

01/02/17

HRDs; APP; Public Opinion; Corruption; Torture; Penitentiary System; Mining; and He'll Be Back

Global Witness launched its newest report, "Honduras: The Deadliest

Country in the World for Environmental Activism", yesterday in Tegucigalpa. The event was widely covered, even by the media close to the government. The Guardian also took up the report, concentrating on the involvement of politicians and business moguls in the murder of the environmental defenders.

One demand from the report taken up by the media is the much needed investigation into the hydroelectric projects of Congress' vice-president Gladis Aurora.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1621-informe-de-global-witness-sobre-honduras-los-hilos-del-poder-atacan-a-defensores-de-la-tierra-y-el-ambiente-y-enredan-la-justicia>

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en-gb/campaigns/environmental-activists/honduras-deadliest-country-world-environmental-activism/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-más-noticias/global-witness-pide-a-honduras-proteger-a-ambientalistas-y-reconocer-su-labor.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/31/honduras-environmental-activists-global-witness-violence-berta-caceres>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/01/31/exigen-investigar-proyectos-hidroelectricos-de-vicepresidenta-del-legislativo-hondureno/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/01/31/global-witness-pide-se-investigue-corrupcion-presidenta-del-partido-nacional/>

The the first Alliance for Prosperity funds going to the Honduran government, some analysis is needed. El Pulso just published two articles, which look at the APP and its weaknesses.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1040237-466/estados-unidos-entrega-a-honduras-125-millones-dólares-para-disuadir-migración>

<http://elpulso.hn/alianza-para-la-prosperidad-muy-lejos-de-ser-una-solucion-definitiva-para-la-crisis-migratoria-del-triangulo-norte-en-centroamerica/>

<http://elpulso.hn/honduras-en-la-alianza-para-la-prosperidad-del-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica/>

ERIC published its yearly survey of the Honduran public. The approval of JOH dropped for the third time in a row and even Proceso Digital felt forced to cover the topic.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/investigacion-analisis/item/3430-sondeo-de-opinión-pública-i-percepciones-sobre-la-situación-hondureña-2016>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-más-noticias/el-gobierno-hondureno-con-baja-aprobacion-por-tercer-ano-en-una-encuesta-de-jesuitas.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/01/31/tres-anos-consecutivos-sale-aplazado-joh-gestion/>

Honduras' vice-president Ricardo Álvarez threatens with legal actions those that go after his brother for his supposed role in the IHSS corruption case and the resulting financing of the National Party. In another corruption case regarding the residential project "Ciudad del Ángel", the Honduran government had to admit that the main suspect fled.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/01/31/vicepresidente-hondureno-querellara-a-quienes-denigren-a-su-hermano/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2049-escapa-de-su-casa-carcel-gerente-de-ciudad-del-angel>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/01/31/desafortunadamente-el-paso-de-ser-funcionario-policia-ha-perseguido-por-la-justicia/>

The trial against seven police agents accused of torture and murder of Mario Orlando Sequeira was set June 12-14, 2017.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/definen-fecha-para-juicio-contra-policias-torturadores-que-mataron-a-mario-sequeira/>

Rosa Irene Gudiel Ardón was sworn in as the new director of the National Penitentiary Institute.

<http://tiempo.hn/juramentada-la-nueva-directora-del-instituto-nacional-penitenciario/>

Some 800 workers at the “El Mochito” mine stopped working last Wednesday, demanding a wage rise.

<http://tiempo.hn/mineros-de-el-mochito-paro-por-salario/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/01/31/gobierno-de-honduras-juramenta-al-polemico-marlon-escoto-como-responsable-del-cambio-climatico/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/01/31/vuelve-marlon-escoto-al-gobierno-joh/>

02/02/17

HRDs; APP; Political Opposition; LGBTI; Economic Policy; Electric Energy; Church; and the Forgotten Victims

The Global Witness report continues to make a splash. BBC reported on it

and Sandra Cuffe wrote an article on it which focuses also on the roles of the US and International Financial Institutions.

A point that was taken up by the media is the flow of money from the IHSS to the tourism resort Indura Beach.

The company behind the resort, DTBT, disputes this link.

And no wonder, so does the Honduran government.

One day after the presentation of the report, MACCIH announced that they will start investigating hydroelectric projects as well as other cases regarding the environment.

<http://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-38805501>

<https://news.mongabay.com/2017/02/honduran-politicians-u-s-aid-implicated-in-killings-of-environmentalists/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/01/recursos-desfalcados-al-seguro-social-de-honduras-fueron-a-parar-a-indura-beach-global-witness/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/01/indura-dice-tambien-informe-global-witness-falso/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/informe-sobre-ambientalistas-en-honduras-carece-de-sustento-senala-ministro-coordinador-de-gobierno.html>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/la-maccih-investigar%C3%A1-casos-ambientales-en-el-pa%C3%ADs>

Global Witness also criticizes that the US disbursed the first \$125 millions to Honduras as part of the Alliance for Prosperity given the dismal human rights records of the country.

US ambassador James D. Nealon, meanwhile, makes some promises based on these new funds.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/01/estados-unidos-manda-mal-mensaje-al-desembolsar-honduras-fondos-la-alianza-la-prosperidad/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/eeuu-seguira-apoyando-en-bajar-niveles-de-violencia-asi-como-en-fortalecimiento-de-instituciones-nealon.html>

These last days, a campaign against the political opposition and their alliance was set in motion. Meanwhile, PAC's president Salvador Nasralla told the press that three Liberal politicians - Enrique Ortez, Eduardo Martel and Carlos Montoya - have joined the alliance.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2056-inician-ataques-mediaticos-contra-alianza-politica-hondurena>

<http://notibomba.com/error-de-tvc-denota-campana-de-medios-contra-los-lideres-de-la-oposicion/>

<http://tiempo.hn/liberales-se-suman-la-alianza-opositora-derrotar-al-pn/>

Human rights defender and LGTBI activist Arely Victoria Gómez fled from Honduras nine months ago to Spain. Defensores en Línea now reports that she suffered an attack there last weekend.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensora-trans-hondurena-es-agredida-en-espana/>

ICEFI recommends to the Central American states a change in its economic model as a reaction to the Trump administration.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/01/31/ante-politicas-radicales-trump-icefi-recomienda-c-cambio-modelo-economico/>

Inhabitants of Santa Rita were evicted by the police after protesting against power cuts.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/01/desalojan-a-pobladores-hondurenos-por-abusivos-cortes-de-energia-electrica/>

The bishop Juan José Pineda claims that he doesn't know about possible state funds for the church coming from the 'tasa de seguridad'. At the same time, JOH praised the Catholic Church and the Armed Forces for "preserving life"...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/01/cura-niega-recibir-dinero-del-tazon-el-gobierno-nos-ayuda-y-nosotros-lo-ayudamos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hernandez-destaca-papel-de-la-iglesia-y-las-ffaa-para-preservar-la-vida-en-honduras.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/las-victimas-borradas-12/>

03/02/17

HRDs; Journalists; Electoral Campaign; Organized Crime; Mayors; Violence; Migration; and the Forgotten Victims - Part 2

As to proof Global Witness' point that Honduras is a dangerous country

for human rights defenders, the Honduran government reacted to its report with defamation, legal suits and even violence. Congress' vice-president and the president of the National Party filled charges against the NGO for what she calls a political campaign against her. The tourism resort Indura Beach also threatens with legal actions. A presentation of their findings by Global Witness' representative Billy

Kyte in a TV show was greeted by so much aggression that the local representative of the UN had to rescue him from the TV station. Honduran human rights organizations met with the protection mechanism for human rights defenders to demand protection for Global Witness' representatives currently staying in Honduras. Global Witness also got a letter of support from 33 Central-American human rights organizations. Amnesty International denounces the defamation campaign as well.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/02/global-witness-condena-amenaza-accion-juridica-del-gobierno-honduras/>

[http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/"soy-victima-de-una-campañ-de-desprestigio-de-un-ataque-político-lópez](http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/)

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/02/presidenta-del-partido-nacional-llego-al-ministerio-publico-denunciar-global-witness/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/02/ejecutivos-de-indura-amenazan-con-querellas-a-quienes-denuncien-lavado-de-activos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2061-onu-rescata-a-delegado-de-global-witness>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1626-ponzonosas-reacciones-al-informe-global-witness-ministro-de-serna-pide-a-fiscal-detener-a-billy-kyte-y-apoderado-legal-de-gladys-aurora-lopez-anuncia-una-querella>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/piden-activar-mecanismo-de-alerta-temprana-a-favor-de-global-witness-y-liderazgos-indigenas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/02/defensores-c-respaldan-defensores-hondureños-tras-informe-global-witness/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr37/5606/2017/es/>

The criminalizing trial against journalist Jairo López was postponed.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1623-caso-jairo-lopez-tribunal-de-sentencia-de-choluteca-pierde-pruebas-de-periodista-querellado>

Fosdeh's director Mauricio Díaz warns of the misuse of the state's

budget for electoral reason by JOH and he underlines the need for better measures to stop this.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/02/fosdeh-advierte-que-campana-continuista-de-joh-fomenta-despilfarro-de-recursos/>

The IEEA just published an analysis on organized crime and Maras in Central America.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/02/narcotrafico-mexicano-se-ha-posesionado-centro-america-debilidad-gobiernos/>

http://www.ieea.es/en/Galerias/fichero/docs_analisis/2017/DIEEEA04-2017_CrimenOrganizado_Maras_MLPG.pdf

A court decided to let the National mayor Arnaldo Urbina defend himself for corruption from his home instead of prison.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/02/alcalde-cachureco-de-yoro-tendra-casa-por-carcel/>

The "Platform November 25" reports that violence against women rose by 67% in 2016.

336 people lost their lives due to violence in Honduras last month according to the Violence Observatory.

