad-no-tiene-como-prioridad-prevenir-violencia-contra>

The suspended dean Marlon Escoto is not allowed to enter the National Agricultural University.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1919-prohiben-a-marlon-escoto-entrar-a-universidad-agricola>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/el-coste-de-la-canasta-b%C3%A1sica-superar%C3%A1-los-11-mil-lempiras-finales-del-2016>

17/12/16

COFADEH; Judicial Power; Violence; Garífunas; Canada; IHSS; National Police; Reelection; UNA; and Capital Flight

COFADEH launched an urgent action, denouncing the utilization of their

institutional logo and name of the their coordinator Bertha Oliva in a false communication.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/accion-urgente-alguien-construye-falsos-positivos/>

See Attachment (English)

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/16/denuncian-falsos-positivos-contra-defensora-de-ddhh-bertha-oliva/>

Two judges fired by the then Judiciary Council were granted special protection measures by the IACHR. Due to that, Nelly Martínez and María Dolores López may be reintegrated into their old jobs. The one responsible for firing them, Teodoro Bonilla, currently faces a trial in Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/16/dan-medidas-cautelares-a-juezas-despedidas-por-el-inefable-teodoro-bonilla/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1926-cidh-otorga-medidas-cautelares-a-2-juezas>

According to Casa Alianza, during the presidency of JOH, 2550 children and young adults under the age of 23 were murdered in Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mas-de-2-mil-500-ejecuciones-arbitrarias-se-han-registrado-durante-el-gobierno-de-joh/>

A court in Trujillo dismissed the case against Garífuna Medalime Martina David Fernandez for usurpation. At the same time, the court accredited the possession of the community land to the company CARIVIDA, which is linked to the notorious Randy Jorgensen.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2016/12/16/justicia-en-honduras-sobreseimiento-a-medeline-david-y-ratificacion-de-propiedad-a-la-mafia-canadiense-del-rey-del-porno/>

Mining Watch criticizes the human rights politics, or rather the communication about it, from the Canadian government in Honduras.

<http://miningwatch.ca/blog/2016/12/15/canada-s-hollow-human-rights-commitment-honduras-and-human-rights-defenders>

The former director of the IHSS, Mario Zelaya, was found guilty - not for the corruption case at IHSS, but for illegal possession of fire arms. Nevertheless, MACCIH welcomed the sentence.

[http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/16/corrupto-exdirector-del-ihss-es-culpable-por-posesion-ilegal-de-
armas/](http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/16/corrupto-exdirector-del-ihss-es-culpable-por-posesion-ilegal-de-
armas/)

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/16/dictan-primera-sentencia-mario-zelaya-almacenamientos-armas-prohibidas/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/maccih-oea-saluda-primera-sentencia-condenatoria-contra-mario-zelaya>

ConfidencialHN reports that the current head of police, Félix Villanueva, may be investigated by the purging committee for illicit enrichment.

InSight Crime also reports on the murder attempt of Jorge Machado, a member of the purging committee.

The committee emitted a press release, condemning the attack, but also underlining that they continue with their work.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/16/jefe-policial-en-la-mira-de-la-junta-depuradora-por-supuesto-enriquecimiento-ilicito/>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/honduras-police-reform-commission-member-survives-attack>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/16/ atentado-no-frenara-depuracion-policial-dice-comision-depuradora/>

Salvador Nasralla, PAC's president, thinks that the attack against Jorge Machado is to distract from the illegal run for reelection by JOH.

A PAC congressman, Luis Redondo, says that he receives death threat for denouncing corruption in the current government and for opposing the reelection.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/16/los-atentados-son-distractores-muy-comunes-utilizados-por-los-dictadores/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1927-diputado-del-pac-denuncia-que-recibe-amenazas-a-muerte>

ConfidencialHN denounces that a group close to the suspended dean of UNA, Marlon Escoto, intimidated the protesting students.

