

01/08/17

UNAH; Impunity; HRDs; National Police; Extradition; (Re)Elections; MACCIH; IAIP; Migration; Public Health; Education; Drug Trafficking; Human Trafficking; and Taking the Long-Term View on Justice

The individualization of the sentences against the three criminalized UNAH students Cesario Padilla, Sergio Ulloa and David Moisés Cáceres was postponed.

ConexiHn reports on irregularities in the construction of UNAH's administrative building.

Radio Progreso presents various voices on the UNAH crisis who demand a dialogue to solve the crisis.

Meanwhile, there are still more letters of support for Padre Melo, who is being attacked by UNAH's dean Julieta Castellanos.

Pasos de Animal Grande published the fifth portrait of a criminalized UNAH student.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/07/31/postergan-lectura-de-condena-contra-universitarios-perseguidos/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/las-jugosas-modificaciones-de-contrato-para-construccion-de-edificio-administrativo-en-la-unah>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3793-una-soluci%C3%B3n-dialogada-al-conflicto-universitario-demanda-diversos-sectores>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/07/31/este-padre-melo-conozco/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/07/31/compania-de-jesus-de-centroamerica-ratifica-labor-social-y-pastoral-del-padre-melo/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1834-kelin-la-unah-es-mi-hogar-y-quiero-dejar-una-huella>

ConfidencialHN accuses the MP not to legally pursue the Deputy Attorney General for various alleged crimes of corruption and using his former sub-secretary at the Natural Resources Secretariat, Darío Cardona, as a scapegoat.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/07/31/por-que-el-ministerio-publico-no-menciona-al-fiscal-adjunto-que-recibio-sobornos-del-megafraude-al-ihss/>

US congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, a Chief Deputy Whip and member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, condemns the recent attacks against family members of Berta Cáceres.

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/press-releases/schakowsky-statement-on-the-threats-made-to-berta-caceres-family/>

Yesterday's arrested former police commissioner Jorge Barralaga will await trial in prison.

His arrest was part of a wider operation called Perseus.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/07/31/envian-a-prision-a-exjefe-policial-jorge-barralaga/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/07/31/ministerio-publico-confisca-casas-que-no-pertenecen-a-familia-barralaga/>

A Honduran court sentenced former member of the Armed Forces for the illegal detention of Ramón Mata Ballestaros in 1988, who was later on extradited to the US.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/07/31/condenan-a-policias-y-militares-que-entregaron-a-ramon-mata-a-ee-uu/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/07/31/entrega-de-ramon-matta-a-ee-uu-averguenza-a-honduras-analista/>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez denounces that the TSE only offers shallow excuses not to implement the use of digital fingerprints for the coming general elections.

Criterio reports on JOH's use of the new prisons El Pozo and La Tolva as campaign tools.

A case in point is a newly published Proceso Digital article.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/07/31/doris-gutierrez-tse-no-tiene-la-voluntad-de-evitar-el-fraude-en-elecciones/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/07/31/carceles-maxima-seguridad-se-convierten-bandera-politica-joh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nunca-como-hasta-ahora-se-esta-luchando-contra-la-impunidad-juan-orlando-hernandez.html>

The Anti-Corruption Student Coordination (CEA) denounces in a press release the slow approval process of the MACCIH's Efficient Collaboration Bill.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/07/31/coordinadora-estudiantil-anticorrupcion-denuncia-lentitud-aprobacion-ley-colaboracion-eficaz/>

The Coalition against Impunity published a press release on the coming elections of new commissioners for the Institute for Access to Public Information.

See Attachment

The Economist covers migration from Central America to Mexico in its newest edition.

<http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21725601-donald-trump-hardens-united-states-border-more-asylum-seekers-opt-stay>

The former head of the business lobby Cohep, Juliette Handal, filed a fourth official request with a thousand signatures from Hondurans at the Supreme Court of Justice against the abusive fees at the University Hospital.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/07/31/expresidenta-del-cohep-vuelve-a-pedir-gratuidad-en-salud/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1094563-466/pacientes-viven-odisea-para-lograr-citas-en-el-instituto-hondure%C3%B1o-de-seguridad>

Teachers at the Mixto Hibueras school in Comayagüela protest against outstanding paychecks.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/07/31/docentes-paralizan-clases-por-falta-de-pago-en-colegio-capitalino/>

Once more, the sentencing of Fabio Lobo, Pepe Lobo's son, was postponed by a federal judge in New York.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/07/31/posponen-5-septiembre-sentencia-fabio-lobo/>

The IACHR calls out to its member states to use a human rights based approach on when combating human trafficking.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2017/110.asp>

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/07/31/inconstitucional-candidato-nacionalista-no-lo-olvide/>

02/08/17

Berta; UNAH; HRDs; FPIC; UN; Judicial Power; OFRANEH; Campesinx; National Police; National Party; (Re)Elections; Reelection; Penitentiary System; Corruption; Extradition; Deportations; Water; Public Health; Public Debt; and Fear Included

A further US congressmen published a statement of support for Berta's family and denounces the recent attacks against them.

The main press has ignored these statements so far, but Criterio reported on them.

El Pulso published an interview with Gustavo Cáceres Flores, Berta Cáceres' brother, about the role of the Honduran security forces in the supposed protection of Berta's family.

<https://ellison.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-ellison-statement-on-threats-to-berta-c-ceres-family>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/01/congresista-estadounidense-llama-autoridades-hondurenas-proteger-familia-berta-caceres/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/01/violencia-peligro-enfrentan-activistas-luchan-los-derechos-civiles-honduras-inaceptable-congresista-ee-uu/>

<http://elpulso.hn/gustavo-caceres-flores-las-autoridades-han-puesto-mal-a-este-pais/>

UNAH authorities continue to sabotage a return to a dialogue by adding three controversial articles to the academic standards. Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the article violate among other things the right to free expression and the right to protest.

As part of the campaign by UNAH's dean Julieta Castellanos against Padre Melo, UNAH canceled the contract with ERIC-SJ. This resulted in the end of the student radio program "UNAH VOZ".

The Coalition against Impunity also published a press release in support of Padre Melo and denouncing the "authoritative and anti-democratic nature of the UNAH authorities".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1836-con-nuevas-normas-academicas-autoridades-de-la-unah-violentan-los-derechos-a-la-protesta-y-libre-expresion>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/unah-cierra-programa-radial-estudiantes-de-periodismo>

See Attachment

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/item/3795-melo-y-la-pr%C3%A1ctica-de-dialogar>

Defensores en Línea reports on the criminalization of the Lenca human rights defender José Luis Martínez Castillo in La Paz, who was sentenced to 11 years in prison without any substantial proof that he was even at the scene of the crime.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/no-se-probo-su-participacion-en-delito-que-lo-imputan-pero-lo-sentencian-a-11-anos-de-reclusion/>

The UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, officially published her additional observations regarding the process to establish a Free, Prior and Informed Consultation Bill in Honduras.

See 2 Attachments

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/08/relatora-especial-de-la-onu-se.html>

Human rights expert Joaquín A. Mejía Rivera offers his analysis of the recent recommendations by the UN Human Rights Council for Honduras.

<https://joaquinmejiaivera.blogspot.ch/2017/08/la-situacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en.html>

Criterio reports on irregularities in the murder trial of the lawyer

Eduardo Montes Manzano. He worked for the Gutiérrez Arévalo family of Congress' vice-president Lena Karyn Gutiérrez Arévalo. The accused is Rigoberto Paredes Vélez, son of Honduran author and poet Anarella Vélez Osejo.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/01/sin-aplicar-pruebas-perito-del-ministerio-publico-se-presenta-juicio/>

OFRANEH petitions Honduras' congresswo/men not to approve the Tourism Promotion Bill. They fear that this would result in even more pressure on their land and consequently more forceful evictions and criminalization.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1835-ofraneh-habra-mas-despojo-de-territorios-y-violacion-de-derechos-humanos-si-aprueban-ley-de-fomento-del-turismo>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/01/ofraneh-pide-los-diputados-hondurenos-no-aprobar-la-ley-fomento-al-turismo/>

Gustavo Irías, director of CESPAD, published a study on Honduran campesinxs and their right to defend their land and territory.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/187241>

According to the former director of the disappeared DEICP, they had already started to investigate the now arrested police commissioner Jorge Barralaga in 2013.

La Tribuna reports that the FBI and ATIC search his son in a joint operation in the US.

InSight Crime lauds the arrest.

<http://tiempo.hn/exdirector-la-deicp-dice-barralaga-investigado-desde-2013/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/08/02/atic-fbi-buscan-hijo-barralaga-ee-uu-2/>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/as-honduras-tackles-police-corruption-security-indicators-improve>

Members of the Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE) accuse their president Asterio Reyes to have deviated funds from the institute to support National congresswo/men.

TSE suspended an aspiring National congressman from running due to legal charges pressed against him.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/01/honduras-denunciaran-criminalmente-a-potentado-cafetalero-y-banquero-por-ilicitos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-inhabilita-a-aspirante-a-diputado-del-pn-por-comayagua-en-elecciones-generales.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/02/suspenden-del-proceso-electoral-al-candidato-a-diputado-azul-denis-velasquez/>

Radio Progreso speaks with PAC congressman and member of the Opposition Alliance Luis Redondo about the need for electoral reform. He goes so far as to say that the electoral reforms will decide on the electoral future of the country.

Meanwhile, the debate about the voting procedure continues. The Liberal Party filed a complaint against voting with a continuous line.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3796-%E2%80%9Csin-reformas-electorales-el-fraude-es-inevitable%E2%80%9D-afirma-diputado>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/partido-liberal-presenta-recurso-de-reposicion-en-contra-del-voto-en-rama-continua.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-discutira-oposicion-liberal-contra-voto-de-linea-continua-marco-ramiro-lobo.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/01/si-autoridad-electoral-no-rectifica-voto-en-rama-liberales-podran-ir-al-poder-judicial/>

Jonathan Menkos Zeissig identifies April 22, 2015 as the day when the Honduran Supreme Court emitted the death sentence for Honduras' democracy by approving the reelection.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/01/honduras-una-democracia-agonizando/>

The image of JOH's pet projects for the presidential reelection, the two high-security prisons, continues to crumble. A Mara leader, supposed to be in the El Pozo prison, was found in the streets of San Pedro Sula. Furthermore, a prison guard at the La Polva prison was arrested for extortion.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/01/mareros-se-siguen-burlando-pozo/>

<http://tiempo.hn/cae-agente-penitenciario-la-tolva-supuesta-extorsion/>

A trial was opened against the former SERNA vice-minister for Darío Roberto Cardona Valle in the IHSS corruption case. His former boss, the current Deputy Attorney General Rigoberto Cuéllar, still remains untouched even though he has been linked to various irregular acts, for example in the Auga Zarca case. The former Attorney General, Edmundo Orellana, calls the IHSS corruption case the litmus test for the new anti-corruption judges.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/admiten-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-contra-ex-vice-ministro-dario-roberto-cardona.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/01/dictan-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-contra-dario-cardona-y-cuellar/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/08/honduras-masacre-financiera-del-ihss.html>

Today a court case takes pace on the possible extradition of a Brazilian accused of drug trafficking to Brazil.

<http://tiempo.hn/realizaran-audiencia-a-ciudadano-brasileno/>

According to DINAF, the number of deported Honduran children has decreased by 34% so far this year compared to 2016.