As a reaction to the ongoing violence, Doctors without Borders expanded its work on mental health for victims of violence in Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/02/336-personas-fueron-asesinadas-en-honduras-durante-enero-de-2017-segun-observatorio-de-la-violencia/>

<http://elpulso.hn/honduras-las-consecuencias-de-la-violencia/>

The former director of the Honduran Central Bank, Hugo Noé Pino, thinks that the Honduran government isn't prepared for Trump's anti-migration policies and its consequences for the Honduran economy, for example through substantially less remittances.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/02/crisis-migratoria-explotara-en-la-cara-de-joh-icefi/>

<http://elpulso.hn/las-victimas-borradas-22/>

04/02/17

HRDs; COPINH; Penal Code; Corruption; MACCIH; Crime; Elections; Church; APP; UNA;

In the light of the Global Witness report, Juan Almeyda wrote an

important article on who these persecuted, criminalized and even murdered environmental and human rights defenders are. COFADEH explains why the report had such an impact, even though a lot of the cases had already been denounced before. Further organizations spoke out in support of Global Witness yesterday. The private business lobby COHEP demands proofs by Global Witness...maybe a first start would be to read their detailed report.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/183303>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/las-cosas-por-su-nombre/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/03/cejil-tambien-condena-ataque-del-estado-honduras-ante-informe-global-witness/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/03/aci-preocupada-campana-odio-defensores-dd-hh-parte-gobierno-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ante-las-reacciones-oficiales-contrainforme-witness/>

<http://tiempo.hn/cohep-pide-global-witness-presentar-pruebas-acusaciones/>

COPINH's Tomás Gómez Membreño participated in the general assembly of Siemens in Germany denouncing their role in the Agua Zarca project.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/1630-copinh-en-munich-demandamos-que-siemens-ya-no-siga-manchandose-de-sangre-con-los-asesinatos-y-exterminio-de-nuestras-comunidades-indigenas-lencas>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/1630-copinh-en-munich-demandamos-que-siemens-ya-no-siga-manchandose-de-sangre-con-los-asesinatos-y-exterminio-de-nuestras-comunidades-indigenas-lencas>

It seems that a new wave of pressure and defamation took off against those opposing the reforms to the Penal Code. The head of the Armed Forces gave a statement yesterday, that they support the reforms.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/03/jefe-del-parlamento-vuelve-a-culpar-a-libre-por-oponerse-a-peligrosas-reformas-al-codigo-penal/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/03/ffaa-cierran-filas-en-torno-a-joh-para-exigir-reformas-a-peligrosa-legislacion-penal/>

Vice-president Ricardo Álvarez continues to threaten everyone linking him or his brother to the IHSS corruption scandal.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/03/ricardo-alvarez-anuncia-la-proxima-semana-presentara-querellas-quienes-lo-denigrado/>

El Libertador reports that MACCIH representatives broke of a press conference in Choluteca avoiding questions regarding the IHSS corruption case.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2066-ante-preguntas-maccih-huye-de-periodistas-en-choluteca>

The Inter-American Development Bank published a report called "The Costs of Crime and Violence: New Evidence and Insights in Latin America and the Caribbean".

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/03/estudio-del-bid-ubica-honduras-salvador-mayor-gasto-latinoamerica-hacerle-frente-la-violencia/>

<https://publications.iadb.org/handle/11319/8133>

The OAS signed an agreement with Honduras yesterday for the electoral observation of the primary and general elections.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/03/oea-firma-convenio-observar-elecciones-primarias-generales-honduras/>

Three recent articles look at the role of the church in the reelection campaign of JOH.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/02/hondureno-protesta-dentro-del-santuario.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3435-“lo-que-dios-no-ha-unido-que-lo-separe-el-hombre”-03-febrero-2017>

According to the former economic minister Fernando García, it is a sign of mistrust that the Alliance for Prosperity funds are handled by US agencies and not by their Honduran counterparts.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/03/ee-uu-ya-esta-demostrando-no-confianza-gobierno-hondureno/>

Some of the teachers at the Agriculture University suspended by the former Education Minister Marlon Escoto were reintegrated.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2065-reintegran-nueve-maestros-despedidos-de-universidad-agricola-hondurena>

05/02/17

HRDs; Lawyers; MACCIH; (Re)Elections; Security; and a Central American Peace March

Aridana Tovar, investigator at Amnesty International for the Americas

region, demands that JOH publicly speaks out in favor of the work of human rights defenders and that he orders an investigation into the newest wave of denigration against them after the publication of the Global Witness report.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1631-amnistia-internacional-estamos-esperando-que-el-presidente-de-honduras-haga-pronunciamientos-fuertes-de-respaldo-a-defensores-y-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos>

A group of lawyers around Marlon Duarte denounced yesterday that the Honduran intelligence agency possesses a list with lawyers which it wishes dead. The lawyers filed a complaint and demanded protection.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/04/inteligencia-hondurena-pretende-asesinar-a-varios-abogados-penalistas/>

Proceso Digital reports that MACCIH will employ a international police investigator as well as a second public prosecutor.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica/18-politica/maccih-contratara-a-investigador-policial-y-un-segundo-fiscal.html>

The withdrawal as JOH vice-presidential running mate by Nelly Jerez leaves various open questions. Meanwhile, Thelma Mejía wonders if Honduras is on the way to a one-party system.

<http://tiempo.hn/renuncia-nelly-jerez-una-senal-desprendimiento-alvarez/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/04/hacia-partido-unico/>

Criminologist Arabeska Sánchez wants the Honduran government to get past "its arrogance" and admit that a lot of its security policies have failed. One failure becomes manifest in another closure of a bus company due to extortion.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/04/gobierno-dejar-soberbia-aceptar-fallo-seguridad-arabeska-sanchez/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/04/transportes-mirna-cierra-operaciones-en-honduras-por-violento-cobro-de-extorsion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/04/entusiasmo-la-marcha-la-paz-crece-dia/>

06/02/17

HRDs; National Party; Transport Sector; Education; and the First Irregularities

Global Witness contradicts the Honduran government's defamation by presenting their their rigorous investigative approach.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/05/global-witness-asegura-informe-esta-basado-investigacion-rigurosa-documentos-oficiales/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva was greeted by an angry public on a campaign rally in Apacilagua, Choluteca.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/05/enardecidos-pobladores-reprimen-al-presidente-del-parlamento-de-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/05/pobladores-apacilagua-sacan-pedradas-al-presidente-del-congreso-mauricio-oliva-video/>

At least twenty people lost their lives in a traffic accident in Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/05/sube-20-los-muertos-choque-bus-rastra-salida-al-sur/>

The teachers' union Copemh announced a protest for this morning, demanding the payment of outstanding pay checks.

<http://tiempo.hn/maestros-de-honduras-salarios/>

Roberto Ramón Castillo, a pre-candidate for the presidential race in the National Party movement Monarca, denounces irregularities in the printing of the ballots for the internal elections.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/precandidato-presidencial-de-monarca-denuncia-irregularidades-en-impresion-de-papeletas.html>

07/02/17

HRDs; Penal Code; Journalists; Violence; Poverty, Garífunas; Judicial Power; Students' Protest; and No Saints

Ivi Oliveira, coordinator for the Americas of Frontline Defenders,

expressed her preoccupation with the newest defamation campaign against human rights defenders.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1632-ivi-oliveira-frontline-defenders-estado-hondureno-debe-investigar-campanas-de-desprestigio-contradefensores-y-defensoras-de-ddhh-en-honduras>

JOH announced a popular consultation regarding the reforms to the Penal Code.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International warns in a press release about the announced reforms.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/06/joh-propone-someter-consulta-las-reformas-penales/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/06/amnistia-internacional-preocupada-paquete-reformas-al-codigo-penal-honduras/>

The criminalizing trial of journalist Jairo López was suspended because the proof that had been presented by the defense got lost somehow. C-Libre outlines in its article the links of the accusing party to the National Party.

Another journalist, Edgar Joel Aguilar, received death threats on February 1. C-Libre denounces that the police refused to receive the complaint by Aguilar and investigate the threats.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/suspenden-juicio-contraperiodista-por-extravío-de-pruebas>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/amenazan-periodista-y-le-dan-plazo-para-que-abandone-canal>

El Pulso reports on the violence in the education centers of the Central District.

<http://elpulso.hn/miedo-y-muerte-una-realidad-que-enfrenta-el-saul-zelaya-jimenez/>

Fosdeh's deputy director Ralph Flores denounces that Honduras' poor cash roll JOH's populism.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/06/pobres-de-honduras-financian-el-populismo-reeleccionista-de-juan-orlando-hernandez>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the situation of garífunas communities faced by evictions due to touristic projects.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1633-extranjeros-y-gobierno-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-quieren-despojar-tierras-a-garifunas>

There is growing criticism of the raids of the Judicial Power to obtain documents. Mario Díaz, president of the Association of Judges for Democracy calls it a "media show" that is unnecessary, as the documents could all be easily seized by a judge's order.

<http://tiempo.hn/abogados-secuestro-violento-documentos-poder-judicial/>

A new protest started at the UNA, as students of the pedagogical faculty started occupying their building in protest of a downgrade of their

studies.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/02/honduras-estudiantes-de-pedagogia-de-la.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2071-activistas-irrespetan-virgen-de-suyapa-usandola-para-activate>

08/02/17

HRDs; Extractivism; Penal Code; Reelection; National Police; Corruption; Remittances; and Facebook's Dark Side in Honduras

The IACHR emitted a press release in which it condemns the murder of

human rights defenders that already took place this year in the region. Meanwhile in Honduras, the deputy director of Milpah, Víctor Gómez Vásquez, denounces that the area of Santa Elena, La Paz has been militarized.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cidh-condena-asesinatos-a-defensoras-y-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-en-la-region/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/militarizada-comunidad-de-defensores-de-milpah/>

Javier Suazo explains the deadly consequences of the Honduran government's Plan 20/20, which is based on an extractivist development model.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/183351>

JOH used a press conference on a massacre leaving five people dead to denigrate the opposition to the reform of the Penal Code.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/07/joh-aprovecha-desgracia-y-luto-para-seguir-promoviendo-reformas-opresoras/>

The Spanish newspaper El País reports on JOH's "polemic reelection" bid. Meanwhile, Roberto Ramón Castillo, who also runs to be the presidential candidate for the National Party, plans to file a complaint at the TSE and the Judicial Power for irregularities in the printing of the ballots. If they don't accept his complaint, Castillo announced to withdraw from the race.