The Alliance for Human Rights condemned the attack.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/16/estudiantes-la-unag-lanzan-alerta-ante-brutal-agresion-esta-noche/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/16/alianza-organizaciones-dd-hh-responsabiliza-autoridades-los-actos-violencia-la-unag/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/16/empleados-de-marlon-escoto-cometen-vandalismo-en-la-universidad-agricola/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/persiste-hostigamiento-contra-estudiantes-universitarios-de-catacamas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/14/fuga-de-capitales-en-honduras-aumenta-en-100-millones-de-dolares/>

18/12/16

HRDs; Journalists; Drug Trafficking; and Good News from UNA

Honduras lost another outstanding woman this year. Human rights defender

Melba Reyes died this week due to missing medical attention after an allergic reaction in Olanchito, Yoro.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/melva-reyes-defensora-de-ddhh-hasta-el-ultimo-momento/>

Dina Meza, human rights defender and journalist, recently won the human

rights prize by the Human Rights Cinema Festival in Barcelona.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/honduras-dina-meza-premio-letras-en.html>

The anti-drug trafficking bureau at the MP emitted an arrest warrant against an employee of the MP for selling information to drug traffickers.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/17/ejecutan-orden-captura-funcionario-del-mp-vendia-informacion-narcotraficantes/>

UNA's governing board announced yesterday that no student will be sanctioned for participating in the protests.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/16/suspenden-sanciones-contr-estudiantes-de-la-una/>

19/12/16

Militarization; UNA; Basic Goods; Migration; Judicial Power; National Police;

This past weekend another 228 children finished the "Guards of the

Fatherland" program. Honduras seems to continue to ignore requests by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to cancel the program. El Heraldo has some more details on the recent deal between Honduras and Israel.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/18/honduras-gradua-77-mil-guardianes-de-la-patria-onu-exige-su-derogacion/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1027711-466/honduras-equipamiento-israel%C3%AD-a-ff-aa-costar%C3%A1-4800-millones>

It has been a month since the protests started at the National Agricultural University. On this occasion the students emitted a press release with their take on the situation.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/18/problemat-ica-la-unag-sigue-primer-d-ia-estudiantes-no-claudican-lucha/>

While Congress' discusses a new salary adjustment for the risen living costs, the private sector organization COHEP claims that the monthly basic goods for a family cost some 5600 Lempiras. The civil society organization Fosdeh, meanwhile, thinks that the real costs are around 15'000 - 16'000 Lempiras.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/18/canasta-basica-hondurena-cuesta-15-16-mil-lempiras-fosdeh/>

El Tiempo reports on US pressure on Brazil to accept refugees from the countries of the Northern Triangle.

<http://tiempo.hn/brasil-acogera-refugiados-honduras-salvador-guatemala/>

Mario Díaz, president of the Association of Judges for Democracy, announced that their organization will work towards occupying the more than 200 open positions in the Honduran Judicial Power with the most qualified people.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/137065-mas-de-200-plazas-se-pondran-a-disposicion-en-la-csj-a-partir-de-enero.html>

The TSC exonerated the director of the Honduran police Félix Villanueva Mejía for illicit enrichment. This week, there will be also an announcement by the purging committee in an open case against him.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1027706-410/el-tsc-exonera-de-cargos-al-director-de-la-polic%C3%ADa>

20/12/16

Berta - Investigation; Reelection; Journalists; Globo TV; Social Policy; Debt; National Police; MP; UNA; CCG; and Happy Birthday Radio Progreso

The Expert Committee of the Belém do Pará Convention expressed its

preoccupation about the state of the investigation into Berta's murder.

<http://www.panoramical.eu/especiales/eurolatinoamericanas/cim-comite-expertas-expresa-preocupacion-robo-al-expediente-investigacion-berta-caceres-honduras/>

The president of the Liberal Party, Mauricio Villeda, presented a new appeal against the presidential reelection at the TSE. He bases his appeal on a resolution by the IACHR, which declared that the reelection is not a human right, something that the National Party has claimed throughout these last months.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/19/resolucion-historica-de-la-cidh-podria-inhabilitar-candidatura-reeleccionista-de-joh/>

Pasos de Animal Grande shows how crimes against the honor of a person are mostly used in Honduras to silence critical journalists.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/investigaciones/item/1232-delitos-contra-el-honor-creados-para-enmudecer-a-periodistas-que-denuncian-ilegalidades-y-corrupcion>