<http://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/un-34-por-ciento-ha-reducido-la-deportacion-de-ninos-hondurenos-dinaf.html>

Radio HRN reports on a proposal to redirect water from the Patuca III hydroelectric dam to Tegucigalpa.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/proponen-trasladar-agua-de-la-represa-patuca-iii-hacia-la-capital>

El Heraldo reports on the collapsed public health system in Honduras. The IHHS counts only 934 doctors for almost 2 million beneficiaries. Elsa Palou, the director of the University Hospital, defends herself against the demands by the Citizens Convergence of Juliette Handal demanding an end to abusive prices for medical attention. The Honduran Medical College (CMH) announced new protests against the "privatizing avalanche" taking hold of the Honduran public health system.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1094889-466/solo-hay-un-m%C3%A9dico-por-cada-2110-pacientes-en-el-ihss>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/01/jefa-hospitalaria-manda-a-decir-a-juliette-handal-que-seguiran-cobrando/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/02/medicos-saldran-a-las-calles-a-protestar-por-privatizacion-de-la-salud/>

The economist Jorge Yllescas criticizes the current administration for its debt-financed approach to government.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/01/jorge-yllescas-cada-nino-que-nace-trae-bajo-el-brazo-una-deuda-de-unos-mil-dolares/>

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3792-miedo-inducido-31-julio-2017>

03/08/17

UNAH; UN; Penal Code; Journalists; Corruption; IAIP; Campesinx; IAIP; (Re)Elections; Garífunas; Penitentiary System; Public Sector; National Police; National Party; EEH; and No More Electricity For Firemen

State security forces violently evicted protesting students at the UNAH. The students held a protest to urge Congress to act on their presented draft bill for a transition committee at the UNAH.

Various human rights organization filled a joint complaint against police agents accusing them of abuse of authority when violently evicting students.

The Honduras Solidarity Network in North America published a statement of support for Padre Melo.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/estudiantes-son-desalojados-de-protesta-frente-la-unah>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/02/presentan-denuncia-policias-abuso-autoridad-la-represion-los-estudiantes-la-unah/>

<http://www.hondurassolidarity.org/2017/08/02/en-defensa-del-padre-melo-in-defense-of-father-ismael-melo-moreno/>

The Coalition against Impunity participated with a civil society delegation at the recent examination of Honduras in front of the UN Human Rights Council. In a press release, they denounce the verbal attack by the government representatives and they present it as a common state strategy to disqualify and stigmatize human rights work. They further highlight the most important topics raised by the council. The Coalition presented its findings at a press conference, in which they also deconstruct the attempt by the Honduran government to present the findings by the council as a success.

See Attachment

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-verdad-sobre-el-examen-de-honduras-ante-el-comite-de-derechos-humanos-en-ginebra/>

Libre congresswoman Gilda Silvestrucci denounces that the National majority in Congress approved the criminalization of protest with the newest reforms to the Penal Code, i.e. Article 557.

Women's organizations are worried about the discussion of femicide in relation with the Penal Code reform.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/02/congreso-honduras-aprueba-criminalizacion-la-protesta/>

<http://elpulso.hn/feminicidio-cn/>

C-Libre denounces an attack campaign by the Nos Queda Claro homepage against two journalists: David Romero, director of Radio Globo, and Renato de Jesús Álvarez, director of Televisión Centro.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/campa%C3%B1a-de-odio-pone-en-riesgo-la-vida-de-dos-periodistas>

ConfidencialHN reports that the Honduran government nominated Arnaldo Bueso as the executive's representative at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). Bueso is currently running for Congress for the National Party and his nomination, therefore, violates the electoral law. The head of investigation at the CNA criticizes that out of the 65 cases presented to the MP, only 10 have been legally pursued. In the case of the recently arrested police commissioner Jorge Barralaga, his son announced that he would present himself to the MP, traveling from the US to San Pedro Sula. According to El Heraldo, he didn't fulfill his announcement.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/02/juramentan-como-representante-ante-oficina-anticorrupcion-a-aspirante-nacionalista-a-diputacion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-dice-presento-65-lineas-de-investigacion-por-corrupcion-desde-2014-pero-apenas-10-tiene-juicio.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/02/oficina-anticorrupcion-denuncia-que-apenas-10-casos-son-abordados-por-el-ministerio-publico/>

<http://tiempo.hn/hijo-comisionado-barralaga-se-entregara-justicia-hondurena/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/02/hijo-de-exjefe-policial-se-presentara-voluntariamente-a-la-justicia-de-honduras/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inicio/1095268-465/jorge-alberto-barralaga-no-se-entreg%C3%B3-a-la-justicia-de-eeuu-la>

Defensores en Línea reports of the difficult situation of the 20 campesino families in Guaymaca, Francisco Morazán. In 2012, they recuperated land and have been attacked and criminalized ever since. A new eviction is expected for August 16.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/campesinos-que-estan-en-recuperacion-de-tierra-en-guaymaca-serian-desalojados-el-16-de-agosto/>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez denounces undue influence by the government in the election of the commissioners for the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP).

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/02/diputada-denuncia-quieren-imponer-los-mismos-comisionados-del-iaip/>

<http://tiempo.hn/doris-gutierrez-renuncia-a-comision-de-seleccion-de-magistrados-del-iaip/>

Caritas denounces the recent changes announced by the TSE regarding the electoral procedures, especially the possibility to vote in a continuous line.

The former TSE magistrate Denis Gómez calls the decision to allow this form of voting "five steps backwards" from previous improvements.

The Oppositional Alliance highlights in a press conference various irregularities in the transfers and replenishments of identity cards.

The TSE announced the possibility to case a vote in one's house for people over 65 and with physical disabilities.

The TSE believes that the electoral process will be accompanied by about 500 international observers.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/02/caritas-critica-imposicion-del-voto-en-rama-porque-se-pretende-imponer-la-plancha/>

<http://elpulso.hn/denis-gomez-la-rama-continua-son-cinco-pasos-para-atras-del-avance-logrado/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-oposicion-traslados-fraudulentos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/alianza-denuncia-irregularidades-en-traslados-de-domicilio-y-en-reposicion-de-identidades.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1095227-508/tse-implementar%C3%A1-el-voto-en-casa-en-las-elecciones-generales>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/preven-que-500-observadores-internacionales-estaran-en-elecciones-generales.html>

ContraCorriente has some further information about the possible effects of the Tourism Promotion Bill and they also published the text of the bill.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/08/02/ley-de-fomento-al-turismo-traeria-mas-conflictos-con-pueblos-indigenas-y-garifunas/>

UNAH's Violence Observatory criticizes that the bad administration of Honduran prisons has caused a crisis in the Honduran penitentiary system. The Association of Judges for Democracy denounces that the bad administration increases judicial backlog.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/02/descuido-del-sistema-carcelario-ha-sido-por-mala-administracion-observatorio-de-la-violencia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/02/denuncian-que-negligencia-del-sistema-penitenciario-incrementa-mora-judicial/>

The CGT labor union denounces that in the last three years more than 8000 public employees were fired without granting them their labor benefits.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/m%C3%A1s-de-ocho-mil-empleados-p%C3%BAblicos-fueron-despedidos-sin-sus-derechos-laborales-en-los>

The purging committee let go another 455 members of the police and suspended 101 without pay.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2379-cancelan-455-policias-hondurenos-y-suspenden-101>

According to ConfidencialHN, María Zulema Chávez Rauda, who is running for the National Party as a congresswoman, is legally persecuted in the US for abandoning her children there. Apparently, she is also linked to a company mentioned in the Panama Papers.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/02/candidata-a-diputada-nacionalista-es-perseguida-por-ee-uu-por-abandonar-sus-hijos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/02/candidata-a-diputada-perseguida-por-ee-uu-tiene-vinculos-con-panama-papers/>

Criterio reports that the Honduran government conceded that the private Honduras Energy Company (EEH) stole from the public via "undue charges".

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/02/gobierno-admite-eeh-le-ha-robado-al-pueblo-hondureno/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/01/amenazan-a-bomberos-de-la-ceiba-de-cortarles-fluido-electrico/>

04/08/17

National Police; HRDs; UNAH; IAIP; OFRANEH; Campesinx; Violence; Homicides; Liberal Party; TSE; (Re)Elections; MACCIH; Political Opposition; Penitentiary System; Corruption; Public Health; and Bittersweet Coffee

ConfidencialHN denounces that the limelight is now on the recently arrested former police commissioner Jorge Barralaga, while at the same time the alleged crimes of the former police director Juan Carlos "El

Tigre" Bonilla are being ignored. The latter even wrongly accused Barralaga of corruption. Barralaga's son, meanwhile, arrived in Tocontín without being arrested.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/03/exjefe-policial-barralaga-desmiente-denuncias-del-protegido-de-julieta-castellanos/>

<http://tiempo.hn/hijo-de-barralaga-entro-por-toncontin-sin-ser-capturado/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/03/mas-espectaculo-atic-llega-al-aeropuerto-a-saber-como-ingreso-a-honduras-hijo-de-barralaga/>

The third supportive statement from a US member of congress in one week for Honduran human rights defenders.

<https://kaptur.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/kaptur-statement-threats-human-rights-defenders-honduras>

The national and international solidarity with Padre Melo continues.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/08/el-consejo-civico-de-organizaciones.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/03/provincial-la-compania-jesus-mexico-se-solidariza-padre-melo/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/03/grupo-guaraguao-venezuela-se-solidariza-padre-melo/>

C-Libre took up the criticism about the elections of the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) commissioners. It is cynical, that congresswo/men lack information about the candidates for this election. Furthermore, instead of ten candidates presented by five institutions, congresssswo/men are presented the same candidates that already hold these positions.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/sin-acceso-informaci%C3%B3n-de-nuevos-comisionados-del-iaip-denuncia-diputada>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cn-inicia-audiencias-publicas-para-elegir-a-comisionados-del-iaip.html>

OFRANEH published another article with more background information about the disputed Tourism Promotion Bill with a special focus on the role of the consulting company McKinsey & Company and the link to the ZEDEs. El Tiempo took up their concerns.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/08/03/honduras2020-la-inconsulta-ley-de-turismo-y-la-consultora-mckinsey/>

<http://tiempo.hn/garifunas-temen-nueva-ley-de-turismo/>

The Agrarian Platfrom fears new evictions of families belonging to MUCA and MARCA after threatening remarks by the head of the Xatruch Operation, colonel Hugo Leonardo Coca.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/08/honduras-coronel-coca-revela-estrategia.html>

Guadalupe Ruelas, director of Casa Alianza, spoke with El Pulso about violence in Honduras, its effect on children and the role of the government.

<http://elpulso.hn/guadalupe-ruelas-la-violencia-ha-llegado-hasta-los-colegios-porque-se-ha-dejado-llegar-hasta-ahi/>

ConfidencialHN questions the decrease in the homicide rate presented by the Honduran government.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/03/sera-cierto-gobierno-de-honduras-afirma-bajar-tasa-de-homicidios/>

The Liberal councilor Jael Osberto Puerto Oseguera in Arenal, Yoro, was

murdered yesterday.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/03/asesinan-a-regidor-de-arenal-en-yoro/>

The Liberal presidential candidate Luis Zelaya held a press conference accusing the TSE of being tied to JOH. According to him, the two magistrate David Matamoros and Saúl Escobar are at the complete disposal of demands by JOH.