The political opposition called out to the OAS demanding that they speak out on the illegal reelection bid of JOH.

If this won't happen, they announce that they won't interact with the OAS electoral observation mission.

There is an additional controversy regarding the OAS' choice of Jorge Tuto Quiroga as the head of the mission.

http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2017/02/07/america/1486507036_256528.html

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/07/presidenciable-nacionalista-amenaza-con-renunciar-a-las-elecciones-primarias-de-marzo/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/07/alianza-opositora-honduras-exige-la-oea-se-pronuncie-la-reeleccion-joh/>

<http://notibomba.com/alianza-de-oposicion-en-honduras-no-acepta-mision-electoral-de-la-oea/>

<http://notibomba.com/conozca-porque-es-cuestionado-el-jefe-de-observadores-de-la-oea-tuto-quiroya/>

Police agents brutally beat a citizen who they thought guilty of theft.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/07/policia-hondurena-propina-salvaje-golpiza-ciudadano-goascoran-valle-video/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/02/07/policia-investiga-golpiza-hombre-estaba-detenido-video/>

The Supreme Court nullified a sentence by a court in San Pedro Sula, favoring the former mayor Rodolfo Padilla Sunseri who had been accused of corruption. The case is now being taken up again.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/07/anulan-fallo-favorecia-padilla-sunseri-ordenan-repeticion-del-juicio-malversacion-caudales-publicos/>

Fosdeh calls for the creation of a Migrant Development Fund, which would be filled up by remittances and other sources, as one tool to be prepared for the difficult economic times ahead.

<http://elpulso.hn/segun-fosdeh-este-2017-sera-difícil-para-la-economia-nacional/>

<http://elpulso.hn/facebook-una-trampa-para-las-ninas-y-los-ninos-en-honduras/>

09/02/17

Berta - Investigation; HRDs; Kevin; Penal Code; JOH; Garífunas; US; National Police; Armed Forces; (Re)Elections; and the Last of His Kind?

Another arrest was made in the murder case of Berta. ATIC claims that

the arrested Óscar Torres Velásquez “Coca” is responsible for having shot at Gustavo Castro.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/08/arrestan-otro-supuesto-autor-material-del-asesinato-de-la-ambientalista-berta-caceres-en-honduras/>

Global Witness released an official statement denouncing the attacks against them and their report.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1635-respuesta-de-global-witness-ante-campana-de-desprestigio>

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/respuesta-de-global-witness-ante-campañ-de-desprestigio/>

After a long and controversial trial, the young man Kevin Solórzano was found guilty of murdering the former public prosecutor Edwin Eguigure in November 2014.

His lawyer, Jair López, denounced receiving death threats after the reading of the verdict.

El Tiempo lists some of the irregularities of the case.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/08/ultima-hora-kevin-solorzano-culpable-dictamina-tribunal-sentencia/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/08/abogado-kevin-jair-lopez-denuncia-ha-amenazado-muerte/>

<http://tiempo.hn/dos-pruebas-se-baso-tribunal-encontrar-culpable-kevin-solorzano/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-fallo-nos-deja-confundidos-la-prueba-cientifica-no-sirve-de-nada-abogado-lopez.html>

The lawyer and political analyst Rodil Rivera warns of possible counter-productive effects of the announce reforms to the Penal Code. Former attorney general Edmundo Orellana doesn't think much of the newest plans by JOH regarding the Penal Code and he offers a welcome analysis of the current situation.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/08/reformas-penales-pueden-ser-contraproducentes/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/08/xfiscal-general-de-honduras-consulta-sobre-reformas-penales-son-mera-demagogia/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/02/honduras-niveles-de-inseguridad-no.html>

In the above-mentioned analysis by Edmundo Orellana, he also refers to the newest Latinobarómetro report. It found that the approval rate of JOH's administration fell from 62% in 2015 to 47% last year. Together with El Salvador, Honduras is found to be the most authoritarian country in the region. Criterio also lists further findings of the report.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/08/gobierno-joh-sale-aplazado-informe-latinobarometro-cae-15-puntos-ultimo-ano/>

Aqui Abajo reports on the situation of Garifuna leader Medalime David Fernandez, who was arrested and tortured by Honduran police and soldiers on November 11, 2016.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2017/2/8/one-land-defenders-story-of-repression-criminalization-and-arrest-young-garifuna-woman-arrested-for-reclaiming-ancestral-land>

The Attorneys general of the Northern Triangle plan to travel to the US to better coordinate their work.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/08/fiscales-del-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica-iran-a-ee-uu-para-consolidar-colaboracion-contra-la-impunidad/>

The TSC ruled that the police director Félix Villanueva is not guilty of illicit enrichment. The purging committee, meanwhile, denounces the publication of a fake press release in their name.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/08/jefe-la-policia-honduras-no-se-enriquecio-ilicitamente-tsc/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/08/depuradores-amenazan-con-sancionar-a-quienes-desinformen-sobre-megapurga/>

The armed forces of the Northern Triangle will be instructed by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the use of force and humanitarian principles in a three week course.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/honduras-militares-de-paises-del-triangulo-norte-se-capacitan-en-uso-de-la-fuerza-y>

TSE magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo promises "technological mechanisms" that will make the elections more transparent. How much that would be needed, can be seen by a recent statement by the Liberal Parties president Mauricio Villeda. He filed a complaint at the electoral observation mission of the OAS denouncing a planned electoral fraud in the coming general elections.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/08/aseguran-que-innovaciones-tecnologicas-trasparentaran-elecciones/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/villeda-dice-denuncio-ante-oea-que-se-monta-un-fraude-electoral-en-honduras.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/felix-villanueva-debe-ser-ultimo-director-policial-de-la-vieja-escuela-omar-rivera.html>

10/02/17

Journalists; Maras; Penal Code; Organized Crime; National Police; Kevin; Libre; Labor Rights; and the Past Can't Stay in the Past

Pasos de Animal Grande writes about the polarization of the Honduran

press, which becomes even more evident in an election year. The article goes on to write that some of Honduras' journalists have been degraded to obsequious journalism keeping up the "democracy of lies".

Reporters without Borders launched its yearly report two days ago. At the press conference in Spain, the Honduran journalist Milthon Robles participated. He had to flee Honduras last year after threats and attacks against him.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1637-elecciones-y-libertad-de-expresion-medios-y-periodistas-ayudan-a-sostener-una-democracia-de-mentiras-en-honduras>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1636-milthon-robles-periodista-hondureno-en-el-exilio>

<http://www.informeanualrsf.es/>

Oscar Estrada wrote a report the role and situation of women in Maras.

<http://elpulso.hn/cambios-en-la-sombra-12/>

<http://elpulso.hn/cambios-en-la-sombra-22/>

According to the TSE, the public consultation regarding the reforms to the Penal Code could be conducted together with the general election.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-avala-consulta-popular-sobre-reformas-penales-y-propone-que-sean-en-comicios-generales.html>

A court in Honduras acquitted the bank Banco Continental, which belongs to the Rosenthal family. According to the court, the bank didn't participate in atypical transactions with the criminal group Los Cachiros.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/09/transacciones-banco-continental-los-cachiros-no-fueron-atipicas/>

The deputy director of the police, Héctor Iván Mejía Velásquez, publicly stated that members of the police force have for years served criminal groups.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/comisionado-mejia-reconoce-que-oficiales-sirvieron-por-anos-al-crimen-y-les-proporcionaban-armas.html>

The Judicial Power reacts to criticism raised against the sentencing of Kevin Solórzano with a press release.

There were also protests by students against the sentence, which was repressed by the police.

His lawyer will appeal the sentence.

Meanwhile, the wife of the murdered public prosecutor, denounces receiving death threats by family members of Kevin Solórzano.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/09/poder-judicial-de-honduras-sostiene-que-juicio-y-condena-contra-kevin-solorzano-fue-con-base-a-ley/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2082-universitarios-resisten-represion-y-gas-durante-cuatro-horas>

<http://notibomba.com/hondurenos-convocan-a-movilizacion-en-defensa-de-kevin-solorzano/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/02/09/defensa-kevin-solorzano-presenta-recurso-casacion/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/02/09/viuda-efiscal-eguigure-denuncia-amenazas/>

Libre congressman Miguel Ángel Navarro was arrested, He is being accused of sexual abuse.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/09/detienen-a-parlamentario-hondureno-por-supuesta-violacion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/09/dictan-detencion-judicial-diputado-olancho-supuesta-violacion/>

For the labor unions, the employment by the hour scheme completely failed and they want the corresponding law to be derogated.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/02/honduras-por-pesimos-resultados-obreros.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/09/cidh-urge-salvador-continuar-combatiendo-la-impunidad-los-graves-crmenes-del-pasado/>

11/02/17

HRDs; Berta - Memory; Journalists; IHSS; Organized Crime, National Police; (Re)Elections; MACCIH; Kevin; Judicial Power; and the Miners of El Mochito

Radio Progreso spoke with OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda about the Global

Witness report, the situation of human rights defenders in Honduran and the role of the international community in protecting them.

Radio Progreso also reports on an interesting project in La Paz, which intends to improve the access to the judicial system of the indigenous Lenca communities there.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3457-comunidad-internacional-está-llamada-a-presionar-por-protección-de-defensores-en-honduras-señala-miriam-miranda-de-ofraneh>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3456-proyecto-busca-facilitar-acceso-a-justicia-de-población-indígena-de-la-paz>

Students at the UNAH denounce that a wall painting of Berta has already been destroyed four times by the UNAH authorities.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/mural-de-berta-cáceres-borrada-en-cuatro-ocasiones-en-la-unah>

Journalists Cristina Cruz Cantillano fears for her life after receiving threats by a municipal police agent, who also supports the mayor of El Progreso, Alexander López.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/periodista-de-teleprogreso-teme-por-su-vida>

Óscar Laínez, a partner at the Compañía de Servicios Múltiples (Cosem), corroborated the claims by the former deputy labor secretary Carlos Montes that they paid bribes to the former IHSS board members.