CONADEH urges the National Telecommunications Commission to base its decision regarding the re-opening of Globo TV on the grounds of freedom of communication and information.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/19/conatel-debe-reafirmar-la-libertad-de-comunicacion-y-evitar-afectar-derechos-humanos-conadeh/>

Wilmer Vásquez, director of Coiprodén, criticizes the governments failure to offer alternatives and opportunities to the Honduran children. This missing priority became also manifest once more in the new budget.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/19/continuan-denunciando-que-la-ninez-y-juventud-no-son-parte-de-la-agenda-orlandista/>

El Pulso compiled some information on the internal and external debt of Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-6-aumento-la-deuda-publica-de-honduras-para-el-2016/>

According to Criterio, the attack against Jorge Machado was committed in a car by a purged police sub-commissioner. US ambassador James D. Nealon met with the purging committee to reaffirm the US' support of their work.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/19/atentado-pastor-jorge-machado-se-habria-cometido-vehiculo-policia-depurado/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/19/embajador-de-ee-uu-reafirma-respaldo-a-depuradores-policiales-de-honduras/>

Another card from US congresswo/men about the Northern Triangle was published. The 12 congresswo/men show their support of the three Attorney General in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. And they call to the national politicians to not interfere in their work.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/19/congresistas-ee-uu-piden-politicos-del-triangulo-norte-no-interfieran-los-trabajos-los-fiscales-generales/>

<http://tiempo.hn/congresistas-eeuu-respaldan-gestion-fiscales-del-triangulo-norte/>

Students from the National Agricultural University (UNA) held a press conference yesterday. They denounce the unequal treatment by the MP and the police. One of their colleagues, Moisés Rodríguez, has been in custody for four days, even though the accusation against him was withdrawn. At the same time, those employees that stormed the offices at the university sealed off by ATIC are still walking free. And so are those that continuously attacked students during the protests.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/19/alumno-acusado-tentativa-homicidio-lleva-cuatro-dias-presos-empleado-casi-mata-10-estudiantes-tractor-esta-libre/>

The Honduran Architects College (CAH) criticizes the government's plan for the construction of the Civic Governmental Center (CCG).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/19/el-centro-civico-gubernamental-es-antipatriotico-y-nocivo-para-la-ciudad/>

<https://storify.com/RadioProgresoHN/radio-progreso-60aniversario>

21/12/16

Street Vendors; Garífunas; Reelection; Budget; National Police; FIFA; RNP; and Public Discourse in Honduras

ConfidencialHN reports that two street vendors died in a repressive

action by the municipal police in Tegucigalpa.

According to El Libertador, the police tried to evict the street vendors forcefully and then started to shoot. Both El Libertador and Criterio report one street vendor dying.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/20/policia-municipal-de-tegucigalpa-honduras-reprime-a-vendedores-hay-dos-muertos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1937-alerta-muerto-y-heridos-en-cruel-desalojo-de-vendedores-en-tegucigalpa>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/20/vendedor-ambulante-habria-muerto-varios-mas-resultaron-heridos-enfrentamiento-policias-municipales/>

A year ago the IACTHR decided in favor of the Garífuna communities in Punta Piedra and Triunfo. Nevertheless, the Honduran state failed so far in paying the reparations ordered by the court.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2016/12/20/1381/>

Legal scholar Andrea Nuila wrote an interesting article on the opposition against the reelection and which arguments are worthwhile and which should be dropped.

Meanwhile, La Gaceta published the decision by the TSE, making the reelection official.