The Honduran Patriotic Alliance Party filed a legal complaint against the two magistrate for approving the possibility to vote in a continuous line, an approach thought to favor the National Party.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/03/luis-zelaya-el-tribunal-supremo-electoral-esta-maniatado/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/aspirante-a-diputado-por-la-alianza-patriotica-denuncia-a-magistrados-del-tse-ante-el-mp.html>

Libre activist occupied regional offices of the RNP, in which they believe that irregular changes of domicile took place. According to Luis Zelaya, who also denounced "massive changes of domicile", these changes are a sign of despair by the National Party. The Alliance for Peace and Justice (APJ) presented a homepage where the candidates of the coming general elections will be portrayed. The hope that a lot of the candidates publish their financial status and their conflict of interests.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tomadas-cuatro-oficinas-del-rnp-de-santa-barbara-por-supuestos-traslados-irregulares.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/pn-muestra-desesperacion-con-irregulares-traslados-domiciliarios-segun-luis-zelaya.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/03/crean-plataforma-web-auscultar-perfil-candidatos-cargos-eleccion-popular/>
www.3de3Hn.com

The MACCIH incorporated this week its expert on the finances of political parties and campaigns.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/03/maccih-incorpora-experto-campanas-politicas/>

Two more PAC congresswo/men, Fátima Mena and Aníbal Cálix, left PAC to join Pinu and the Oppositional Alliance.

<http://tiempo.hn/diputados-del-pac-se-adhieren-al-pinu/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/03/dos-diputados-desertan-del-pac-y-se-van-con-el-pinu-marlene-reacciona-airada/>

Radio Progreso asks critical questions about the portrayed success of JOH's prison policy.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3801-doctorado-en-criminolog%C3%ADa-pol%C3%ADtica-03-agosto-2017>

The TSC declared that it is currently investigating 13 former officials for illicit enrichment of up to \$2 million. In the IHSS case, meanwhile, the MP informed that they have so far identified 47 persons of being involved in the corruption case and nine have been sentenced.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/13-ex-funcionarios-son-investigados-por-amasar-fortuna-que-van-desde-150-millones-2>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1095623-466/son-47-acusados-por-el-saqueo-del-instituto-hondure%C3%B1o-de-seguridad-social>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1095622-466/el-ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-pedir%C3%A1-pena-m%C3%A1xima-para-cinco-imputados-del-ihss>

Tegucigalpa saw a "massive mobilization" against the privatization of health as promoted by the Social Security Framework Law and the Social Security Law.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/03/masiva-movilizacion-hondurenos-protestan-contr-la-privatizacion-la-salud/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/08/arranca-megahonduras-movilizacion.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/03/cafetalero-denuncia-incoherencias-en-los-discursos-de-joh/>

05/08/17

HRDs; Hydroelectricity; Journalists; UNAH; National Police; Corruption; Drug Trafficking; Liberal Party; Education; Tourism; State Employees; ENEE; and a Chocolate Craze

MADJ denounces that its General Coordinator, Martín Fernández, and a further member, Oscar Martínez, were attacked and hurt by people linked to the hydroelectric company HIDROCEP in Pajuiles, Atlántida.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/08/04/ALERTA-Agreden-al-coordinador-general-del-Movimiento-Amplio-HIDROCEP-culpable-de-los-hechos>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1840-alerta-agreden-al-coordinador-general-del-movimiento-amplio-hidrocep-culpable-de-los-hechos>

Radio Progreso reports on problems with another hydroelectric project called El Tornillito. It is a project by the HIDROVOLCÁN company belonging to the powerful Larach family and it is projected to be the second biggest plant in the country.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3806-municipios-aleda%C3%B1os-al-r%C3%ADo-ul%C3%BAa-est%C3%A1n-amenazados-con-desaparecer-por-instalaci%C3%B3n-de-hidroel%C3%A9ctrica>

In two incidents, unknown persons shot at the houses of two journalists: Wilfredo Zepeda, correspondent of Radio Globo in La Paz, and Miriam Mejía of Channel 60 in Comayagua.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/desconocidos-disparan-media-noche-contr-viviendas-de-periodistas>

The criminalization of students has reached UNAH's CURLP campus in Choluteca, where 15 students face criminal charges for protesting. This took place after the students, who held the university for 47 days, were evicted by state security forces.

Defensores en Línea reports on the situation of the three students already sentenced - Sergio Ulloa, Moisés Cáceres and Cesario Padilla - and who have to wait for the individualization of their penalties. Omar Rivera, member of the police purging committee, told ConfidencialHN that he would also look into UNAH's budget and its heavy spending on security forces.

C-Libre denounces a verbal attack by National congressman Francisco Rivera against the protesting students.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/requerimientos-y-desalojo-enfrentaron-estudiantes-del-curlp>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/para-evitar-uso-de-las-armas-estudiantes-hacen-entrega-pacifica-del-curlp/>

<http://tiempo.hn/autoridades-recuperan-el-curlp/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/de-espaldas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/04/depurador-promete-profundizar-en-el-presupuesto-de-guerra-utilizado-por-jefa-de-la-unah/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/diputado-nacionalista-estigmatiza-estudiantes-universitarios>

On Thursday, the son of the recently arrested former police commissioner Jorge Barralaga arrived by plane in Tegucigalpa and to the astonishment of many, he wasn't arrested even though ATIC was looking for him. Omar Rivera criticizes the Honduran government for this.

The police told the media that they didn't arrest him, because there was no arrest warrant.

And the National Migration Institute said that there was only an order not to let him leave the country...

The controversial former police director, Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla, announced the coming of "surprising things" for Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/04/por-que-se-enoja-el-depurador-policial-por-entrada-de-hijo-de-barralaga-a-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/policia-no-capturo-a-barralaga-rivera-porque-no-existia-orden-de-aprehension.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ridicula-justificacion-de-autoridades-migratorias-para-no-detener-a-barralaga-hijo-omar-rivera.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/vendran-cosas-sorprendentes-en-el-pais-predice-exdirector-policial-tigre-bonilla.html>

The MACCIH announced that it is currently revising the IHHS Law and that it will present recommendations to help preventing future corruption. ConfidencialHN published a new article on the irregularities surrounding the case of Oneyda Azucena Jiménez Martínez, a consultant at the Health Secretariat.

The MP released 15 arrest warrants, among other against the former deputy attorney general Yuri Melara, for fraud.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/04/maccih-prepara-ley-ihss-prevenir-actos-corrupcion-se-repitan/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/04/consultora-en-secretaria-de-salud-cobro-sueldos-indebidos-en-la-unah-e-institucion-publica/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/04/presentan-requerimiento-fiscal-exfiscal-general-adjunto-yuri-melara-14-personas-mas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/04/libran-requerimiento-contr-exfiscal-adjunto-de-honduras-por-supuesta-estafa/>

Back in 2014, the Honduran security forces found a safe belonging to the Valle Valle drug cartel. Now the head of the Anti Drug Trafficking Bureau (DLCN), Soraya Cálix, admits that the safe contained significant information. ConfidencialHN believes that it could establish a link between the drug traffickers and the JOH administration. It is also worth mentioning that Cálix is the former partner of and shares a child with the Deputy Attorney General Rigoberto Cuéllar, who is believed to be part of the IHSS corruption scandal.

El Libertador published a critical review of the recent trial against Yani Rosenthal in the US.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/04/jefa-antinarcoicos-reconoce-que-caja-fuerte-de-los-valle-valle-contiene-valiosa-informacion/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2382-la-confesion-de-yani-roenthal-y-burla-de-la-justicia-imperial>

José Enrique Murillo Elwin, the Liberal mayoral candidate in Utila,

denounces that he has received a death threat.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/04/candidato-alcalde-utilita-partido-liberal-denuncia-amenazas-muerte/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/candidato-a-la-alcaldia-liberal-en-utilita-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte.html>

Criterion reports on the use of public money to support private a private school in Comayagüela.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/04/las-escuelas-publicas-se-caen-gobierno-destina-fondos-colegios-privados/>

After the protest by OFRANEH, FOSDEH now also asks Congress not to approve the Tourism Promotion Bill.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/el-fosdeh-pide-que-el-cn-no-apruebe-la-ley-del-fomento-al-turismo>

Congress approved a bill which allows the firing of state employees who don't agree to a test of confidence. The responsible body will be under the Executive-controlled National Defense and Security Council.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/funcionarios-que-no-se-sometan-pruebas-de-confianza-ser%C3%A1n-cancelados>

ENEE announced that it will return 33 million Lempiras to Hondurans who payed too much for electricity.

<http://tiempo.hn/enee-devolvera-30-millones-por-cobros-indebidos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/alertan-sobre-posible-consumo-de-droga-chocoloco-en-honduras.html>

06/08/17

HRDs; UNAH; National Police; Opposition Alliance; PINU; TSE; Penitentiary System; and Child Labor

After Friday's brutal attack against MADJ General Coordinator Martín Fernández and MADJ member Oscar Martínez, El Pulso offers some background information on the peaceful protests against the HIDROCEP hydroelectric project.

<http://elpulso.hn/tomas-de-carretera-en-contra-hidrocep/>

In the case of the 19 criminalized student and one journalist, the reading of the conclusions is expected next week on August 11 and the final audience will be held on August 25. It is feared that just as the three students already sentenced, they will face prison charges as well.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/05/20-estudiantes-universitarios-con-un-pie-en-la-carcel-por-mandato-de-julieta/>

<http://tiempo.hn/estudiantes-la-unah-judicializados-sabran-destino-25-agosto/>

The former police commissioner Jorge Alberto Barralaga must await trial in prison.

ATIC, meanwhile, still hasn't succeeded in arresting his son Jorge Alberto Barralaga Rivera.

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1096122-410/financieros-hunden-jorge_barralaga-audiencia-lavado_activos-wilter_blanco

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1096087-466/honduras-polic%C3%ADa-nacional-y-atic-tras-la-pista-de-jorge-alberto-barralaga>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/atic-busca-afanosamente-a-barralaga-hijo-aunque-el-busque-presentacion-voluntaria.html>

The Opposition Alliance against the Dictatorship launches its anti-fraud campaign today.

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-oposicion-operativo-antifraude-nivel-nacional/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/08/honduras-domingo-6-de-agosto-inicia.html>

The headquarter of the oppositional party PINU was broken into yesterday.

<http://tiempo.hn/comayaguela-saquean-sede-del-pinu/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/por-enesima-vez-asaltan-sede-del-pinu-en-comayagueela.html>

El Pulso takes a look at all the recent controversies related with the TSE: the contract with Mapa Soluciones, voting in a continuous line and the recently approved pilot project to vote in hospital and at home.

<http://elpulso.hn/matamoros-batson-ya-estamos-acusados-de-muchas-cosas/>

FUSINA discovered human bones and weapons during an operation at the Támara prison.

<http://tiempo.hn/encuentran-osamentas-en-tamara/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/encuentran-osamentas-y-armas-en-modulo-escorpion-de-la-penitenciaria-de-tamara.html>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/08/03/suenos-de-heroismo/>

07/08/17

OFRANEH; HIDROCEP; Journalists; UNAH; National Police; Penitentiary System; and the Tasa de Seguridad

The Canadian businessman Patrick Daniel Forseth legally pressed defamation charges against the Coordinator General of OFRANEH, Miriam Miranda, and three members, Madeline Martina David, Neny Heydy Ávila and Letty Bernárdez. One of them, Madeline Martina David, already had suffered an arbitrary detention last year for the same dispute.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1841-miriam-miranda-dirigenta-de-ofraneh-y-tres-defensoras-garifunas-mas-son-querelladas-por-empresario-canadiense>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/06/criminalizan-defensoras-ofraneh/>

COFADEH denounces last weeks attack against MADJ's Martín Fernández and Oscar Martínez and it demands a stop to the collusion between the local police, government and the the HIDROCEP company.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/lesionan-en-emboscada-a-dos-defensores-ambientales/>

The mayor of Santa Rosa de Aguán, Colón, Pablo Castro González, threatened Radio Progreso's correspondent Cesar Obando Flores. The journalist should benefit from special protection measures granted by

the IACHR.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/06/alcalde-santa-rosa-aguan-amenaza-corresponsal-radio-progreso/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alcalde-amenaza-periodista-radio-progreso/>

UNAH authorities claim that chemicals have been stolen from their Chemistry and Pharmacy building. This accusation can be interpreted as a new wave of criminalization against the protesting students.