At the same time, Carlos Montes assured the public, that the MP already knew about the involvement of Juan Carlos Alvares, the vice-president's brother, in the IHSS case.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1043396-410/tetos-aceptan-que-pagaron-coimas-en-saqueo-al-ihss>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/10/los-tetos-admiten-haber-pagado-sobornos-a-exdirectivos-del-seguro-social-de-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/10/ministerio-publico-es-quien-acusa-a-hermano-del-vicepresidente-sostiene-exdirectivo-del-ihss/>

The Honduran state is about to seize 121 properties belonging to Los Cachiros.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/10/ministerio-publico-incauta-121-propiedades-a-la-familia-rivera-maradiaga-los-cachiros/>

A former police official wanted for several crimes was captured yesterday.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/10/capturan-expolicia-mientras-firmaba-libro-de-registro-en-juzgados-capitalinos/>

The TSE tries to divert all possible blame for fraudulent elections away from itself. Marco Ramiro Lobo, one of its magistrates, told the press that it would be the fault of the political parties, if the results of the elections were to be manipulated.

The TSE also announced that for the lack of funding granted to them by the finance ministry, they may have to suspend the printing of the ballots.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/10/manipulacion-en-conteo-de-votos-sera-responsabilidad-de-los-partidos-que-acudan-a-elecciones-primarias/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/incumplimiento-en-transferencias-al-tse-obligaria-a-parar-impresion-de-papeletas.html>

MACCIH officially presented yesterday the Special Prosecuting Unit Against Corruption and Impunity as well as its selection and certification mechanisms.

MACCIH also presented the Efficient Collaboration Bill, which would allow criminal investigators to offer deals to the accused.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/10/maccih-estamos-construyendo-una-estructura-para-combatir-la-corrupcion-publica-y-privada-en-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/10/vocero-la-maccih-confirma-entrega-ley-cooperacion-eficaz-al-presidente-hernandez/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2087-maccih-recomienda-instalar-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz>

Honduras saw another protest in support of Kevin Solórzano. For Radio Progreso, this case exemplifies the mistrust of the Honduran public in the judicial system and it lays bare its weaknesses.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/10/masiva-movilizacion-capitalinos-rechazan-fallo-kevin-solorzano/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3460-caso-kevin-solorzano-refleja-debilidad-en-investigación-y-desconfianza-ciudadana-en-sistema-de-justicia>

The Supreme Court of Justice presents its new setup for the coming year.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/10/conozca-quedaran-conformadas-las-diferentes-salas-la-corte-suprema-justicia/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3458-mineros-del-mochito-santa-bárbara-entre-riquezas-precariedad-y-muerte>

13/02/17

HRDs; Hydroelectricity; (Re)Elections; Debt; Kevin; MACCIH; and the Theft of 16 Million Pounds of Shrimp

The Economist reports on the situation of human rights and environmental

defenders in Latin America and Honduras in particular.

<http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21716687-commodities-technology-and-bad-policing-why-latin-america-deadliest-place>

MADJ denounces that a hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP in Nombre de Dios continues, even though the MP ordered it to be stopped.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/02/honduras-el-madj-denuncia-que-proyecto.html>

At a National Party gathering in Choloma, Cortés, activists were paid 50 Lempiras to assist, according to ConfidencialHN. Some 16'000 soldiers are now under the control of the TSE for the coming primary elections.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/12/confirmado-nacionalistas-pagan-50-lempiras-para-pedir-reeleccion-de-joh/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/11/ffaa-de-honduras-pasan-a-control-del-tribunal-supremo-electoral/>

Public debt in Honduras has risen to \$10.2 billion.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/12/honduras-la-deuda-publica-supera-los-10-mil-millones-dolares/>

The law professor and former judge Ramón Enrique Barrios analyzes the sentence in the case of Kevin Joshua Solórzano.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/11/exjuez-sentencia-ramon-enrique-barrios-analiza-caso-kevin-solorzano-video/>

According to a new article by El Heraldito, MACCIH is about to gain access to new corruption cases which have collected dust at the MP.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1043804-466/maccih-tendrá-acceso-a-expedientes-secretos>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1043733-466/camaroneras-del-país-perdieron-1.6-millones-de-libras-por-robo>

14/02/17

Journalists; HRDs; Berta - COPINH; Corruption; Lencas; (Re)Elections; Penal Code; National Police; Congress; and Evil Spirits

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces a judicial campaign against journalist

Jairo López.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1638-sigue-juicio-oral-y-publico-en-querrela-contra-periodista-jairo-lopez-pero-pruebas-siguen-perdidas>

Defensores en Línea denounces that the attacks against members of MILPAH, whose case has been one of the five presented in the recent Global Witness report, has increased in the last days. InSight Crime writes about the Global Witness report, that "it seems that economic development projects are increasingly being used, at times illegally, to enrich political elites."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tras-avalar-informe-internacional-incrementan-ataques-contra-dirigencia-de-milpah/>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/report-intersection-economic-development-projects-organized-crime-honduras>

COPINH calls out to the world to remember Berta on the coming March 2, the first anniversary of her murder.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/02/convocatoria-del-copinh-la-jornada-1.html>

ConfidencialHN published the first part of series of articles on companies protected by the current administration and how it benefits them. Defensores en Línea spoke with Aura María Rodríguez de Montes, the mother of Carlos Montes, who is arrested for participation in the IHSS case but whose declarations have made the National Party uneasy.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/13/armando-el-rompecabezas-asi-se-lucran-empresas-protegidas-por-el-orlandismo-parte-i/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-caso-de-carlos-montes-es-seguido-por-organismos-nacionales-e-internacionales-de-ddhh/>

Indigenous Lencas succeeded in avoiding the closure of three schools in La Paz.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/indigenas-lencas-logran-que-tres-escuelas-no-sean-cerradas-en-la-paz/>

JOH fails once more to separate his role as a president from his candidacy running for the nomination. He uses a press conference in the Casa Presidencial to denigrate the political opposition for disapproving the reforms to the Penal Code.

El Pulso, meanwhile, has a bleak outlook on the choices in the coming general elections.

The TSE is still asking for money for the organization of the elections.

But the finance minister claims that the funds have already been transferred or at least 98% of it...but maths doesn't seem to be his strength, as you can see for yourself in the article.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/13/los-que-ponen-freno-al-carro-del-cambio-son-salvador-nasralla-y-manuel-zelaya/>

<http://elpulso.hn/honduras-entre-el-oficialismo-impositivo-y-la-oposicion-sin-ideas/>

<http://tiempo.hn/pagos-tribunal-supremo-electoral/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/sefin-niega-se-haya-incumplido-el-plan-de-desembolso-para-las-elecciones-primarias>

The above-mentioned reforms to the Penal Code will also be a main subject at a conference by the UN human rights office in Honduras which will take place tomorrow and on Thursday.

Omar Rivera of the Association for a More Just Society and also part of the purging committee thinks that possible reforms should be accompanied by a purge of the Judicial Power.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/13/simposio-onu-dd-hh-profundizara-reformas-penales/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2089-sociedad-civil-hondurena-pide-depuracion-en-poder-judicial>

<http://tiempo.hn/reformas-penales-podrian-efectivas-la-pn-mp-poder-judicial-depurados/>

El Tiempo has a new article highlighting the role of members of the National Police Force in the assassinations of public prosecutors.

<http://tiempo.hn/policias-hondurenos/>

PINU congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez published for the 4th time a personal accountability report - according to ConfidencialHN she is the only member of Congress who does that.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/13/parlamentaria-hondurena-doris-gutierrez-entrega-informe-de-rendicion-de-cuentas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/13/investigacion-supuestas-posesiones-y-disparates-en-batallon-hondureno/>

15/02/17

Journalists; IACtHR; National Police; Freedom of Expression; JOH; Libre; Judicial Power; Deportation; and the Wrong Defense

C-Libre also denounces the defamation campaign against journalist Jairo

López.

López blames Congress' president Mauricio Oliva and his entourage for the attacks.

In another case, one of the police agents responsible for violence against the journalist Dunia Montoya in 2015 (!), faces court this morning.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/periodista-de-la-zona-sur-es-victima-de-campana-de-desprestigio>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/14/periodista-sometido-campana-desprestigio-denunciar-abusos-del-presidente-del-congreso/>

<http://tiempo.hn/periodista-asegura-mauricio-oliva-orquesta-campana-desprestigio/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1639-este-miercoles-audiencia-de-imputado-para-policia-que-participo-en-violencia-contr-la-periodista-dunia-montoya>

The first audience before the IACtHR to review the compliance with its sentence regarding the re-institution of four judges that were fired after the coup d'état took place last week. CEJIL denounces that the Honduran state still shows no disposition to comply with the sentence.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/estado-se-resiste-cumplir-sentencia-de-corte-idh-sobre-restitucion-de-jueces-y-magistrada>

<http://tiempo.hn/estado-hondureno-renuente-cumplir-orden-corte-internacional-dd-hh/>

377 members of the police force were purged yesterday.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/14/depuran-377-policias-mas/>

Four firefighters were fired for giving statements to the media regarding their working conditions.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/bomberos-son-despedidos-después-de-dar-declaraciones>

JOH blames the media for reporting bad news and therefore damaging the Honduran youth.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/14/joh-los-medios-tienen-la-culpa-de-lo-que-pasa-en-honduras/>

Libre congressman Miguel Navarro was able to walk free after the accusation of rape turned out to be false.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/14/diputado-miguel-navarro-queda-en-libertad-al-comprobarse-falsas-acusaciones-en-su-contr/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/14/diputado-libre-miguel-navarro-inocente-acusacion-violacion/>

Two men were sentenced yesterday to 36 years in prison for murdering the former Supreme Court magistrate Eduardo Gauggel Rivas and his son, congressman Eduardo Gauggel Medina, in 2015.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/14/condenan-36-anos-carcel-homicidas-del-exmagistrado-eduardo-gauggel-hijo/>

In the first weeks of 2017, 5043 Hondurans were deported from the US and Mexico.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/02/eeuu-y-mexico-han-deportado-5043.html>

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

16/02/17

Penal Code; Extortion; Education; Corruption; Criminalization; Penitentiary System; TSE; Reelection; and the Places to Be in Honduras

The dirty wars about the reforms of the Penal Code continue. National

Party congresswo/men announced that they would have been willing to suspend the break before the coming primary elections to bring through the reforms in Congress, blaming Libre and PAC that it didn't come about. The problem for the National Party is, that not only the political opposition is against the reforms, but also national and international human rights organizations, as well as the UN human rights office in Honduras according to a analysis it conducted.