<http://elpulso.hn/reeleccion-mas-alla-del-bien-y-el-mal/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/20/candidatura-reeleccionista-de-joh-ya-es-oficial/>

<http://elpulso.hn/caricatura/>

Javier Suazo published a detailed analysis of the new general budget for 2017 underlying some of the major problems with it.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/182504>

"The North-American authorities together with the purging committee

decided, as a security measure, to send the family" of Jorge Machado abroad. The committee told the public in a new press release that they trust in the MP and the Police Investigation Bureau (DPI) to solve the case. Even though there are accusations that he had his own files altered, the head of police, Félix Villanueva, can stay in his position. A group of purged police members protested yesterday outside of the Security Secretariat demanding the payment of their benefits.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/20/autoridades-determinan-sacar-del-pais-a-familiares-del-pastor-jorge-machado/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1028344-466/comisi%C3%B3n-avanzan-con-%C3%A9xito-investigaciones-de-crimen-contra-pastor-machado>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1934-pese-a-denuncia-ratificarian-director-de-policia-hondurena>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/20/policias-purgados-exigen-pago-de-derechos-laborales/>

FIFA has expelled both Alfredo Hawit and Rafael Leonardo Callejas for violating their ethics code.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1935-fifa-expulsa-de-por-vida-a-exdirigentes-hondurenos>

Workers at the National Persons' Registry (RNP) announced a strike that should last until they have received their salary.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/honduras-paro-de-labores-por-falta-de.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-verificacion-del-discurso-publico-en-honduras/>

22/12/16

National Police; Electoral Reform; Irregularities; Street Vendors; and Denouncing as a Civic Duty

Three arrests have been announced in the case of the attack against

Jorge Machado.

Oscar Mauricio Avilés, a police inspector is also accused of being involved. He speaks of an unfounded persecution of him.

The director of the human rights organization Ciprodeh, Wilfredo Méndez, doesn't believe that Avilés did it either - he even calls it absurd.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/21/colonia-capitalina-capturan-tres-supuestos-implicados-atentado-pastor-machado/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/21/oficial-denuncia-persecucion-por-atentado-contra-depurador-de-la-policia-hondurena/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/21/wilfredo-mendez-comision-depuradora-fue-creada-para-preservar-los-hilos-de-impunidad/>

Libre congressman Jorge Calix presented two bills regarding the coming elections to Congress. One wants voters to give their finger prints when casting their vote, the other wants to make the votes of the people at the voting table public. The latter is already part of the constitution (Article 44), but hasn't been enforced. During the last elections, it came to be known that some people supposedly representing the small parties at the table voted for the National Party indicating that they were bought.

<http://notibomba.com/exigen-que-se-apruebe-el-voto-publico-y-uso-de-huella-digital-en-las-elecciones/>

Inhabitants of the El Prado colony in Tegucigalpa denounce that the government rented a building by businessman and politician Ángel Andrés Matuty for the National Migration Institute. According to them, the building doesn't fulfill the minimal requirement to house an important government body.

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/21/vecinos-prado-denuncian-empresario-alcaldia-gobierno-renta-irregular-edificio/>

The repression against street vendors in Tegucigalpa continued yesterday.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1942-alcaldia-sigue-atacando-vendedores-en-tegucigalpa>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/21/50-mil-lempiras-de-recompensa-recibiran-los-que-denuncien-a-los-gatillos-alegres/>

23/12/16

APP; Public Health; Street Vendors; RNP; Mayors; Devaluation; and Life on Wheels

Dawn Paley takes a critical view at the Alliance for Prosperity plans

and he predicts that its implementation would further worsen the Central American refugee crisis.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/the-alliance-for-prosperity-will-intensify-the-central-american-refugee-crisis/>

Elmer Mayes, the director of the Honduran Medical Chamber (CMH), criticizes the Social Protection System Bill for leaving thousands of people without coverage.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/22/solo-los-potentados-tendran-acceso-a-la-salud-en-honduras/>

On the third consecutive days, street vendors in Tegucigalpa demanded from the mayorality office to let them work.

The city councillor María Luisa Borjas, meanwhile, demands an investigation into the violent eviction of the street vendors.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/22/si-los-pobres-no-venden-los-turcos-tampoco-venderan/>

<http://criterio.hn/2016/12/22/regidora-municipal-pide-investigacion-desalojo-violento-vendedores-ambulantes/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1947-condeno-brutalidad-y-abuso-de-la-policia-municipal>

ConfidencialHN reports on irregularities at the National Persons Registry (RNP).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/22/asi-protege-director-del-registro-de-las-personas-a-conflictivo-consultor/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council announces more investigations of mayoralties for 2017.