La Prensa doesn't even hide its intentions, accusing the students of building bombs.

The student movement MEU, meanwhile, speaks of a crucial week that begins today and they announce big news for Wednesday.

El Heraldo offers some scenarios of what could happen after Julieta Castellanos's term ends in September.

<http://tiempo.hn/unah-denuncian-saqueo-bodegas-quimica-farmacia/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1096371-410/unah-honduras-injerencia-pol%C3%ADtica-violentas-tomas->

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/meu-dice-se-aproxima-semana-trascendental-para-su-lucha-y-avisan-anuncio-importante-para-el-miercoles.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1096346-466/decano-podr%C3%ADa-asumir-la-rector%C3%ADa-de-la-unah-si-el-conflicto-no>

Omar Rivera speaks with the news agency EFE about the purging committee's work in its first 16 months.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/en-la-policia-ahora-existe-una-mistica-que-el-que-la-hace-la-paga-omar-rivera.html>

According to El Heraldo, 14 young men escaped from the youth detention center Renaciendo.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1096379-466/trasciende-fuga-de-menores-infractores-del-centro-de-detenci%C3%B3n-renaciendo>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inicio/1096352-465/en-qu%C3%A9-se-han-invertido-los-fondos-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad>

08/08/17

UNAH; HIDROCEP; LGTBI; Corruption; US; Penitentiary System; MACCIH; Opposition Alliance; Lawyers; National Police; Economy; Migration; Tourism; Violence; Spain; and Please Raise Your Hand

The PGR, the MP and the UNAH demand a three-year prison sentence for the three students found guilty of usurpation. According to Defensores en Línea, a total of 45 students currently face charges and 10 more may be accused at any moment.

Lecturers at UNAH's Journalism School denounce the decision to have 19 students expelled for five years.

Transparency International demands an investigation into UNAH's budget with a special focus on its security spending.

The Jesuits condemn the defamation of and verbal attacks against Padre Melo.

The Conference of the Religious Honduras (CONFEREH) calls out for a dialogue, supports a recent statement by the OACNUDH and speaks out in defense of Padre Melo. They request that the Catholic Church supports these demands.

Based on the UNAH's organic law, the current dean of the civil

engineering department, José Mónico Oyuela, should take over from Julieta Castellanos after September 25.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/3646-2/>

<http://tiempo.hn/piden-tres-anos-carcel-universitarios-acusados-usurpacion/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/expulsion-de-19-estudiantes-es-extrema-afirman-docentes-de-la-escuela-de-periodismo>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/07/dirigente-civil-asegura-desconocer-como-se-utiliza-en-su-totalidad-el-presupuesto-de-la-unah/>

<http://jesuits.org/news-detail?TN=NEWS-20170804100822>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/07/piden-al-liderazgo-catolico-pronunciarse-a-favor-del-padre-melo-y-por-crisis-en-unah/>

<http://tiempo.hn/unah-decano-ingenieria-sustituto/>

The Coalition against Impunity highlights the role of the MP in spurring the conflict around the HIDROCEP hydroelectricity project, which recently resulted in a violent attack against two human rights defenders.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1842-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-ministerio-publico-ha-sido-pieza-clave-en-el-incremento-del-conflicto-en-el-sector-de-pajuiles>

The UN emitted a press release, demanding a better protection of LGBTI human rights defenders in Honduras. This is a reaction to the most recent attack in July against Osmin David Valle Castillo.

<http://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21947&LangID=E>

<http://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21947&LangID=S>

ConfidencialHN continues to report on irregularities surrounding UNAH's dean Julieta Castellanos and the Deputy Attorney General Rigoberto Cuéllar. Both of them share links to the same company.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/07/lavado-publico-de-activos-asi-hacen-negocios-julieta-y-fiscal-adjunto-con-empresa-ligada-al-crimen/>

Twelve US senators led by Senator Patrick Leahy "voiced frustration on Monday over the Trump administration efforts to address corruption and violence in Honduras".

<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2017/08/07/us/politics/ap-us-united-states-honduras.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1096627-466/senadores-de-estados-unidos-critican-situacion-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

See Attachment

With the renewed escape of inmates, this time at the youth detention center Renaciendo, JOH sees his electoral propaganda under attack. You may guess the solution offered to the break out: militarizing an already militarized institution...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/07/tras-amotinamiento-mas-de-una-docena-de-menores-escapa-del-centro-renacimiento/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/07/joh-cuestiona-fugas-de-menores-infractores-de-carceles-hondurenas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/es-inaceptable-que-sigan-fugas-sin-creer-que-no-hay-responsables-adentro-advierte-hernandez.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/08/07/militarizado-renaciendo-despues-fuga-menores-infractores/>

According to the former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana Mercado, the MACCIH lacks the moral authority to insist on the compliance of its demands and he further criticizes the behavior of the international cooperation.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/07/la-maccih-le-falta-autoridad-moral-empujar-fuerza-lo-pide-edmundo-orellana-mercado/>

PINU congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez interprets the recent break-in at their headquarters as an intimidation attempt against the Opposition Alliance.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/diputada-gutierrez-cree-que-asalto-a-sede-del-pinu-sd-es-estrategia-para-intimidar-a-la-alianza.html>

A judge found Rigoberto Paredes Vélez guilty of murdering the lawyer Eduardo Montes.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1096633-466/declaran-culpable-a-rigoberto-paredes-v%C3%A9lez-por-el-asesinato-del-abogado-eduardo>

The MP requested the transfer of the recently arrested former police commissioner Jorge Alberto Barralaga Hernández to the El Pozo prison. The purging committee, meanwhile, told the press that they aren't involved in the case against Barralaga Hernández.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/07/piden-enviar-a-el-pozo-al-exjefe-policial-jorge-barralaga/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/07/depuradores-niegan-conocer-el-caso-de-exjefe-jorge-barralaga/>

FOSDEH also questions the government's project about an unusual high economic growth rate just months before the general elections.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/07/fosdeh-sorprende-que-el-crecimiento-economico-del-pais-ocurre-a-pocos-dias-de-las-elecciones/>

The Center for Migration Studies and Cristosal published a joint study on the criminalization of deported Central American refugees (hat-tip to Gene).

See Attachment

The rejection of the new Tourism Promotion Bill grows.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3807-una-ley-que-seguir-%C3%A1-fomentando-privilegios-07-agosto-2017>

Criterio published an analysis by Glenn Flores on the perception of violence and the role of the media in Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/07/la-percepcion-la-violencia-los-medios-comunicacion/>

Spain dedicated 150 million Euros for cooperation in Honduras for a four year period.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/150-millones-de-euros-asciende-cooperaci%C3%B3n-espa%C3%B1ola-en-honduras>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/07/jorge-calix-que-levante-la-mano-el-que-no-ha-matado-personas/>

09/08/17

OFRANEH; UNAH; IAIP; Corruption; Political Opposition; TSE; National Budget; Tourism; Public Health; Penitentiary System; National Police; Tasa de Seguridad; Extradition; Suicide; IMF; Customs Union; and Thoughts on Migration

The newest act of criminalization against four female OFRANEH leaders, among them their General Coordinator Miriam Miranda, has a lot of human rights organizations worried.

OFRANEH also reacts with a new article, denouncing the structural racism embedded in the Honduran justice system.

Josefina Dobinger dedicates some words to Miriam Miranda and the fear for her life.

Just two weeks ago, the IACHR urged its member states to stop discriminating Afro-descendant women.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/lideres-garifunas-son-querelladas-por-defensa-de-tierras/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/08/08/honduras-racismo-aplicacion-de-justicia-y-persecucion-a-garifunas/>

<http://elpulso.hn/sin-miedo-puedo-decir-que-tengo-miedo-por-el-peligro-que-corre-la-vida-de-miriam-miranda/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-cidh-exhorta-no-a-la-discriminacion-y-garantizar-los-derechos-de-las-mujeres-afrodescendientes/>

Pasos de Animal Grande highlights the questionable role of CONADEH in preparing the eviction of protesting students at UNAH's CURLP campus on August 4.

To deepen the crisis, the UNAH authorities now want to suspend paying their employees as long as the crisis continues.

The students, meanwhile, re-occupied the access to the UNAH demanding a dialogue and the destitution of Julieta Castellanos.

The Jesuit Post published a second article in support of Padre Melo.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1843-complicidad-del-conadeh-en-la-criminalizacion-de-estudiantes-del-curlp>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/08/venganza-julieta-quiere-suspender-sueldo-a-docentes-de-la-unah/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/08/estudiantes-toman-la-unah-para-exigir-dialogo-y-salida-de-julieta/>

<https://thejesuitpost.org/2017/08/finding-hope-in-honduras-padre-melos-fight-for-human-rights/>

Congress failed to elect new representatives for the Institute for Access to Public Policy (IAIP). This means that the former commissioners stay in their position for the time being. This coincides with the proposal of the National Party, which wanted the three commissioners to be reelected.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/08/parlamento-de-honduras-maniobra-para-que-los-actuales-magistrados-de-transparencia-repitan-en-el-cargo/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/08/nacionalistas-no-logran-imponer-comisionados-del-iaip-congreso-nacional/>

<http://tiempo.hn/congreso-no-nombra-nuevos-comisionados-iaip/>

The former president of the Honduran Economists College, Martín Barahona, denounces the JOH administration for its high level of cronyism in public offices.

The former mayor of San Pedro Sula, Óscar Kilgore, was found guilty of embezzlement of public funds and abuse of authority.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/08/clientelismo-politico-en-el-gobierno-de-joh-consume-las-recaudaciones-tributarias/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/08/declaran-culpable-oscar-kilgore-malversacion-caudales-publicos-abuso-autoridad/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2389-culpable-kilgore-junto-al-exalcalde-tambien-cayo-un-periodista>

El Pulso published an interview with Josué Perdomo, one of (alternate) the congresswo/men who recently changed from PAC to PINU to join the Oppositional Alliance.

<http://elpulso.hn/josue-perdomo/>

The TSE rejected a legal complaint by the Liberal Party against the possibility to vote in a continuous line.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/tse-deneg%C3%B3-recurso-de-reposici%C3%B3n-presentado-por-el-pl>

FOSDDEH denounces that the Casa Presidencial already has spent in July all the money designated to it for the whole 2017.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/08/casa-presidencial-honduras-ya-se-gasto-presupuesto-2017/>

Congress approved in a first debate the 27 articles of the Tourism Promotion Bill. PINU, meanwhile, denounces that the bill violates the constitution.

<http://tiempo.hn/pinu-ley-incentivos-al-turismo-viola-constitucion/>

ConfidencialHN denounces that the new director of the University Hospital still owes the Honduran public explanations about irregularities during her directorship at the hospital in Tela. El Pulso explains what the National Health Plan 2014-2018 entails.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/08/nueva-directora-del-hospital-escuela-lleva-a-la-entidad-al-fracaso-debe-explicaciones-al-tribunal-de-cuentas1/>

<http://elpulso.hn/que-es-el-plan-nacional-de-salud/>

So far this year, 64 inmates succeed in escaping from the youth detention center Renacimiento. As a solution, the construction of a new youth detention center was announced...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/08/30981/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/construir%C3%A1n-nuevo-centro-de-rehabilitaci%C3%B3n-para-menores-infractores>

The purging committee announced the investigation of 500 former members of the police force for illicit acts.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/mp-investiga-a-unos-500-expolicias-por-vinculos-en-diversos-delitos.html>

El Heraldo continues to report on the tasa de seguridad.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inicio/1097031-465/el-92-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad-proviene-del-sector-financiero-en>

The Judicial Power nominated a judge to decide about the extradition of three Hondurans to the US.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/08/nombran-juez-que-facilitara-extradicion-a-ee-uu-de-tres-hondurenos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/08/ee-uu-pide-la-extradicion-tres-hondurenos-mas/>

El Tiempo reports on a rise of suicides in Honduras.