Undisturbed by that, the head of the National Party in Congress, Oscar Álvarez, announced that the reforms will be discussed on February 21 in Congress.

He gets support from CONADEH, UNAH's dean Julieta Castellanos and the private business council Cohep- no surprises there.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/15/bancada-orlandista-suspendera-feriado-para-aprobar-cruentas-reformas-a-legislacion-penal/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/15/oficina-del-alto-comisionado-dd-hh-cuestiona-reformas-penales-propuestas-joh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/15/reformas-penales-asunto-vida-muerte-bancada-del-partido-nacional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/rectora-y-ombudsman-piden-avanzar-en-aprobar-reformas-penales.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cohep-pide-no-politizar-tema-de-reformas-penales-y-valora-endurecer-penas-para-disuadir-delitos.html>

The head of the National Anti-Extortion Force (FNA), Amílcar Hernández, insists that they have to gain control over the prisons to lower the incidence of extortion.

According to the FNA, 90% of the persons captured for extortion belong to Maras and criminal gangs.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/15/fuerza-nacional-antiextorsion-existe-en-controlar-actividad-criminal-en-las-carceles/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/el-90-de-personas-capturadas-por-la-fna-son-miembros-de-bandas-y-pandilla>

One sector affected by extortion is education. The so-called Model Institute, founded in 1980 in Comayagüela, closed its doors, at least temporarily, due to extortion.

El Pulso has a general report on the reasons why Hondurans abandon their night classes - an education opportunity for those who work during the day.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/15/cobro-extorsion-instituto-modelo-cierra-operaciones/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/bajo-amenazas-de-extorsión-las-escuelas-e-instituto-privados-de-la-capital>

<http://elpulso.hn/en-riesgo-jornada-nocturna-de-educacion/>

ConfidencialHN continues with its series of articles on companies protected by the current administration and how it benefits them. Meanwhile, Transparency International calls out to the General Attorneys of the 14 Latin American countries affected by the Odebrecht corruption scandal to gather in Brazil and decide together how to bring the culprits before court.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/15/armando-el-rompecabezas-popa-cosem-y-reytel-los-preferidos-del-orlandismo-parte-ii/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/15/fiscales-14-paises-deben-actuar-rapidamente-llevar-ante-la-justicia-los-corruptos-caso-lava-jato/>

The criminalization of human rights defenders in Honduras can go beyond the accused death. Merly Eguigure, the new coordinator at the Women's Movement for Peace "Visitación Padilla", denounces that the Supreme Court has been unwilling so far to clear the name of Gladys Lanza.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/justicia-para-gladys-lanza-un-grito-en-el-vacio>

CONAPREV's Orle Solís, presents the construction of prisons in Honduras as a sign of development.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2092-mientras-europa-cierra-carceles-honduras-abre>

There seems to be some consternation in the voice of TSE magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo, when he speaks about the not-so-secret-market for the credentials of the coming electoral process.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/magistrado-del-tse-afirma-que-credenciales-son-una-mercancia-que-se-compra-y-se-vende.html>

The former defense minister Arístides Mejía thinks that the Armed Forces are obliged by the constitution to oppose the presidential reelection.

[http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/"-las-ffaa-deben-pronunciarse-en-contra-de-la-reelección"-mejí](http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/)

According to the police statistics unit SEPOL, so far this year there were 31 murders less than in 2016 (521 instead of 552).

<http://tiempo.hn/homicidios-han-disminuido-en-honduras/>

<http://tiempo.hn/20-municipios-sin-incidencia-delictiva-en-honduras/>

17/02/17

Mining; Journalists; Defamation; Impunity; Penal Code; US; IHSS; Judicial Power; MACCIH; OABI; Poverty; Hydroelectricity; CONADEH; and Commemorating Berta

Frauke Decoodt writes for El Pulso about three mining concessions in the area of the Copán Ruins Archeological Park.

<http://elpulso.hn/minas-de-oro-en-copan-ruinas/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the trial against the police agent accused of attacking the journalist Dunia Montoya.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1641-policia-que-agredio-a-dunia-montoya-es-cierto-nos-desplazamos-ese-dia-con-nuestros-jefes-a-la-manifestacion>

ConfidencialHN presents the National Party activist Manuel de Jesús Iglesias Ramos as one of those responsible for the defamation and hate campaign against human rights defenders as well as the political opposition in the web. One victim of such a campaign is the journalist Jairo López.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/16/griseador-y-ciberacosador-azul-chuy-ramos-promueve-odio-contra-opositores-hondurenos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/16/parlamento-hondureno-y-troll-center-nacionalista-persiguen-a-comunicador/>

"Five Years after the Comayagua Fire, IACHR Reminds Honduras of its Duty to Investigate What Happened and Adopt Non-Repetition Measures"

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2017/014.asp

Guadalupe Ruelas, the director of Casa Alianza, is convinced that the current Honduran administration has no interest in prevention of crime - something lacking in the reforms of the Penal Code - as it uses fear and terror to control the population.

An example of a real reform would be to include corruption as a crime in the Penal Code, something that has just been demanded again in a forum held in Tegucigalpa.

For the political analyst Arístides Mejía the proposed reforms are above all a propaganda tool for the current electoral cycle.

In protest of the proposed reforms as well as other government policies, a group of civilians formed the Convergencia Ciudadana. Among its founding members are the former director of El Tiempo, Manuel Gamero, and the former president of Cohep, Juliette Handal.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/16/guadalupe-ruelas-gobierno-no-cree-en-prevencion-porque-quiere-mantener-aterrorizado-a-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/corrupcion-deberia-ser-tipificado-como-delito-en-el-codigo-penal/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/16/cuestionan-terquedad-de-joh-por-cruentas-reformas-penales/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/16/crean-convergencia-ciudadana-recuperar-la-institucionalidad-evitar-aprobacion-reformas-penales/>

InSight Crime reports on a bipartisan resolution in the US to support of the anti-corruption efforts by Central American governments.

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/us-congress-members-support-centam-anti-corruption-efforts>

After the revelations about the role of the so-called "los Tetos" in the IHSS corruption case, the former IHSS director now has claimed during trial that Óscar Laínez of the "los Tetos" had him temporarily kidnapped in Nicaragua when he was fleeing from Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/16/exdirector-del-ihss-revela-que-uno-de-los-tetos-lo-secuestro-en-nicaragua/>

Criterio reports that MACCIH will create together with civil society organizations and the Academia an observatory of the judicial power.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/16/maccih-sociedad-civil-la-academia-hondurena-crearan-observatorio-vigilar-la-justicia-hondurena/>

At the same time, MACCIH is in the defensive against voices demanding it to leave Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/16/dejen-la-maccih-tranquila-la-maccih-esta-trabajo-silencioso-juan-jimenez/>

Rather unexpectedly the director of the Administrative Office of Seized Goods (OABI), Francisco Zavala, handed in his resignation for personal reasons.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/16/misterio-renuncia-jefe-de-oficina-administradora-de-bienes-incautados/>

The former finance minister, Rebeca Santos, warns about the growing poverty in Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/16/en-honduras-se-agudizo-la-pobreza-extrema-advierte-exfuncionaria-de-finanzas/>

Inhabitants of the municipality Reitoca traveled to Tegucigalpa to protest outside of the MP against a hydroelectric project on the Petacón river.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/16/pobladores-del-municipio-de-reitoca-protestan-por-construccion-de-represa/>

The Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO) criticizes in a press release its Honduran member CONADEH. In Honduras itself, the former deputy delegate of CONADEH, Linda Lizzie Rivera, filed a petition to have her discharged nullified.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/fio-condena-intromisión-de-grupos-políticos-en-ámbito-de-competencia-del-conadeh-0>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/abogada-linda-rivera-presenta-demanda-para-que-se-declare-nula-su-cancelacion.html>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/02/calendario-de-la-jornada-1-ano-de-su.html>

18/02/17

HRDs; Campesinx; Corruption; MACCIH; Violence; (Re)Elections; Hydroelectricity; Digital Literacy; Toll Booths; and Two Realities

Another indigenous human rights defender was violently taken from

Honduras and the world. José de los Santos Sevilla, an indigenous Tolupan leader, was murdered in Montaña de la Flor yesterday morning.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-honduras-tambien-estan-acabando-con-la-reserva-humana-que-defiende-el-planeta/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1646-asesinan-a-lider-de-la-etnia-tolupan-en-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/equipo-multidisciplinario-trabaja-en-campo-para-capturar-asesinos-de-lider-tolupan.html>

The Regional Agrarian Platform denounces an attack and attempted eviction in Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Cortés on land that since 2008 is considered communal ("ejidales") land.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1644-desconocidos-dispararon-sus-armas-contra-campesinos-a-pesar-de-presencia-policial-y-militar>

Honduras' vice-president now officially filed a complaint against those that link his brother with money coming from "los Tetos".

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/17/amenazas-vicepresidente-de-honduras-querella-a-difamadores-de-su-hermano/>

MACCIH asked Congress yesterday to immediately approve the Effective Collaboration Bill to help them improve their fight against corruption.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/17/jefe-de-la-maccih-pide-al-parlamento-aprobar-poderosa-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/17/congresistas-hondurenos-del-fpam-apoyan-ley-colaboracion-eficaz-presentada-la-maccih/>

Last night, Manuel Escoto was murdered. He is the brother of the Honduran writer Julio Escoto, who is also a member of the Honor Tribunal of Libre.

The former police commissioner María Luisa Borjas thinks that there is a possibility that the current rise in violence is part of a strategy to facilitate the reelection of JOH.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/17/asesinan-a-hermano-del-escritor-hondureno-julio-escoto/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3474-“aumento-de-crímenes-podrían-ser-escenarios-creados-para-facilitar-proyecto-reeleccionista”>

The TSE announced that it will decide next week if they will use scanners for the primary elections.