<http://tiempo.hn/cna-anuncio-intervendran-mas-alcaldias-proximo-2017/>

ConfidencialHN reports on Honduran banks negating their costumers to buy US dollars above a certain amount - \$200 in one case.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/22/banca-restringe-venta-de-dolares-a-cuentahabientes-advierten-brutal-devaluacion-del-lempira/>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-vida-sobre-ruedas-el-taxi-12/>

24/12/16

Military Police; Political Parties; Libre; National Police; Public Employees; Casa Alianza; Weapons; Migration; Garífuna, and Honduran Christmas

What can only be seen as an intimidation, the Military Police stormed

heavily armed the cultural location Café Paradiso in Tegucigalpa pretending to look for arms and drugs.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1948-terror-en-paradiso-policia-militar-busca-armas-y-drogas-en-recital-de-poesia>

Political analyst Javier Calderón Castillo wrote an interesting article with his panorama of the months coming up to the next general election in Honduras.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/182576>

The Police Investigations Bureau (DPI) informed the public yesterday of a planned attack against Jorge Aldana, a Libre mayoral candidate.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/23/revelan-plan-para-atentar-contra-dirigente-politico-de-libre-jorge-aldana/>

El Heraldo reports on an attack against former police sub-commissioner Juan Carlos Lagos Lobo. He was purged in April after having been linked to the murder of the anti-drugs czar Julián Arístides González Irías. According to ConfidencialHN, Jorge Machado, the member of the purging committee who suffered an attack recently, now has left Honduras. It was said before, that only his family would leave the country and he would continue with his work.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1029198-466/atentan-contra-polic%3%ADa-tigre-depurado-tras-ser-vinculado-a-asesinato-del-zar>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/23/pastor-y-depurador-policial-huye-de-honduras-se-exiliara-en-miami/>

Radio Progreso declares 2016 a bad year for public employees in Honduras. Right at this moment, employees of the RNP, INA and the hospital Leonardo Martínez are protesting to receive their salaries.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3380-en-calamidad-empleados-p%C3%BAblicos-por-falta-de-pago>

According to Casa Alianza, 210 people violently lost their lives last November in Honduras and almost half of them were under 30 years old.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/23/casa-alianza-honduras-reporta-210-asesinatos-durante-noviembre/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/137291-casa-alianza-informa-que-97-jovenes-menores-de-30-anos-murieron-en-forma-violenta-en-noviembre.html>

Radio Progreso reports on the difficult situation of the injured divers of the Mosquitia region.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3377-buzos-misquitos-esperan-que-protocolo-de-atenci%C3%B3n-prevenga-muertes-y-lesiones>

According to SEPOL, the Honduran police has decommissioned 7258 weapons in 2016.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/23/mas-de-siete-mil-armas-fueron-decomisadas-en-el-que-va-del-ano/>

In 2016, 66'000 Hondurans were deported from the US and Mexico. There are still over a million Hondurans living in the US and they send back home some \$3,2 billion in form of remittances.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1950-mas-de-66-mil-hondurenos-deportados-pasaran-amarga-navidad>

Radio Progreso also reports on the failure of the Honduran government to comply with the IACtHR sentence on the Garífuna communities Triunfo de la Cruz and Punta Piedra.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3381-estado-de-honduras-incumple-sentencia-de-la-corteidh-en-caso-triunfo-de-la-cruz-y-punta-piedra>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3382-navidad-es-esperanza-y-honduras-necesita-mucha-esperanza-dice-p%C3%A1rroco-de-jutiapa-atl%C3%A1ntida-v%C3%ADctor-c%C3%A1mara>

26/12/16

Café Paradiso; Living Cost; Corruption; and a Christmas Card by Radio Progreso

A group of Honduran artists and writers condemns the intimidation by the

Military Police of visitors at the Café Paradiso on Thursday night.

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/cultura/militares-irrupen-en-librer%C3%ADa-y-caf%C3%A9-paradiso>

Living costs will further rise in the new year for Honduras. While everyone was celebrating Christmas, the Administrative Petroleum Commission (CAP) announced a rise to fuel prices.