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-el-menos-feliz-suicidios-crecen/>

An IMF mission will visit Honduras at the end of August, beginning September.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mision-del-fmi-revisara-con-autoridades-de-honduras-un-acuerdo-economico.html>

El Salvador apparently will join the customs union between Guatemala and Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-salvador-se-anexara-a-union-aduanera-de-guatemala-y-honduras-en-diciembre.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/migracion-territorio-y-cuerpo-de-los-migrantes-conferencia-de-beatriz-cortes-en-la-unah/>

10/08/17

UNAH; HRDs; REDEHSUR; Indigenous Peoples; Libre; Extradition; IHSS; Tourism; Public Health; Irregularities; Penitentiary System; IAIP; EEH; National Police; Mayors; and Coffee Wars

As part of the Firestorm Operation (more information below), ATIC arrested the lawyer Laureano Carbajal Rivas Chávez, one of the legal representatives of the student movement MEU. He is accused of falsifying documents. Given the tense situation at the UNAH, this arrest is a very worrisome development.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/allanan-vivienda-y-capturan-a-defensor-de-estudiantes-de-la-unah/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1845-video-mi-papa-fue-detenido-por-traspaso-de-un-carro-hace-8-anos-hijo-de-laureano-carbajal>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1844-espectacular-operativo-para-exhibir-a-defensor-de-universitarios-criminalizados>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/allanan-vivienda-y-detienen-sin-mayores-explicaciones-representante-legal-de-estudiantes>

The recently attacked human rights defender and General Coordinator of MADJ, Martín Fernández, denounces the state's indifference regarding the attacks against human rights defenders and he laments that the current situation in Honduras don't offer the needed conditions to work in the defense of human rights.

As a response to the attack against him and another member of MADJ, national and international supporters of MADJ sent cards to the MP requesting legal actions against the responsible company HIDROCEP.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/08/09/Mart%C3%ADn-Fern%C3%A1ndez-En-Honduras-no-existen-ni-las-condiciones-m%C3%ADnimas-para-defender-derechos-humanos>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/remision-masiva-de-cartas-al-fiscal-general-solicitando-se-castigue-a-hidrocep/>

REDEHSUR warns of a dispatch of the Armed Forces to the Puerto Grande community in Zacate Grande.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/presencia-militar-en-zacate-grande-alerta-a-defensores/>

Honduras' indigenous peoples commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous People by demanding justice and the respect of their rights.

CONADEH and the OACHNUDH emitted a joint press release to asks from the Honduran citizens to accompany the struggle by indigenous people for their rights.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/organizaciones-indigenas-exigen-justicia-y-respeto-a-sus-derechos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/09/conadeh-oacnudh-ciudadania-acompanar-luchas-bienestar-los-pueblos-indigenas-honduras/>

See Attachment

After the recent break-in at the headquarters of PINU, now a Libre congresswoman, Paula Durán, was assaulted just in front of the MP. She was on her way to request information with other Libre congresswo/men about possible legal charges against them.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/asaltan-a-diputada-de-libre-frente-al-ministerio-publico/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/09/asaltan-diputada-libre-frente-al-ministerio-publico/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/09/diputados-libre-presentan-escrito-ante-ministerio-publico-conocer-requerimiento/>

Omar Rivera, a member of the purging committee, raises the possibility that the three new extradition demands to the US involve people linked to politicians.

According to the former presidential assessor Marvin Ponce, the three extradition requests concern one family in Olancho.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/09/nuevos-extraditados-candidatos-politicos-sera-golpe-fulminante-partidos/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/%E2%80%9Csi-nuevos-extraditados-son-pol%C3%ADticos-que-aspiran-cargos-populares-ser%C3%A1-golpe-fulminante>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/marvin-ponce-asegura-que-ultimos-pedidos-en-extradicion-es-para-miembros-de-una-familia-olanchana.html>

The MP requested another 30 years of prison for the former director of the IHSS, Mario Zelaya.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/piden-medio-siglo-de-carcel-para-el-corrupto-exdirector-del-ihss/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fiscalia-pide-penas-hasta-de-30-anos-para-condenados-en-caso-empresas-de-maletin-ihss.html>

Civil society groups of the tourist hot spot Bahía Islands requested from Congress to change the proposed Tourism Promotion Bill and drop articles going against their sovereignty.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/08/09/en-islas-de-la-bahia-piden-revisar-ley-de-turismo-y-abolir-articulos-lesivos-a-la-sobernia/>

The MP intervened a regional hospital in the south of Honduras for indications of corruption.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/investigan-supuesta-corrupcion-en-hospital-del-sur-de-honduras/>

ConfidencialHN questions the use of a proposed document for Hondurans abroad. It seems that it is rather a new source of income for the JOH administration.

In the ongoing Firestorm Operation, the MP decommissioned documents in further state bodies, e.g. SANAA and the Property Institute.

As part of the same operation, ATIC searched the offices of the

mayoralty in San Pedro Sula and Tela.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/para-que-matricula-consular-gobierno-hondureno-ganara-700-millones/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/tormenta-de-fuego-llega-a-diferentes-dependencias-estatales/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/atic-interviene-las-alcaldias-de-san-pedro-sula-y-tela/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1097393-466/operaci%C3%B3n-tormenta-de-fuego-vii-deja-m%C3%A1s-de-100-detenido-en-honduras>

Omar Rivera demands harsh penalties for those responsible for the most recent prison break of minors at Renacimiento. He also denounces once more the failing administration of the youth detention centers. ConfidencialHN reports, that a minor paid 10'000 Lempiras to members of the Armed Forces to let him escape.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/depurador-policial-pide-castigo-a-funcionarios-de-carceles-por-fuga-de-menores/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/honduras-infractor-soborno-a-militares-para-huir-de-carcel-juvenil/>

The Law for Transparency and Access to Public Information exists since 2007, but still 6 out of 10 Hondurans don't know about it.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2392-hondurenos-desconocen-ley-de-acceso-a-informacion-publica>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/hondurenos-desconocen-ley-de-transparencia-y-acceso-a-la-informacion-pese-a-10-anos-de-antiguedad.html>

The consumer protection organization Codeco requested that the ENEE and the EEH absolve some 150 persons from their debt to them, as they are caught up in a debt spiral due to the high electricity prices.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/electrocutados-con-abusivos-cobros-imploran-condonacion-de-deuda/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2391-capitalinos-exigen-condonacion-de-hasta-900-mil-lempiras-en-energia>

The former mayor of Tatumbula was arrested for attempted homicide.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/capturan-a-exalcalde-por-haber-intentado-asesinar-a-ciudadano/>

The retired sub-commissioner of the police, José Orlando Leiva Natarén, denounces that he was wrongly accused of illicit enrichment.

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1097414-410/jose_orlando_leiva_nataren-polic%C3%ADa-tsc-carrera_policia

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/08/joh-y-dirigente-cafetalero-se-atacan-sutilmente-por-multimillonarias-retenciones/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/09/vicepresidente-hondureno-trabaja-con-los-cafetaleros-pero-desconoce-sus-problemas/>

11/08/17

HIDROCEP; UNAH; LGTBI; (Re)Elections; Homicide Rate; IAIP; FoE; Corruption; Lawyers; National Police; Penitentiary System; Public Health; Electric Energy; Debt; and the Slow Death of Art

Last week, two human rights defenders belonging to MADJ were attacked by the HIDROCEP company. Yesterday, the Military Police and COBRAS and TIGRES special units violently evicted the peaceful protesters against the hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP. They initially detained four community members, accusing them of usurpation. A fifth person was detained later on, after he visited his already arrested brother. According to MADJ, they were told that their crime has been not supporting the company. After a national and international campaign, they were released in the evening.

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras emitted a press release, lamenting the attacks against human rights defender and laying bare that the eviction won't resolve the underlying cause of the protest, the handing out of a concession which left many questions open.

The Franciscans demanded a stop to the criminalization and reparations by HIDROCEP for its environmental damage.

The Social Pastoral Office in La Ceiba denounces the role of the police and the MP in favor of the company's interests.

La Prensa, meanwhile, spurs hatred against environmental defenders by accusing them of endangering investment of \$300 million for renewable energy projects.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/08/10/URGENTE-HIDROCEP-y-el-Ministerio-P%C3%ABlico-arremeten-contra-Pajuiles>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1847-alerta-desalojo-violento-en-campamentos-digno-por-el-agua-y-por-la-vida-en-pajuiles>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1852-urgente-hidrocep-y-el-ministerio-publico-arremeten-contra-pajuiles>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3812-siguen-detenidos-dirigentes-del-campamento-de-pajuiles-atl%C3%A1ntida>

https://www.facebook.com/RadioProgresoPaginaOficial/videos/1391803364206911/?_fb_noscript=1

See Attachment

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/10/franciscanos-piden-requerimiento-fiscal-castigo-empresa-hidrocep/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/10/pastoral-social-la-ceiba-denuncia-parcializacion-la-policia-ministerio-favor-intereses-empresariales/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1097736-410/energ%C3%ADa-renovable-ambientalistas-matriz_energetica-termica

Pasos de Animal Grande follows up on yesterday's arrest and imprisonment of one of the legal representatives of the students in what can be seen as the criminalization of those defending the already criminalized.

The students took their protest to the streets, demanding the exit of UNAH's dean Julieta Castellanos.

The protests were held on a national level.

In Choluteca, the students were confronted with an armed private security guard who threatened them.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1849-ensañamiento-en-juicio-contra-abogado-que-representa-victimas-de-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/08/10/lucha-estudiantil-sale-a-las-calles/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/10/lucha-estudiantil-arrecia-todos-los-centros-universitarios/>

<http://tiempo.hn/medidas-presion-meu-hoy-llegaron-las-carreteras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/10/honduras-empleado-de-agencia-de-seguridad-amedrenta-con-arma-de-fuego-a-estudiantes-en-protesta/>

<http://tiempo.hn/ciudadano-armado-toma-meu/>

The IACHR condemned in a press release the attacks against the LGBTBI community in Honduras with a special focus on the recent attack one month ago against David Valle of the LGBTBI Center for Cooperation and Development (Somos CDC).