The Liberal Party, the National Party, as well as Libre are against it.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-descarta-el-escaner-en-las-elecciones-primarias.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/partido-liberal-rechaza-el-escaner-para-elecciones-primarias.html>

Inhabitants of some 20 communities in Mezapa, Tela, protest that the mayor and the MP of Tela failed to comply with promises made in relation with protests against the hydroelectric project "Los Planes" in the area.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3471-fiscalía-y-municipalidad-de-tela-incumplen-acuerdos-y-comunidades-continúan-en-conflicto-con-hidroeléctrica>

El Pulso published an article on the great challenge in Honduras to strengthen digital literacy, even more so in an electoral year.

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

Radio Progreso reports on the role of the protests in San Manuel, Cortés in the general opposition against the privatization of the highways.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3472-resistencia-en-peaje-de-san-manuel-principal-obstáculo-de-concesiones-viales>

Two days ago, Radio Progreso published a short article on the two realities clashing in Honduras. One case in point is the recent press release by the IACHR. The human rights organizations and the alternative media report on the criticism by the IACHR on Honduras' failure to end impunity in the case of the prison fire in Comayagua in 2012.

Proceso Digital, representing the main media, meanwhile, has a headline saying that the IACHR "acknowledges the efforts made by the Honduran state regarding Human Rights."

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3466-dos-realidades-en-paralelo-16-febrero-2017>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1643-estado-hondureno-se-resiste-a-cumplir-sentencia-de-la-corteidh-que-manda-reintegrar-jueces-y-magistrada-despedidos-en-el-golpe-del-2009>

<http://www.proceso.hn/metropoli/13-metropoli/cidh-reconoce-esfuerzo-del-estado-de-honduras-en-materia-de-derechos-humanos.html>

19/02/17

HRDs; Militarization; Death Squads; Corruption; Penal Code; MACCIH; and Fighting the Drought

OFRANEH condemns the murder of indigenous Tolupan human rights defender

José de Santos Sevilla. OFRANEH calls for justice being done in his case

and that the Honduran state finally recognizes the territory of the Tolupanes in Honduras.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/02/18/el-asesinato-del-indigena-tolupan-jose-santos-sevilla-terrorismo-de-estado/>

<http://tiempo.hn/conadeh-pide-se-investigue-muerte-de-lider-indigena/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1045675-466/equipos-de-la-dpi-y-de-la-atic-investigacion-la-muerte-de>

According to El Tiempo, the Armed Forces started again with the militarizing program "Guards of the Fatherland" yesterday.

<http://tiempo.hn/reinicia-polemico-programa-militar-ninos-guardianes-la-patria/>

The word death squads makes the round again in Honduras.

<http://tiempo.hn/escuadrones-de-la-muerte-tras-masacres-en-honduras/>

The complaint vice-president Ricardo Álvarez filed for defamation (see yesterday) is against the online newspaper Revistazo.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/18/vicepresidente-de-honduras-querella-a-revistazo-por-difamar-a-su-hermano/>

Honduras Culture and Politics offers a good overview in English about the concerns the UN human rights office has with the proposed reforms to the Penal Code.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/02/un-concerned-new-criminal-code-violates.html>

Omar Rivera, member of the purging committee for the police, defends the MACCIH from criticism.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/18/quienes-quieren-la-maccih-se-vaya-los-andan-canillera-ya-la-ven-venir/>

According to CNN, the EU launched a \$11 million program to combat the consequences of the drought in Central America.

<http://cnnespanol.cnn.com/video/cnnee-pkg-cafe-elvin-sandoval-honduras-sequia-union-europea-ayuda/#0>

20/02/17

Party Financing; Journalists; HRDs; Death Squads; National Police;

PAC congressman Aníbal Cáliz denounces that there were some substantial

changes made to the new bill regulating the financing of political parties. The changes weren't discussed and according to Cáliz, they were made just before it was published in the Gaceta - Congress therefore didn't approve the bill as it is now. With these changes, the bill can't be applied to the current electoral period.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/19/ley-financiamiento-fue-cambiada-al-imprimirla-publicarla-diputado-anibal-calix/>

Pen Honduras launched an urgent action in favor of journalist Jairo López. It calls for the investigation of the defamation campaign of López and for his protection.

López himself requested to get access to the Protection Mechanism, which is part of the Human Rights Defenders Protection Law.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1648-centro-pen-honduras-alerta-a-pen-internacional-en-todo-el-mundo-sobre-caso-del-periodista-jairo-lopez>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1647-periodista-jairo-lopez-solicito-acogerse-al-mecanismo-de-proteccion>

OAS' Secretary General Luis Almagro denounces the murder of the indigenous Tolupan human rights defender José de los Santos Sevilla.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-más-noticias/almagro-condena-el-atroz-asesinato-de-un-lider-comunitario-en-honduras.html>

The head of the Armed Forces, Francisco Álvarez, negates the existence of death squads.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/19/jefe-de-ffaa-de-honduras-niega-existencia-de-bandas-paramilitares/>

The purging committee traveled to the US yesterday to talk about their work.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/comisión-depuradora-viaja-washington-exponer-logros-y-desafíos-de-la-reforma-policia>

21/02/17

Charter Cities; Corruption; Penal Code; Journalists; Campesinx; MACCIH; Liberal Party; (Re)Elections; and Move! Or Else!

OFRANEH denounces a possible new charter city project on the Swan

Islands (Las Islas del Cisne).

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/02/20/las-islas-del-cisne-ciudades-modelo-y-neofascismo/>

In a new article, Honduras Culture and Politics looks at a new case of corruption in the police forces: police officials have suppressed internal investigations into a weapon-selling network inside the police force.

This newest case has been revealed by El Heraldo.

Meanwhile, another 139 police agents were purged.

Criminologist Arabesca Sánchez criticizes that there is still no real plan on what to do with the purged members of the police force.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/02/police-corruption-abounds-in-honduras.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1045935-466/una-estructura-criminal-conformada-por-policías-hondureños-enviaba-armas-a-las-farc>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/honduras-authorities-covered-up-police-sending-weapons-farc-report>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/20/purgan-a-139-agentes-y-oficiales-de-la-policia-nacional-de-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/criminologa-cuestiona-que-no-haya-plan-de-seguimiento-para-policias-separados.html>

Nincy Perdomo wrote an article for El Pulso on the politicization of the Penal Code reforms.

The problem with this claim, even if true to some extent, is that it is used by the Honduran government to silence criticism against the bill.

Another case in point is the position of the NGOs close to the Honduran state, which are organized in the federation Foprideh.

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

<http://tiempo.hn/secretaria-seguridad-responde-ante-convocatoria-libre-este-martes/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/20/ongs-hablan-idioma-joh-cuanto-las-reformas-penales/>

C-Libre denounces the temporary kidnapping of the journalist and human rights defender Evelyn Molina Castañeda.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/secuestran-temporalmente-periodista-en-tegucigalpa>

El Tiempo reports that the son of the former MUCA president Jeremías Martínez was murdered yesterday.

<http://tiempo.hn/asesinan-hijo-expresidente-del-movimiento-unificado-campesino-del-aguan/>

MACCIH expressed its preoccupation about petitions from "obscure places" that demand their exit from Honduras. They get support from Julieta Castellanos.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/20/maccih-denuncia-presiones-del-lado-oscuro-ante-investigaciones-por-corrupcion-estatal/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/rectora-castellanos-pide-que-no-descalifiquen-trabajo-de-mp-y-maccih.html>

Carlos Montoya, who is running for the presidential election for the Liberal Party, told ConfidencialHN that his party is divided in two factions- those who support JOH and those who oppose him and if the latter win in March, they would join the alliance of the political opposition.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/20/presidenciable-liberal-se-sumara-a-colacion-opositora/>

The debate about the scanners possibly used at the elections continues. At the same time, some employees of the Judicial Power received a workshop on how to attend complaints about electoral fraud.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/20/tildan-de-extranas-las-denuncias-sobre-contrataciones-de-escaneres/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-escaner-resultados-elecciones.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/20/inicia-capacitacion-operadores-justicia-atencion-denuncias-delitos-electorales/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/20/o-te-activas-o-te-desactivo-amenazan-a-burocratas-que-no-correran-con-joh/>

22/02/17

Berta; HRDs; Journalists; Penal Code; Irregularities; Elections; National Police; and Displacement in Honduras

Almost one year after the murder of Berta, Gloria Jiménez spoke with her

mother Austra Flores as well as the sole witness Gustavo Castro about what has happened since.

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/39565-is-berta-caceres-assassination-a-tipping-point-for-change-in-honduras>

The UN human rights office in Honduras emitted a press release denouncing the murder of José de los Santos Sevilla.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1649-sistema-de-naciones-unidas-en-honduras-y-alto-comisionado-de-derechos-humanos-denuncian-asesinato-del-lider-tolupan-jose-de-los-santos-sevilla>

Journalist Jairo López continues to be harassed and threatened even though he asked on several occasions for protection. Meanwhile, the director of the protection mechanism, Nora Urbina, told Proceso Digital that already 63 "citizens" are benefiting from the mechanism.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1650-vigilancia-a-periodista-jairo-lopez-y-recusacion-de-jueces-de-tribunal-de-sentencia>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/mecanismo-de-proteccion-acoge-a-63-defensores-y-periodistas.html>

Yesterday, Congress approved the first reforms of the Penal Code, regarding terrorism and extortion. Vandalism by members of illicit associations is now deemed terrorism. And a threatening call or a note demanding for money, is extortion. Before the debate in Congress, the alliance of the political opposition held a press conference, denouncing the reforms as "legalizing state terrorism". There was also a protest in front of Congress. Human rights organization, in the form of the Articulation 611 and the Coalition against Impunity, once more reiterated their rejection of the proposed reforms. The reason, why the first part of the reform came through, was the absence of the Liberal Party, i.e. its congresswomen. They claimed, that they don't want to politicize the vote - showing once more the danger of the indiscriminate use of this term.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/21/ausencia-liberales-pito-beatriz-valle-se-aprueban-primeras-reformas-penales/>

<http://tiempo.hn/reformas-penales-aprueban-figura-del-terrorismo-los-actos-vandalicos/>

<http://tiempo.hn/reformas-penales-solo-amenazar-se-incurre-delito-extorsion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/21/no-legalizar-terrorismo-estado-alianza-opositora/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/21/coalicion-opositora-honduras-protesta-reformas-penales-video/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/rechazamos-el-paquete-de-reformas-penales-por-su-impacto-negativo-para-la-sociedad-civil-hondurena/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-aprobacion-de-reformas-penales-toda-expresion-de-la-ciudadania-podria-ser-criminalizada/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/21/insolito-liberales-se-ahuyentan-no-votan-no-politizar-reformas-penales/>

Congress' secretary, Nationalist congressman Mario Pérez, had to admit that the bill on regulating party finances published in the Gaceta differed from the one Congress accepted. He claims that it was due to "involuntary errors".