At the same time, El Heraldo reports that energy prices rise by about 10% next year for those consuming LESS than 500 KW per month.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/25/regalo-navideno-gobierno-de-honduras-da-fuerte-aumento-al-combustible/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1029563-466/tarifa-el%C3%A9ctrica-para-el-sector-residencial-sube-10-a-partir-de-enero>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) and its counterpart at the MP, Unaf, held a press conference presenting their results from this year and informing about the plans for 2017. A number worth highlighting comes from the CNA, which says that 49% of investment in the 32 investigated cases was lost due to corruption.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1029594-410/de-100-lempiras-que-invierte-el-estado-se-pierden-49>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3384-gestos-de-navidad-24-diciembre-2016>

27/12/16

National Police; Rule of Law; UNA; Minimum Wage; Political Opposition; and Life on Wheels - Part 2

UNAH's dean Julieta Castellanos criticizes most former security

ministers for their indifference regarding the corruption inside the Honduran police force.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/137456-rectora-castellanos-critica-papel-de-exministros-de-seguridad.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/26/14008/>

In the newest report by the The World Justice Project Honduras occupies one of the last ranks in regards to rule of law.

http://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/media/wjp_rule_of_law_index_2016.pdf

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/26/honduras-sigue-siendo-una-de-las-naciones-mas-corruptas-y-violadoras-de-la-ley-en-el-mundo/>

According to the students at the Agricultural University, the Intervention Commission has so far been unable to bring forward any satisfying answer to the crisis at hand. According to them, the situation is worsening and they live in constant fear of new attacks.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-la-una-las-que-personas-que-hablan-las-mandan-para-su-casa/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/como-familia-celebran-navidad-en-la-unag/>

Javier Suazo offers his analysis on the current discussion in Honduras on the minimum wage and the general institutional circumstances of Honduran workers.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/182584>

Libre's coordinator Manuel Zelaya announces that in April the political opposition will jointly decide on a candidate to run against JOH.

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-politica-manuel-zelaya>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-vida-sobre-ruedas-el-bus-y-el-busito-22/>

28/12/16

National Police; Penal Code; Education; Judicial Power; Energy Prices; Impunity; Basic Goods; and Tackling the New Year Together

According to Omar Rivera, a member of the purging committee, some 2000

members of the police force from all levels have been purged in 2016. The political analyst Miguel Cáliz, meanwhile, demands better planning regarding the purges, i.e. job opportunities for laid-off police agents so that they don't pursue (or continue to pursue) illicit activities. In January, Congress will discuss the new Organic Law for the National Police.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/27/mas-de-mil-policias-hondurenos-fueron-purgados-durante-2016/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/27/el-proceso-de-depuracion-policial-en-honduras-debio-ser-planificado/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/principios-de-enero-diputados-discutir%C3%A1n-ley-org%C3%A1nica-de-la-polic%C3%AD-nacional>

In a new press release, CESPAD demands a revision of the new Penal Code, highlighting the worrisome articles which could further criminalize

social protest.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1583-cespad-demanda-revision-de-articulos-del-nuevo-codigo-penal-que-criminalizan-la-protesta-social>

Jaime Rodríguez, the president of the labor union Copemh, criticizes the JOH administration for failing to pay the December salaries on time. He partly blames this on keeping on Marlon Escoto as education secretary, even though there are various signs indicating that he is corrupt.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/27/incumplimiento-del-orlandismo-activa-alerta-en-sector-magisterial/>

The Honduran government has until tomorrow to implement special protection measures ordered by the IACHR for the two judges María Dolores López Godoy and Nelly Martínez Martínez.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1582-ciclo-de-amenazas-hostigamiento-e-intimidaciones-contras-dos-juezas-obliga-a-la-cidh-a-emitir-medidas-cautelares-a-su-favor>

ConfidencialHN reports that the Honduran government backtracked on the 10% rise in energy cost it announced days before. This is rather doubtful, as just one day before, the head of the Electric Energy Regulatory Commission (CREE) told the press that this rise is "unstoppable".