A group of 16 migrants arrived at the US border yesterday asking for political asylum for being persecuted for their sexual orientation and gender identity.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/honduras-cidh-condena-agresion-contra-defensor-de-derechos-humanos-de-comunidad-lgtbi>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/grupo-de-lgbt-de-mexico-y-centroamerica-solicita-asilo-en-frontera-de-eeuu.html>

With the help of the main press, the National Party presented themselves as an exemplary party, because they requested that their representatives at the voting booths are registered via their names. Libre coordinator Manuel Zelaya calls this a smoke screen, diverting attention from the underlying problems of the electoral process and the failure of the National Party to agree to real improvements, e.g. digital fingerprints. The TSE's Denis Gómez calls out to Congress to fund the implementation of digital fingerprints for the coming elections. Liberal presidential candidate Luís Zelaya wants the company following Mapa Soluciones to publish their source code to increase transparency.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/10/zelaya-huele-trampa-en-propuesta-nacionalista-de-entregar-credenciales-con-nombres/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/registro-de-huella-es-costoso-pero-importante-para-transparentar-elecciones-denis-gomez.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/la-empresa-que-venga-por-mapa-soluciones-debe-dar-los-accesos-politicos-para-auditarlos-luis-zelaya.html>

FUSINA continues to portray a parallel university of Honduras, claiming that there wasn't any murder in 14 of the Honduran departments this year. Maybe because of the Secrecy Law, they themselves lost access to the real data...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/10/fusina-jura-que-no-hay-asesinatos-en-14-departamentos-de-honduras/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/14-departamentos-del-pa%C3%ADs-registran-cero-homicidios-seg%C3%BAn-fusina>

The Nationalist president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, announced that the election for the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) commissioners will be held after the general elections in November. This guarantees that the current commissioners, favorable of the National Party, stay in power for the time being.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/10/eleccion-de-nuevos-magistrados-de-transparencia-sera-hasta-noviembre-oliva/>

<http://tiempo.hn/despues-las-elecciones-generales-se-elegira-comisionados-del-iaip/>

The political analyst Olban Valladares wonders why the Article 335-B of the Penal Code, which directly attacks freedom of expression, still has not been revoked even though Congress promised to do so.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/el-art-335-b-debi%C3%B3-ser-derogado-desde-el-momento-que-se-calific%C3%B3-como-amenaza-la-libertad>

The MP released an arrest warrant against the regional head of the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) for environmental crimes and abuse of authority.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/10/requieren-a-director-forestal-por-tala-masiva-de-bosques/>

Jennifer Ávila wrote a thorough article for ContraCorriente of the murder trial against the Honduran artist Rigoberto Paredes.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/08/09/el-pais-del-encierro-del-entierro/>

The tragic comedy about the son of the recently arrested former police commissioner continues. Even though his legal representative offered to present himself to the courts, ATIC continuous to search for him.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/10/aunque-hijo-de-exjefe-policia-quiene-ir-voluntariamente-a-tribunales-atic-lo-busca-afanosamente/>

In a new article, El Pulso paints a bleak picture of the state of the Honduran prison system.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-sistema-carcelario-sigue-en-jaque/>

ConfidencialHN reports that a young girl died because the public hospital she attended was out of blood.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/10/negligencia-fallece-nina-porque-clinica-publica-no-tenia-sangre/>

A group of Honduran citizens protested outside Congress against the high energy prices.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/10/continuan-las-protestas-por-abusivos-cobros-en-factura-electrica/>

The public debt level continues to rise in Honduras reaching 30.9% of GDP.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/deuda-hondurena-crece-un-10-en-primer-semestre-y-asciende-al-30-9-del-pib.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3811-%E2%80%9Cpoes-%C3%ADa-arma-cargada-de-futuro%E2%80%9D-10-agosto-2017>

12/08/17

HIDROCEP; UNAH; ZEDES; Tolupanes; MACCIH; Organized Crimes; JOH; (Re)Elections; Journalists; Public Health; Children; and a Community Called "The Banana"

MADJ filed a complaint at the MP against a police official and police agents for the violent eviction of the peaceful protest camp in Pajuiles, Tela, Atlántida.

MADJ's lawyer Víctor Fernández denounces the conditions attached to the seven criminalized human rights defender to allow the to await trial outside of prison.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/por-cuatro-delitos-denuncian-policias-responsables-de-violento-desalojo-en-pajuiles>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/diocesis-de-la-ceiba-rechazo-uso-arbitrario-y-desproporcionado-por-parte-de-la-pmop-y-policia-preventiva-contra-el-campamento-de-la-aldea-pajuiles/>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/08/11/Juzgado-de-Tela-proh%C3%ADbe-reuniones-p%C3%ABlicas-a-criminalizados-en-Pajuiles>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/11/juzgado-tela-impone-medidas-desproporcionadas-pobladores-pajuiles/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/exigimos-poner-fin-a-la-violencia-y-criminalizacion-en-pajuiles/>

Cesario Padilla, one of the criminalized and sentenced student, was assaulted yesterday morning after leaving the MP. Just a day before, a Libre congresswoman was assaulted on her way to the MP.

Félix Cesario published a letter of support with the criminalized lawyer Laureano Carbajal.

The student protesters at the regional campus in Comayagua were evicted by the police.

The president of the labor union STIBYS, Carlos H. Reyes, expressed their solidarity with the protesting students.

Pasos de Animal Grande portrays another student participating in the protests.

<http://tiempo.hn/asaltan-cesario-padilla-universitario-procesado-autoridades-la-unah/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/yo-conozco-laureano-carbajal>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/11/desalojan-a-estudiantes-de-universidad-regional/>

<http://tiempo.hn/stibys-se-suma-a-la-lucha/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1853-alejandromi-sueno-realmente-es-ver-esta-universidad-al-servicio-del-pueblo>

The Economist dedicated quite some space in its newest edition to the Special Economic and Development Zones (ZEDEs), formerly known as Charter Cities. Even for the liberal Economist, it seems that the idea goes to far and they highlight various irregularities and conflicts of interest.

<https://www.economist.com/news/americas/21726121-central-american-country-has-bold-plan-attract-investment-it-not-going>

Radio Progreso reports on the Tolupan tribe in La Pintada, Yoro.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3819-entre-la-miseria-y-el-abandono-est%C3%A1n-ind%C3%ADgenas-de-tribu-la-pintada-en-yoro>

The former PAC congresswoman Gabriela Blen, who recently joined PINU, accuses the National Party of connections to organized crime. According to her, this is the main reason why their congresswo/men so far have not approved the MACCIH-elaborated Efficient Collaboration Bill.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/11/exigen-aprobar-ya-mismo-la-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz/>

Human rights defender and director of Ciprodeh, Wilfredo Méndez, comes to a similar conclusion. He portrays the seizures of property by the government as a fight between two cartels.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/11/ley-de-confiscacion-es-como-una-lucha-entre-dos-carteles-wilfredo-mendez/>

El Pulso published an aptly titled portrait of JOH: "The Crossroad of the Civilian who Wanted to Be a Soldier"

The same man wants to underline his mano duro approach by threatening to throw people making fake calls to 911 to prison for four days.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-encrucijada-del-civil-que-quiso-ser-militar/>

Reinaldo Sánchez, the president of the Nationalists in Congress, paints the coming elections, and therefore the possibility of an unconstitutional reelection by JOH, as "the opportunity of God to live in a democracy". I can't imagine how grateful God must be to have such

helpful hands on the ground...

The TSE announced that they have handed out the funds, the so-called political debt, to the political parties.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/11/presidente-democratico-joh-pide-mandar-a-el-pozo-a-los-que-hagan-falsas-llamadas-al-9111/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-realiza-desembolsos-por-concepto-de-deuda-politica-a-nueve-partidos.html>

Criterio reports that Conatel is trying to have the channel 13 taken of the air - a channel which gives airtime to the political opposition.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/11/denuncian-al-gobierno-hondureno-pretender-cerrar-canal-13/>

After the death of a young girl due to a lack of blood at a public hospital, the press speaker of the University Hospital tries to blame the Red Cross.

This newest scandal plays out against a backdrop of protests against the privatization of public health in Honduras.

The National Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses Association (ANEAAH) demands 6000 new nurses for hospitals and public health centers.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/11/si-la-gente-no-tiene-posibilidad-de-conseguir-sangre-el-hospital-les-colabora/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/11/hospital-publico-busca-desmarcarse-de-evidente-negligencia-medica-por-muerte-de-menor/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/08/masivos-reclamos-contratizacion.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/aneeah-exigen-la-contratacion/>

COIPRODEN demands that Congress ratifies the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/11/coiproden-exige-al-cn-la-firma-del-tercer-protocolo-facultativo-la-convencion-los-derechos-del-nino/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/11/hospital-publico-busca-desmarcarse-de-evidente-negligencia-medica-por-muerte-de-menor/--->

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/08/11/el-banano-nostalgia-y-supervivencia/>

13/08/17

UNAH; Hydroelectricity; Agua Zarca; Penal Code; (Re)Elections; Youth; ZEDE; Machismo; Penitentiary System; Catholic Church; and Voting in a Continuous Line

CEJIL published a public letter for UNAH's dean, Julieta Castellanos, reminding her of her obligations as a civil servant - obligations she continuously ignores, for example with her verbal attacks against Padre Melo.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1855-cejil-recuerda-responsabilidad-estatal-a-rectora-de-la-unah-en-honduras>

ContraCorriente warns of the consequences of the 177 current concessions for hydroelectric projects, 46 of which have already been approved. The recent attacks and criminalization of human rights defenders around Hidrocep is just the most recent of many examples.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/08/11/un-fantasma-amenaza-la-vida-en-honduras/>

Tomorrow, the preliminary hearing will take place against the former vice-minister of SERNA in the Agua Zarca case.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/12/lunes-se-celebrara-audiencia-preliminar-exministro-la-serna-caso-agua-zarca/>

Salvador Nasralla denounces that the Nationalist congresswo/men made changes to the Penal Code lowering penalties for officials stealing public money and for the crime of treason, which plays a role in the illegal constitution.

Article 4 of the Honduran Constitution demands a rotation of the presidents and declares its disregard treason.

<http://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-cachurecada-del-cn-reducir-castigos-funcionarios-ladrones/>

https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/Constitucion_de_Honduras.pdf

The Commerce Chamber of Tegucigalpa met with the TSE to be informed about the current electoral process and how the TSE tackles problems of transparency and attempts of fraud. These problems were played down and the president of the TSE, David Matamoros, even denigrates the Oppositional Alliance for raising them.

The Alliance, meanwhile, continues to prepare its anti-fraud operations. TSE failed to make the use of preprinted names for the party delegates at the ballots mandatory.

Proceso Digital reports on the women running in the coming elections at the local level.

<http://elpulso.hn/matamoros-batson-la-operacion-antifraude-no-cumplio-con-lo-prometido/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/12alianza-prepara-comandos-antifraude-26-noviembre/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/a-discrecion-de-cada-partido-queda-si-le-pone-nombre-a-las-credenciales.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/38-politica-nacional/mujeres-tras-el-poder-en-los-gobiernos-locales-de-honduras.html>

Human rights and youth organizations held a protest in Tegucigalpa against the stigmatization of the Honduran youth as criminals and vandals.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/12/desfile-bufo-juventud-hondurena-exige-destigmaticacion/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/08/12/juventud-hondurena-ciprodeh-realizan-desfile-bufo-desconectate-del-estigma/>

Criterio published an English translation of yesterday's article about ZEDEs.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/12/ciudades-modelo-experimento-no-marcha-bien/>

The Justice and Gender Foundation launched a new campaign against machismo around soccer called "Scoring against Machismo".

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/11/anuncian-campana-metele-gol-al-machismo/>

El Tiempo published an interview with an inmate, which could be used by the government to legitimize its hard-nosed approach to prison policy.

<http://tiempo.hn/reo-centro-penal-dinero-manda-loco/>

The Conference of the Religious in Honduras (Confereh) calls out to its Episcopal Conference to speak a work of support for all the catholic churches working on the local level with the poor, migrants and others.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3821-una-palabra-de-respaldo-12-agosto-2017>

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

14/08/17

HIDROCEP; UNAH; Penal Code; Twitter; Congress; (Re)Elections; and a Failed Public Health System

MADJ will hold a public forum on the peaceful protest against HIDROCEP project and the resulting repression and criminalization. The forum will take place at 9.30am in San Pedro Sula this Wednesday.

https://www.facebook.com/events/1511259838919522/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%22%22%2C%22ref_newsfeed_story_type%22%3A%22regular%22%2C%22feed_story_type%22%3A%22117%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D

Journalist Ronnie Huete Salgado reports on the sad precedent Honduras set by convicting three students for their struggle to defend public higher education.