This happened after MACCIH asked for the audio taps of the congressional debate to look into the matter.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/21/congreso-dice-trastoque-ley-financiamiento-politico-fue-error-involuntario-descarta-fe-erratas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/maccih-solicita-al-cn-grabaciones-en-las-que-aprobo-ley-de-financiamiento-a-campanas.html>

The TSE will apparently now get the funds it demanded from the Finance Secretariat.

After the back and forth in the last days, TSE also announced that they won't use scanners in the primary elections.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/finanzas-desembolsa-255-millones-de-lempiras-al-tse.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-descarta-utilizacion-de-escaner-en-proceso-de-elecciones-primarias.html>

According to ConfidencialHN, a police agent shot dead a young man in Choloma and then planted a gun on him to justify the murder. This was witnessed by local people and a protest erupted. Criterio reports on the current visit of the purging body of the national police to the US. They met with the state department and today they will participate in a public forum on the police reform in Honduras at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/21/agente-de-investigacion-mata-adolescente-y-le-implanta-pistola-para-librarse-de-crimen/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/21/depuradores-policiales-honduras-se-reunen-funcionarios-del-departamento-estado/>

<http://elpulso.hn/el-desplazamiento-por-goteo-en-honduras/>

23/02/17

Berta - Global Action; HRDs; Penal Code; Terrorism; Journalists; Campesinxs; Extortion; National Party; and the Haunting Past of Óscar Álvarez

Defensores en Línea reports on a campaign by Amnesty International to collect solidarity messages for Berta's families and COPINH.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/amnistia-internacional-acciones-alrededor-del-aniversario-del-asesinato-de-bertha/>

Amnesty also has just recently published its annual report. You can find the chapter about Honduras with the link below.

<https://www.amnesty.org/es/countries/americas/honduras/report-honduras/>

Jessica Isla, writer, feminist and human rights defender, published a personal note on how she feels after the approval of the first reforms to the Penal Code.

El Pulso has some more background information on the approved terrorism article.

Both ConfidencialHN and Criterio report that JOH's assessor, Ebal Díaz, illegally voted in Congress for the reforms without being a congressman. Also due to the absence of the Liberal Party, Libre announced to file a complaint against the vote at the Judicial Power.

The behavior of the Liberal Party is also being criticized from inside the party itself.

There are some further comments on the approved reforms, e.g. from OFRANEH, that you find in the link list below.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1653-terroristas>

<http://elpulso.hn/con-reforma-al-335-honduras-declara-organizaciones-terroristas-a-maras-y-pandillas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/22/asesor-de-joh-vota-por-reformas-penales-en-el-congreso-sin-ser-diputado/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/22/denuncian-ebal-diaz-habria-votado-las-reformas-al-codigo-penal/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2109-partido-libre-presentara-amparo-contra-reformas-penales>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/22/los-que-tratan-asi-al-partido-es-porque-tienen-la-estrella-del-traidor-en-la-frente/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/02/22/hondurasrepublica-mafiosa-y-reformas-penales/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/22/ley-antiterrorismo-honduras-sera-hazme-reir-del-mundo/>

It seems almost unbelievable, but just a day after the approval of a reform to the Penal Code which dramatically expands the definition of terrorism, JOH presented a new "Special Law Against Terrorism".

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1046875-466/presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-enviará-al-congreso-nacional-una-ley-especial-contra>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/22/joh-anuncia-una-ley-especial-antiterrorista-reformas-penales-no-suficientes/>

And if this weren't enough, Congress approved further reforms to the Penal Code. Journalist can now be sentenced to four to eight years in prison for inciting hatred or terrorism through the media.

In a different area, some progress can be seen. A report by the analyst of the Human Rights Secretariat, Leonel Casco, looks at the repression by the Armed Forces against 14 female reporters during a protest on December 13, 2011.

Reporters without Borders denounces the criminalization of and the defamation campaign against journalist Jairo López.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/22/congreso-hondureno-aprueba-carcel-periodistas-inciten-al-terrorismo/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/identificados-agentes-sospechosos-de-tratos-cruels-contra-14-periodistas>

<http://www.rsf-es.org/news/honduras-proceso-judicial-irregular-y-campana-de-desprestigio-el-periodista-hondureno-jairo-lopez-en-medio-de-la-tormenta/>

El Pulso reports on the situation of the Lenca campesino families in San Pedro de Tutule, who suffered an eviction on January 13.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-desalojo-de-san-pedro-de-tutule/>

What was thought as a temporary closure, now seems to be permanent. The Instituto Modelo school announced that they will close due to extortion.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2110-anuncian-cierre-definitivo-de-instituto-modelo-de-tegucigalpa>

ConfidencialHN reports on the arrest of a National Party activist for supposed drug trafficking and membership of a Mara.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/22/capturan-activista-azul-por-supuesto-trafico-de-drogas-y-nexos-con-maras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/22/los-argentinos-llegaron-primero-y-nos-ensenaron-como-desaparecer-personas-oscar-alvarez/>

24/02/17

Freedom of Expression; Extortion; Prosecutors; National Police; Journalists; IHSS; Economic Policies; Construction; MACCIH; and Testing the Limits of Freedom of Expression

The recent attack against the freedom of expression as part of the

reforms to the Penal Code caused an uproar.

The IACHR and UN human rights office expressed their preoccupation in a joint press release.

The Honduran media in general denounced the law, even the press closer to the government.

CONADEH also spoke out against it.

For me it seems that the National Party is just testing once more the limits of where it can go, because after the uproar, Congress's president Mauricio Oliva announced that they revise the article in question.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1655-de-dictadura-a-dictadura-en-el-gobierno-de-facto-de-micheletti-se-cerraron-medios-en-el-de-joh-es-carcel-para-periodistas>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/de-aterorizads-sospechoss-de-terrorismo>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1656-cidh-y-oacnudh-los-estados-no-deben-limitar-los-reportajes-periodisticos-sobre-actos-amenazas-o-promocion-del-terrorismo-y-otras-actividades-violentas>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1657-eduin-romero-cph-que-esconde-el-articulo-aprobado-a-ultima-hora>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/23/hasta-la-prensa-tradicional-ha-gritado-por-nueva-ley-mordaza-del-represor-oscar-alvarez/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/preocupacion-por-articulo-que-castigara-a-la-prensa-por-apologia-al-terrorismo.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-más-noticias/comisionado-de-ddhh-en-contra-de-legalizar-procedimientos-que-limiten-la-libertad-de-expresion.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/congreso-redactara-nuevo-articulo-atenta-libertad-expresion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/23/congreso-promete-revisar-ley-criminaliza-periodistas-cph-avala-ley-antiterrorista/>

The approved reforms to the Penal Code regarding extortion is also criticized by Roberto Ramón Castillo, the aspiring presidential candidate for the National Party's Monarca movement.

One of the promises of the reform is to lead to more foreign investment thanks to more security in Honduras. The former president of the Honduran Central Bank Hugo Noé Pino thinks that it may be the opposite.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/criminalizar-la-extorsion-desde-una-simple-llamada-es-peligroso-advierde-roberto-ramon-castillo.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/23/aprobacion-leyes-no-garantia-la-inversion-hugo-noe-pino/>

On April 18, 2013, the public prosecutor Juan Ramón Molina was murdered.

He was known as the "Golden Prosecutor" for his honesty and credibility.

The crime was never solved, but now it is in the headlines again, as it seems to involve public officials. El Pulso spoke on this occasion with the press speaker of the MP..

...as well as with Jari Dixon Herrera, former prosecutor and now Libre congressman, who thinks that the renewed investigation is another electoral ploy of JOH.

<http://elpulso.hn/que-dijo-la-prensa-nacional-sobre-el-asesinato-del-fiscal-de-oro-orlan-chavez/>

<http://elpulso.hn/caso-orlan-chavez-nunca-se-cerro-yuri-mora/>

<http://elpulso.hn/segun-jary-dixon-levantar-el-caso-de-orlan-chavez-se-hace-para-levantarle-el-perfil-a-joh/>

Journalist Rony Huete was temporarily abducted and robbed.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/asaltan-y-secuestran-temporalmente-periodista>

The MP asked for a 12 year prison sentence for Mario Zelaya, the former director of the IHSS. This is not, as one may think, for corruption, but for the illegal storage of arms.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/23/mario-zelaya-sera-condenado-a-12-anos-de-carcel-por-almacenar-armas-comerciales-y-prohibidas/>

Four police agents were arrested for extortion and tentative homicide.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/23/capturan-a-tres-policias-hondurenos-por-extorsion-danos-e-intento-de-asesinato/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/tres-policí-son-capturados-en-san-pedro-sula>

Javier Suazo analyzes JOH's economic policies and criticizes his focus on solely reducing the fiscal deficit ignoring the difference between current expenditure and productive investment expenditure.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/183747>

The Honduran Civil Engineer College (CICH) denounces favoritism by JOH regarding construction projects.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/23/favoritismo-del-gobierno-empresas-constructoras-internacionales-pone-riesgo-la-inversion/>

Some 35 places inside the MP opened up in the unit that is meant to work with MACCIH.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/anuncian-apertura-de-plazas-para-integrar-la-unidad-fiscal-que-trabajará-con-la-maccih>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2115-exombudsman-califica-como-delincuente-a-presidente-hondureno>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/23/joh-deberia-capturado-delincuente-infraganti-ramon-custodio/>

<http://elpulso.hn/liberta-de-expresion-vs-apologia-del-crimen/>

25/02/17

Berta - 1 Year; Hydroelectricity; Freedom of Expression; Judicial Power; TRans-450; (Re)Elections; MACCIH; Women's Rights; Public Employees; and Your Life, Your Rights

COPINH informs about the different events that will take place beginning

next Monday to remember Berta.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/02/copinh-convocamos-y-compartimos-el.html>

Chinda, a small village in Santa Barbará, declared itself free of hydroelectric projects.