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/27/gobierno-de-honduras-recula-y-dice-que-no-incrementara-costo-de-energia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/26/con-cinismo-jefe-regulador-de-energia-afirma-que-el-incremento-a-tarifas-es-indetenible/>

It has been already three years since the murder of Juan Carlos Argeñal, who was among other things the correspondent of Globo TV in Danlí. Defensores en Línea reports how his family still waits for an answer by the government on the corruption cases unearthed by Juan Carlos Argeñal.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tres-anos-ante-el-monumento-a-la-impunidad/>

According to the consulting firm MoveHub, Honduras has the most expensive basic food basket in all Latin America.

<http://notibomba.com/honduras-cerrara-el-2016-con-la-canasta-basica-mas-cara-de-america-latina/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3385-hacernos-un-s%C3%B3lo-nudo-26-diciembre-2016>

29/12/16

Garífunas; Military Police; National Police; Political Opposition; Journalists; Transport Sector; Violence; and 730 Days in the Life of JOH

Yesterday a year ago, two young Garífunas, Joel Palacios Lino and Elvis

Armando García, were murdered by a group of soldiers. OFRANEH denounces that a year later, there are still no arrests and the investigation now seems frozen.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2016/12/28/estancada-investigacion-sobre-matanza-de-jovenes-garifunas-a-manos-de-militares/>

In another case involving members of the Military Police, a court recently ordered a temporary stay of proceedings. The four Military Police agents are accused of abuse of authority, illegal detention and violent aggression against two Honduran citizens.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/juez-dicta-sobreseimiento-provisional-cuatro-miembros-de-la-polic%C3%AD-militar>

Omar Rivera, member of the purging committee, told the press that they are in possession of audio files, proving that members of the police planned the assassination of Jorge Machado together with gang members.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/28/depuradores-dicen-tener-pruebas-sobre-complot-para-matar-pastores/>

The TSE presented to the political parties the official national census for the primary as well as general elections in the coming year. Libre congressman Rasel Tomé writes about the importance of a strong alliance by the political opposition. Nevertheless, there are still some challenges such an alliance faces, as shown by a recent statement by PINU congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez. The sociologist Pablo Carías, furthermore, laments that the political opposition shows some contradictions in regards to their participation in the electoral process.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/28/autoridad-electoral-entrega-censo-definitivo-para-comicios-de-2017/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/28/el-que-no-apoye-la-alianza-interpartidaria-esta-avalando-la-dictadura-de-joh-rasel-tome/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/28/parlamentaria-no-teme-contradecir-a-cupula-de-libre/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/28/oposicion-hondurena-no-adquiere-un-discurso-consistente-para-derrotar-a-hernandez/>

Julissa Villanueva, the head of the medical forensic unit at the MP, tried to stop journalists from doing their work reporting on deaths in Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/28/por-que-prohie-la-jefa-de-la-morgue-a-periodistas-que-revisen-el-libro-de-ingreso-de-cadaveres/>

Members of the motorcycle taxis association protested yesterday against the decommission of 30 of their vehicles by the Honduran Institute for Terrestrial Transport (IHTT).

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/honduras-conductores-de-mototaxis-se.html>

According to the Violence Observatory Honduras suffered at least 100 massacres in 2016.

<http://tiempo.hn/al-menos-100-masacres-se-registran-este-2016-ahora/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/item/137563-unas-100-masacres-se-contabilizan-este-ano-en-honduras-segun-observatorio-de-la-violencia.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/28/730-dias-de-inocentadas-presidenciales/>

30/12/16

Drug Trafficking, Extradition; Political Opposition; Toll System; Economy Outlook; Extortion; UNA; Hunger; and the Importance of Community Radio

"Honduran Security Minister, retired General Julian Pacheco Tinoco, was

implicated as being part of a Honduran government drug trafficking ring by a DEA informant according to testimony provided by US Federal

Prosecutors at the trial of Efrain Campo Flores and Franqui Francisco Flores de Freitas."