Criterio spoke with human rights defender Dina Meza about the criminalization of Laureano Carbajal, the lawyer defending the criminalized students.

Moisés David Cáceres offers some background information on the reforms and institutional characteristics of the UNAH to better understand the current crisis.

The student movement MEU called out to the lecturers and parents to listen to their proposals to end the crisis.

And CONADEH once more called for an end to the crisis.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/el-asedio-la-vida-universitaria>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/13/justicia-se-ensana-contra-abogado-carbajal-por-defender-a-los-universitarios-dina-meza/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/13/posible-la-unah-se-le-exija-docente-maestria-doctorado-no-se-lo-exijan-al-cargo-rectoria/>

<http://tiempo.hn/unah-meu-llama-padres-y-docentes-propuestas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/conadeh-insta-a-encontrar-una-pronta-solucion-a-conflicto-de-la-unah.html>

ConfidencialHN published a more detailed article on the changes made to the Penal Code in favoring corrupt public officials.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/13/salvador-nasralla-el-manoseo-de-leyes-es-para-salvar-a-saqueadores-de-la-carcel/>

ContraCorriente published an analysis of the use of fake Twitter followers by Honduran politicians. In the case of JOH, they find that 57% of his followers are bots.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/08/13/la-falsa-popularidad-y-manipulacion-de-opinion-publica-en-twitter/>

Nincy Perdomo published her parliamentary report for last week - a week in which Honduran congresswo/men once more approved a highly disputed law (the Tourism Promotion Bill) in record speed.

Aníbal Cálix reports about conflicts of interest at Congress using this newly approved law as an example.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-8-2017/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/13/los-conflictos-intereses/>

TSE magistrate Erick Rodríguez once more told the press that reforms are possible, but they must be approved by Congress right now.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/si-quieren-reformas-electorales-que-los-aprueben-rapido-tse.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/paciente-del-heu/>

15/08/17

UNAH; HRDs; Penal Code; Mining; Garífunas; Tourism; Indigenous Peoples; Privatization; Electric Energy; Penitentiary System; (Re)Elections; National Police; Tasa de Seguridad; US; Remittances; and How American Libertarians Are Remaking Latin American Politics

ContraCorriente reports on the still ongoing hunger strike by some UNAH students. The article ends by one of the striking students saying: "We are hungry for justice and we want the Honduran people to know that this is more than just blocking a street, this is to allow everyone to enter university."

Pasos de Animal Grande portrays another student protester.

After the last repression against the student protesters in Choluteca, the MP presented arrest warrants against further 15 students. There initial audience is planned to take place on August 17. There are currently almost 50 students facing criminal charges in Honduras. The UNAH authorities, meanwhile, continue their denigration campaign by repeating that the protest is controlled by the radical left, which they understand to be Libre, human rights organizations and an anarchic sector of the Catholic church...

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/08/14/hay-una-huelga-de-hambre-en-la-unah-autoridades-acusan-a-la-izquierda-radical/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1860-saul-no-somos-vagos-ni-delinquentes-como-dicen-algunas-personas>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/requerimiento-fiscal-para-universitarios-en-protesta>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/14/conflicto-la-unah-ha-generado-sectores-la-izquierda-radical-autoridades-universitarias/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/14/comunicado-o-informe-de-inteligencia-en-protestas-del-meu-jefe-de-unah-ve-hasta-comunistas-en-la-sopa1/>

Many individuals and organizations accompanying the student protest have been attacked by state representatives in the recent weeks, Padre Melo being one of the best known examples. Criterio spoke with the two journalists and human rights defender Dina Meza and Tommy Morales, who have been accompanying them day and night and who suffered a lot for it.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/14/filo-la-navaja-defensoras-dd-hh-honduras/>

The recent changes made to the Penal Code has finally gained traction as more and more people have been made aware of the consequences of the reforms.

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) calls them a reward for corrupt behavior.

The MACCIH calls it a bad signal for the country.

The Oppositional Alliance also opposes the changes made by the National

and Liberal Party.

The political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado calls for a complete revision of the Penal Code before the changes come into force.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1857-partidos-tradicionales-se-hacen-un-nudo-y-aprueban-articulos-de-codigo-penal-para-reducir-penas-a-delitos-por-corrupcion>

<http://tiempo.hn/aprueban-bajar-penas-delitos-corrupcion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/15/congreso-pretende-dar-trato-beneficioso-los-corruptos-cna/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/cna-pide-a-congreso-nacional-que-penas-sean-para-prevenir-la-corrupcion.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/14/34835/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/maccih-alerta-sobre-reduccion-de-penas-para-favorecer-a-corruptos.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-preocupado-e-indignado-por-reduccion-de-penas-a-funcionarios/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/14/piden-reevaluar-por-anomalias-el-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

After three years, the Constitutional Chamber partially accepted a constitutional challenge to the Mining Law by the Coalition of National Environmental Networks and Organizations (Conroa).

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/08/14/despues-de-3-anos-declaran-a-lugar-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-ley-de-mineria/>

C-Libre denounces the ongoing attempt to take OFRANEH's community radio Waruguma of the air. The MP now has cited Miriam Miranda, OFRANEH's coordinator, to a meeting at CONATEL.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/nueva-amenaza-de-cierre-de-radios-comunitarias-gar%C3%ADfunas>

OFRANEH denounces the approval of the Tourism Promotion Bill against all opposition and it accuses the bill of violating both ILO 169 and the Convention of Biological Diversity.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/08/14/honduras-subasta-de-areas-protegidas-y-territorios-indigenas/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the youth organizations of Honduras' indigenous peoples.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1859-juventud-indigena-se-resiste-a-la-extincion-y-a-la-violacion-de-sus-derechos>

Andrés Pavel lays bare the failures of privatization warning Honduras not to go further down this road.

<http://elpulso.hn/por-que-fracasa-la-privatizacion/>

One case in point of such negative consequences is the electric energy supply in Honduras. El Pulso spoke with Gloria Pérez, the president of the consumer protection organization CODECOH, about the need to cancel the debt of many Hondurans due to excessive bills by ENEE.

<http://elpulso.hn/gloria-perez-que-no-se-olviden-los-diputados-que-su-obligacion-es-legislar-para-el-pueblo/>

Unusually critical words by Radio HRN writing about the "numerous failures" of the Honduran prison system. JOH's reaction? To build two more prisons...

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/las-fallas-del-sistema-penal-y-carcelario-del-pa%C3%ADs-son-numerosas>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/voy-a-abrir-dos-carceles-mas-reafirma-presidente-hernandez.html>

The TSE promises to watch out for suspicious changes of domiciles in this pre-electoral period.
The RNP still isn't able to print the one million missing identity cards.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-pone-atencion-a-traslados-masivos-de-personas-de-un-municipio-hacia-otro.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/sin-material-el-rnp-para-imprimir-cerca-de-un-millon-de-identidades.html>

ConfidencialHN reports on police violence against street vendors in Tegucigalpa.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/14/asi-reprimen-los-policias-municipales-a-vendedores-de-tegucigalpa/>

JOH's cabinet secretary, Ebal Díaz, fails to answer questions regarding irregularities at the Tasa de Seguridad.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/14/asesor-de-joh-no-quiere-hablar-del-sobregiro-en-tasa-de-seguridad/>

The US continues to praise Honduras even after the ongoing criminalization of students, verbal attacks by state representatives of human rights organizations, the sabotaging of the US financed MACCIH by changing the laws to fight corruption, its failure to reform the electoral system and more.
"When will they ever learn"

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1098843-410/honduras-pa%C3%ADs-mas-peligroso-mundo-heide_fulton-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1tqtvxG8O4>

Remittances have once more reached a new high.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1098777-466/en-314-millones-aumentaron-las-remesas-familiares-en-siete-meses>

<https://theintercept.com/2017/08/09/atlas-network-alejandro-chafuen-libertarian-think-tank-latin-america-brazil/>

16/08/17

HIDROCEP; HRDs; UNAH; FoE; Penal Code; Military Police; National Police; Corruption; Women; Community Radios; MACCIH; (Re)Elections; Penitentiary System; and the Current State of Affairs

Just days after the last violent eviction, state security forces attacked once more the peaceful protest camp against the hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP. Five people and a minor were detained.
One of the detained is the pregnant human rights defender Albertina López.
The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras reacted with a second press release in just five days to the ongoing repression against the peaceful protesters in Pajuiles and calls for an end of it and to prepare the ground for a dialogue.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/08/15/HIDROCEP-y-Polic%C3%ADa-Nacional-reprimen-y-detienen-2-personas-m%C3%A1s-en-Pajuiles>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-ataque-contra-pajuiles-y-detienen-a-ambientalista-embarazada/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/polic%C3%ADa-nacional-detiene-manifestantes-durante-desalojo-violento>

<https://hondurasresists.blogspot.com/2017/08/alert-violenteviction-underway-in.html>

See Attachment

Two human rights defenders from Zacate Grande, Santos Hernández and Abel Pérez, were sentenced to five years and one month in prison for usurpation.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-cinco-anos-y-un-mes-de-prision-son-condenan-defensores-de-zacate-grande/>

The criminalization of Laureano Carbajal, the lawyer defending the students, continues.

UNAH's dean Julieta Castellanos canceled the third academic term, blaming the students and denigrating them once more as financed by the "extreme left".

The student movement MEU condemns this decision and blames it on a missing political will by Castellanos to resolve the crisis.

At the same time, Congress nominated a committee to investigate the crisis at the UNAH. MEU presented over 4000 confirmed signatures to Congress forcing it to constitute such a committee.

According to ConfidencialHN, the majority of the committee members are close to Julieta Castellanos.

Pasos de Animal Grande continues with its important task to present the stories behind the protesting students.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1861-larga-espera-por-la-libertad>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/15/meu-tienen-la-culpa-unah-se-desmarca-de-conflicto-con-estudiantes1/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/unah-cancela-tercer-periodo-academico.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/rectora-castellanos-responsabiliza-al-meu-la-cancelacion-del-tercer-periodo-academico.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/15/34906/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/15/congreso-nacional-nombra-comision-dictaminar-iniciativa-ciudadana-presentada-meu/>

<http://tiempo.hn/crisis-unah-congreso-comision-meu/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/15/comision-que-evaluara-crisis-de-la-unah-esta-conformada-por-afines-a-julieta/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1862-michelle-sueno-con-ser-corresponsal-de-guerra>

The Constitutional Chamber rejected an appeal by oppositional politicians against the article 335-B of the new Penal Code which violates freedom of expression.

The appeal by C-Libre still stands, as they chose a different angle to have the law appealed.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2396-corte-hondurena-rechaza-recurso-contra-ley-mordaza>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1099181-410/amparo-contra-335_b-recursos-poder_judicial

<http://www.conexihon.hn/recurso-presentado-por-c-libre-contra-335-b-continua-su-tramite-en-csj>

Criterio investigated who introduced the newest changes to lower the punishment for corrupt officials to Congress. It was deputy congressman

Agapito Rodríguez. Between 2010 and 2014, he was the deputy congressman of the current president JOH.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/15/quien-mando-al-diputado-cometa-rebajar-las-penas-favor-lo-corruptos/>

Four years ago, in August 2013, the Military Police was created in Honduras. Radio Progreso looks back at the various problems that have followed.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3823-para-esto-sirve-la-polic%C3%ADa-militar-15-agosto-2017>

El Pulso reports about the Hondurans' ongoing mistrust of the police, the limits of the promised purged and the resulting impunity.