Meanwhile in Tela, Atlántida, the protests against the hydroelectric project "Los Planes" continues.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3482-chinda-santa-bárbara-se-autodeclara-libre-de-hidroeléctricas>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3485-comunidades-de-tela-demandan-salida-de-hidrocep-por-daños-irreversibles-al-ambiente>

Human rights organization now also filed a complaint against the so-called Oscar Álvarez Bill which allows for 4-8 year prison sentence for journalist for instigating violence and terrorism, without clearly defining what that means.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1660-hay-blanqueo-de-la-norma-con-supuesta-reconsideracion-del-articulo-335b-y-cierre-de-mas-espacios-a-las-mujeres>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/24/presentan-recurso-amparo-actuar-del-cn-la-creacion-leyes-sin-respeto-ley-la-constitucion-video/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1659-presentan-ante-sala-de-lo-constitucional-amparo-con-suspension-del-acto-reclamado-contra-el-articulo-335b>

The investigation into supposedly irregular behavior by the former vice-president of the Judiciary Council, Teodoro Bonilla, continues.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/24/juzgados-valle-secuestran-documentos-constatan-contrataciones-irregulares-familiares-teodoro-bonilla/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/24/tormenta-de-fuego-secuestra-documentos-en-cuatro-juzgados-por-contrataciones-irregulares-a-familiares-de-teodoro-bonilla/>

There is apparently also an investigation into the failure of the Trans-450 infrastructure project.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/24/atic-fetccop-realizan-inspeccion-tecnica-fallido-trans-450/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) announced new lines of investigation into the Supreme Electoral Court (TSE).

This probably has nothing to do with this, as the investigation will go back as far as 2009, but it is still noteworthy that the TSE now wants to test run the scanners, even though just days back it said that it won't use the.

And it seems that it hasn't so far registered their purchase on the transparency portal by the IAIP.

Meanwhile on the campaign trail, intimate photos of two women running for Congress for the National Party have made their way to social media. They are denouncing a denigration campaign against them.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2116-investigaran-compras-en-tribunal-electoral-hondureno>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-realizara-simulacro-con-el-uso-del-escaner-este-fin-de-semana.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/iaip-tse-subir-portal-transparencia-la-adquisicion-los-escaneres/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/24/aspirante-a-diputada-azul-denuncia-persecucion-y-humillacion-por-fotos-comprometedoras/>

Radio Progreso interviewed the coordinator of MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3486-“la-maccih-está-armándose-y-los-dientes-están-bien-puestos”-advierte-su-vocero-juan-jiménez-mayor>

The Nationalist mayor of Santa Ana doesn't recognize the election in an open council meeting of Ana Silvina Murillo as the head of the municipal office for women.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1658-alcalde-de-santa-se-resiste-a-respetar-eleccion-de-representante-a-la-oficina-municipal-de-la-mujer>

Honduras Tierra Libre reports on a debate about the number of public employees.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/02/honduras-informes-sobre-despidos.html>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/ministerio-público-lanza-campañ-de-promoción-de-los-derechos-humanos-denominada-tu-vida-tus>

26/02/17

Journalists; Armed Forces; Mayors; Protests; and the Cost of Violence

PEN International launches an urgent action calling for the protection

of journalist Jairo López.

And with the imminent threat to the freedom of expression by the reforms to the Penal Code, the role of the Journalists' College is highlighted.

And it is mostly in the form of criticism.

<http://www.pen-international.org/newsitems/honduras-concerns-for-the-safety-of-journalist-jairo-lopez-following-smear-campaign/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1661-pen-international-honduras-preocupaciones-por-la-seguridad-del-periodista-jairo-lopez-despues-de-la-campana-de-difamacion>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/25/colegio-periodistas-honduras-una-verguenza-wilfredo-mendez-video/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/25/hay-que-creerles-colegio-de-periodistas-defendera-libertad-de-expresion/>

As part of the "Firestorm II" Operation, the MP presented two arrest warrants against high military officials for their actions against a radio station back in 2009, shortly after the coup d'état.

<http://elpulso.hn/requieren-a-dos-altos-oficiales-de-las-ffaa-por-cerrar-medios-de-comunicacion/>

<http://tiempo.hn/operacion-tormenta-de-fuego-ii-detenidos/>

The MP added two more crimes to the accusations against the mayor of Yoro, Arnaldo Urbina, and his two brothers.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/25/imputan-cargos-de-trafico-de-drogas-y-asociacion-ilicita-al-alcalde-de-yoro/>

On Friday evening, a protest took place in Tegucigalpa against the reelection as well as the approved reforms to the Penal Code.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/24/ciudadanos-queman-publicidad-del-partido-nacional-protesta-ley-antiterrorista/>

"A report by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on the costs of crime and violence in Latin America and the Caribbean shows that while the region has recently made progress in some economic and social development indicators, the costs of the alarming security conditions in some countries are still disproportionately high."

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/report-highlights-disproportionate-costs-crime-latam>

27/02/17

Congress; Journalists; Mining; Migration; EEH; and Built on Sand

Criterio reports that the UN human rights office expressed its

preoccupation about the lack of transparency in how Congress functions.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/26/oficina-del-alto-comisionado-cuestiona-la-opacidad-la-opera-congreso-nacional-honduras/>

Lecturers at the Journalism Department at UNAH demand the removal of its director Noé Leiva as well as its academic coordinator Marisela Bustillo Zúniga. They accuse them of abuse of authority, mistreatment of lecturers and students, mismanagement and more.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1663-el-secreto-a-voces-por-irregularidades-piden-destitucion-de-noe-leiva-director-de-la-escuela-de-periodismo-de-la-unah>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/26/docentes-piden-remocion-autoridades-del-departamento-periodismo-la-unah/>

Inhabitants of La Unión, Olancho, occupy their municipality in protest of mining projects.

<http://www.noalamina.org/latinoamerica/honduras/item/16922-pobladores-de-la-union-toman-municipalidad-en-contra-de-explotacion-minera>

CONADEH's Roberto Herrera calls for closer collaboration between the Central American countries regarding migration.

<http://tiempo.hn/conadeh-paises-centroamericanos-deben-conjuntarse-tema-migracion/>

The private Energy Company Honduras (EEH) announced blackouts throughout Honduras for today. Consumer protection groups, meanwhile, expect a new rise in energy prices.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/26/preparesse-masivos-apagones-se-registraran-el-lunes-en-honduras/>

<http://tiempo.hn/mega-apagon-anuncia-la-eeh-manana-lunes/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/02/honduras-adalid-irias-estamos-la.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1047874-466/presidente-de-honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez-sufre-pequeno-accidente-durante-concentracion-politica>

<http://tiempo.hn/oposicion-aprovecha-caida-escenario-lanzar-dardos-nacionalistas/>

28/02/17

Berta - COPINH, Investigation; Penal Code; Freedom of Expression; (Re)Elections; National Police; Poverty; Mining; and One-Sided Fact Checking

With a press conference, COPINH began yesterday a days-long remembering

ceremony of Berta and her as well as COPINH's struggle. For this occasion, a short video in honor of Berta was produced.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/02/comunicado-de-copinh-1-ano-de-la.html>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/02/video-del-copinh-1-ano-de-su-siembra.html>

Amnesty International denounces the "shameful" investigation into Berta's murder. According to them, this sends a bleak message to hundreds of human rights defenders.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/27/amnistia-internacional-denuncia-vergonzosa-investigacion-muerte-bera-caceres/>

With the publication of the reforms to the Penal Code in La Gaceta, they entered into force yesterday.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/27/partir-hoy-legal-honduras-se-acuse-terrorista-cualquier-ciudadano/>

And with that, also the added article that restrings freedom of expression.

A good overview of the recent developments in Honduras comes from the analysis by CESPAD.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/27/no-piense-ni-hable-regimen-orlandista-legaliza-ley-oscar-alvarez/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3490-errar-es-de-humano-rectificar-de-sabios-27-febrero-2017>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1664-nuevos-riesgos-a-los-derechos-humanos-polarizacion-politica-y-la-persistencia-de-la-impunidad-dibujan-la-coyuntura-hondurena>

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Coyuntura-Enero-Febrero-2017.pdf>

Roberto Ramón Castillo, an aspiring presidential candidate for the National Party, denounces that UNAH's dean and the National Party around JOH are preparing an electoral fraud.

The Catholic church in Honduras, meanwhile, published an open letter on the topic of the coming elections.

For the internal elections, the TSE awaits some 200 international electoral observers.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/27/denuncian-componendas-entre-partido-nacional-y-unah-para-reelegir-a-rectora/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/27/iglesia-catolica-bendice-la-reeleccion-presidencial-postura-gallo-gallina/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/observadores-internacionales-comenzaran-a-llegar-esta-semana-al-pais.html>

There were rumors that the director of the National Police, Félix Villanueva Mejía, will be replaced. The Security Secretariat dismissed the claims in a press release.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/27/niegan-salida-de-actual-jefe-policial-felix-villanueva/>

According to FOSDEH, levels of poverty are rising in Honduras.

<http://tiempo.hn/la-pobreza-estudio-fosdeh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-desempleo-una-de-las-principales-causas-de-la-emigracion-fosdeh.html>

The Honduran mining sector exported goods worth 8.3% less in 2016 than in 2015.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/02/27/exportacion-minera-cae-14-2-millones-dolares/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1048338-466/fact-checking-herramienta-útil-para-la-auditoría-del-discurso-público-en-honduras>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inspectoreh/>