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2016/12/honduran-security-minister-implicated.html>

The Supreme Court's president Rolando Argueta told the press yesterday that there are still at least ten open arrest warrants linked to an extradition request.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1030776-466/honduras-argueta-revela-que-hay-10-extraditables-por-capturar>

ConfidencialHN conducted a survey to find that Salvador Nasralla, PAC's president, is the most likely candidate if the political opposition will run jointly for the presidency.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/29/sondeo-nasralla-seria-el-candidato-de-la-coalicion-opositora-que-enfrentaria-a-hernandez/>

Journalist Sandra Maribel Sánchez denounces that the police falsified both testimonials and documents to protect one of its members as well as COVI, the company behind the disputed toll roads.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/29/sandra-maribel-sanchez-la-policia-cometio-dos-delitos-falsos-testimonios-y-falsificacion-de-documentos/>

The former president of the Honduran College of Economists (CHE), Martin Barahona, has a bleak view for the coming year, fearing that JOH will spend too much money for his own political career and publicity instead of the Honduran economy and its people.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/29/2017-depara-una-campana-continuista-privatizacion-de-salud-y-mas-endeudamiento-del-pais/>

Amílcar Hernández, the head of the National Anti-Extortion Force (FNA), praises his unit for allegedly saving the Honduran people 63 million Lempiras in not-paid extortion money thanks to their work. At the same time, Notibomba links to a TV report saying that almost 10'000 businesses had to close down in 2016 among other things due to extortion.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/29/fna-asegura-que-evito-que-la-poblacion-pagara-mas-de-63-millones-de-lempiras-a-delincuentes/>

<http://tiempo.hn/extorsion-en-honduras-8/>

<http://notibomba.com/casi-10000-negocios-han-cerrado-en-2016-por-altos-impuestos-y-la-inseguridad/>

It has been 40 days since the students started their protest at the National Agricultural University and there seems to be no quick solution in the waiting.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/40-dias-de-toma-en-la-unag-ya-impactan-en-salud-de-estudiantes/>

According to a study by UNAH, there are currently some 391'000 children in Honduras under five years old who grow up undernourished.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/el-36-de-ni%C3%B1os-menores-de-cinco-%C3%B1os-presentan-problemas-de-desnutrici%C3%B3n-en-honduras>

<http://conexihon.hn/site/noticia/derechos-humanos/libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n/radio-comunitaria-la-otra-comunicaci%C3%B3n-que-s%C3%AD-es>

Political Opposition; Reelection; UNA; JOH; MACCIH; and the Hope for a Less Violent New Year

ConfidencialHN spoke with the political analyst Raúl Pineda about the

announced alliance of the political opposition and the role of the Liberal Party.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/30/liberales-tienen-la-opcion-de-esperar-migajas-o-volver-la-oposicion-arrolladora/>

Honduras Tierra Libre criticizes the recent statement by CONADEH, which legitimizes the presidential reelection.

Meanwhile, the TSE announced that it will install 5695 voting centers in the country with 8501 so-called "Mesas Electorales Receptoras". Almost six million Hondurans will be asked to participate in the election.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/increible-apoyo-quebre-institucional.html>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2016/12/honduras-el-tse-instalara-8501-mesas.html>

Yesterday morning a fire broke out at in one of the plots of the National Agricultural University. The protesting students think that it was meant as a distraction for them, so that documents could be stolen from the university offices.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2016/12/30/desconocidos-provocan-quemadas-para-sustraer-documentos-de-universidad-agricola/>

Radio HRN announces some possible changes to JOH's cabinet for the coming year - one regards Karla Cuevas, the vice-minister of Human Rights.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/probables-cambios-en-el-gabinete-del-gobierno-de-juan-orlando-hernandez>

Luis Almagro, the Secretary General of the OAS, will visit Honduras in January and attend the swearing in off the new anti-corruption judges.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/item/137661-almagro-visitara-honduras-en-enero-en-apoyo-a-autoridades-contra-corrupcion.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3386-%E2%80%99Cla-no-violencia-un-estilo-de-pol%C3%ADtica-para-la-paz%E2%80%9D-30-diciembre-2016>