<http://elpulso.hn/cuando-la-justicia-no-llega/>

Inhabitants of San Francisco de Lempira, one of the poorest municipalities in Honduras, filed legal charges for corruption against their mayor Elmer Molina.

<http://elpulso.hn/por-corrupcion-denuncian-a-alcalde-en-mp/>

Women's organizations met to discuss their priorities for the coming general elections.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1864-mujeres-buscaran-posicionar-su-agenda-en-los-planes-de-gobierno-de-aspirantes-a-la-presidencia-de-honduras>

Independent media outlets from Mexico and academics from Latin America have written a joint open letter to JOH asking him to stop the persecution of community radios through the state body CONATEL.

<http://avispa.org/2017/08/14/medios-independientes-latinoamericanos-respaldan-radios-comunitarias-honduras/>

The MACCIH will launch its Observatory of the Criminal Justice System next Tuesday.

See Attachment

TSE magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo claims that some 5000 international observers will be present during the general elections. The TSE also informed that they are about to investigate claims of illegal changes of domicile.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/unos-cinco-mil-observadores-nacionales-e-internacionales-espera-el-tse-en-generales.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-assigna-brigada-para-investigar-denuncias-sobre-traslados-en-tres-departamentos-del-pais.html>

95 more inmates were transferred to the Pozo I and Pozo II prisons.

http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1099185-410/trasladan-reclusos-el_pozo-carcel-pandilleros

<http://elpulso.hn/situacion-general-de-honduras-hasta-el-primer-semester-del-2017/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-mayor-agite-electoral-la-dictadura-ensena-los-colmillos/>

MISIÓN DE APOYO CONTRA LA CORRUPCIÓN Y LA IMPUNIDAD EN

LA DIVISIÓN DE REFORMAS DE LA JUSTICIA PENAL INVITA AL LANZAMIENTO

OBSERVATORIO DEL SISTEMA DE JUSTICIA PENAL

22 | AGOSTO | 6 P.M.
2017

**INSTITUTO HONDUREÑO
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OEA | MACCIH

17/08/17

HRDs; UNAH; FoE; CNA; (Re)Elections; Femicide; National Police; Judicial Power; Penal Code; Poverty; Armed Forces; Public Health; and 196 Years of Independence, of some sort

The UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, Andrew Gilmour, visited Honduras last month. Now he published an Op-Ed in El Heraldo

highlighting the urgent need to better protect human rights defenders. He further expressed his preoccupations with statements by state officials which discredit and criminalize the defense of human rights. One case in point is the criminalization of two human rights defenders from Zacate Grande. I failed to mention yesterday the particularity about the five year AND one month prison sentence against them. This additional one month guarantees that they can't get alternative measures to imprisonment, making the criminalization of human rights work in Honduras even worse.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/opinion/columnas/1099131-469/por-qu%C3%A9-debemos-defender-a-los-defensores?platform=hootsuite>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-cinco-anos-y-un-mes-de-prision-son-condenan-defensores-de-zacate-grande/>

ConfidencialHN published part of the contract between the UNAH and the private security company Spartan. According to their investigation, UNAH paid 500'000 Lempiras for their services, i.e. the brutal repression of students.

Yesterday, student representatives met for the first time with the newly formed Congress committee. At the same time, UNAH authorities ordered another violent eviction of the students conducting a hunger strike. Students denounce that the vice-dean, Ajax Irías, threatened to take away their honorable mentions if they continue to demand their previously granted financial support.

The teaching staff of various faculties published a joint statement condemned the criminalization of the students and demanded real representation for the students in the University Council.

Javier Suazo links in his analysis the crisis at the UNAH with the reelection aspiration by JOH.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/16/unah-pago-medio-millon-de-lempiras-por-contratar-paramilitares-para-reprimir-a-estudiantes/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mientras-el-meu-expone-una-solucion-a-tesis-en-el-congreso-la-policia-reprime-a-huelguistas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/16/punta-gas-agua-chile-policia-desaloja-huelga-hambre-la-unah/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/polic%C3%ADa-nacional-gasea-estudiantes-con-50-d%C3%ADas-en-huelga-de-hambre>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/16/amenazan-con-quitacar-becas-y-menciones-honorificas-a-los-que-protesten-contra-jefatura-de-la-unah/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/16/estudiantes-deben-elegir-representantes-al-consejo-universitario-claustros-maestros/>

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/187454>

The Journalists College of Honduras (CPH) has resumed its protest against the Article 335B of the Penal Code, which violates the freedom of expression.

Channel 13, meanwhile, fears being closed down by CONATEL.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3827-periodistas-anuncian-nuevas-acciones-legales-contra-art%C3%ADculo-335-b-del-c%C3%B3digo-penal>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/periodistas-hondure%C3%B1os-exigen-derogar-controvertida-norma-antiterrorista>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/conatel-intimida-canal-de-televisi%C3%B3n>

Yesterday rumors started to spread that Gabriela Castellanos will be separated as the director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). This could be interpreted as another attempt at trying to debilitate those institutions investigating corruption in Honduras.

The MACCIH spoke out in favor of Gabriela Castellanos and her work.

<http://elpulso.hn/aclaran-rumor-de-separacion-de-gabriela-castellanos-del-cna/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/16/pastor-protestante-da-espaldarazo-a-directora-de-oficina-anticorrupcion/>

<http://tiempo.hn/supuesto-despido-de-titular-del-cna-causea-revuelo-en-honduras/>

The RNP holds the responsibility to investigate and if needed cancel illegal changes of domicile regarding the coming general elections. Its general secretary, Fernando Anduray, is a activist of the National Party and just accused the presidential candidate of the political opposition, Salvador Nasralla, to have stolen electric energy from ENEE...

The TSE announced that they would be voting the blank and nullified votes during the elections and not the party representatives at the polling stations.

The OAS confirmed its presence during the Honduran elections.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/16/fernando-anduray-pide-al-cna-investigue-nasralla-robo-energia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-recomendara-al-rnp-que-anule-traslados-irregulares.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/votos-nulos-blancos-tse/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-confirma-presencia-de-la-oea-para-el-dia-de-las-elecciones.html>

According to UNAH's Violence Observatory, 188 women have been murdered so far this year. Since 2006, about 5000 women were murdered and 95% of their cases rest unpunished.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/188-f%C3%A9minas-fueron-asesinadas-con-sa%C3%B1-y-odio-en-el-primer-semestre-de-2017>

The TSC announced that it will soon make public more cases of illicit enrichment by police officials.

Congress approved the Police Career Bill yesterday.

Two former police agents were sentenced to 13 years in prison for the murder of the two public prosecutors Marlene Banegas and Olga Eufragio in 2014.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1099516-466/tsc-notificar%C3%A1-a-m%C3%A1s-polic%C3%ADas-millonarios-con-supuestos-indicios-de-enriquecimiento-il%C3%ADcito>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/16/poder-legislativo-aprueba-ley-la-carrera-policial/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/16/condenan-a-dos-expolicias-por-matar-a-dos-fiscales-en-san-pedro-sula/>

The criminal judge Rafael Bustillo criticizes that the version of the Efficient Collaboration Bill sent to them by Congress fails to offer any real compensation for those collaborating with the State.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/16/sin-recompensas-ley-de-colaboracion-no-ofrece-nada-nuevo-y-por-tanto-no-servira/>

State representatives continue to deny that the changes to the Penal Code establish less severe penalties for corrupt officials.

Nevertheless, Congress' secretary, the National congressman Mario Pérez, admitted on Tuesday that this is exactly what they did.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/16/tsc-niega-reduccion-de-penas-contrasaqueadores-y-apoyareplanteamiento-del-codigo-penal/>

Radio Progreso reports on the poverty and the life of the poor in and

around San Pedro Sula.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3826-san-pedro-sula-una-ciudad-rica-llena-de-pobres>

An army plane crashed at the Palmerola base. One official died and another one was badly hurt.

<http://tiempo.hn/avioneta-en-palmerola-estrella/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/16/avion-se-accidenta-base-aerea-soto-cano/>

JOH reacted to the growing criticism regarding the public health crisis by creating a new task force under the control of his wife.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/gobierno-crea-fuerza-de-tarea-en-sistema-salud>

<http://elpulso.hn/a-proposito-de-196-anos-de-independencia/>

18/08/17

Berta - Agua Zarca; HIDROCEP; COPINH; Garífunas; UNAH; Campesinas; Femicide; Public Health; (Re)Elections; RNP; Inequality; and Forgiveness...for the Church but not the People

According to Oxfam, Voith Hydro, a subsidiary of Siemens, finally decided to withdraw from the Agua Zarca project.

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/reactions/german-engineering-firms-withdraw-agua-zarca-dam-project-honduras>

ACI-Participa denounces the use of state security forces in the violent repression of peaceful protesters in Pajuiles, Tela.
Giorgio Trucchi offers an overview of the protests and its repression in Pajuiles.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2401-condenan-complicidad-estatal-en-ataque-contra-dirigentes-sociales>

<https://nicaraguaymasespanol.blogspot.com/2017/08/honduras-luchar-por-los-bienes-comunes.html>

Moisés Sánchez Durón, a member of COPINH, was murdered in May 2015 for defending the right to land in Somolagua, Santa Bárbara. In April 2015, 25 families began to recuperate their land from the Ríos family, which reacted with violence. Now a court found Saúl Ríos guilty of murdering Moisés, but it absolved Florencia Ríos and Nuncio Escoto, both of whom were also involved in the murder.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/08/copinh-justicia-para-mois-es-castigo.html>

Radio Progreso reports on the struggle by Garífuna communities to defend their land against Canadian investors. According to the article, already 70% of Garífuna land in Santa Fe, Colón, has been taken over by the latter.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3828-inversionistas-canadienses-se-apoderan-del-70-por-ciento-de-tierras-gar%C3%ADfunas-en-santa-fe-col%C3%B3n>

The student movement MEU condemns the newest repression against them, when state security forces violently evicted the hunger strike protest camp. Laureano Carbajal, one of the lawyers defending the criminalized student, has himself be criminalized by the Honduran state. On Wednesday he was released from custody, but for the duration of his trial, he must sign in every other week at the court and he isn't allowed to leave the

country.

Sociologist Eugenio Sosa doesn't have too much hope for Congress' mediating commission. As long as the UNAH authorities don't recognize the students as valid partner in a discussion, there won't be a solution. The commission's president told the press that they will take a final decision if the students and the UNAH authorities fail to come to an agreement.

Julietta Castellano blames, once more, the students for the crisis at UNAH when she talked with the commission. Furthermore, she called the use of the repressive private security force Spartan "effective". She also accuses once more the Oppositional Alliance of being behind the protest.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/meu-condena-agresiones-de-la-policia-y-dicen-mantienen-firme-su-lucha.html>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/con-medidas-sustitutivas-abogado-de-estudiantes-recobra-su-libertad>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/17/piden-a-comision-parlamentaria-respuestas-sensatas-ante-crisis-de-la-unah/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/17/julieta-admite-que-contrato-a-paramilitares-para-reprimir-a-jovenes-por-que-no-hablo-del-pago1/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/comisi%C3%B3n-sentencia-si-no-hay-acuerdo-entre-autoridades-y-meu-cn-tomar%C3%A1-decisi%C3%B3n-final>

<http://tiempo.hn/sin-acuerdo-congreso-controlara-unah/>

Back in 2015, Congress approved the Solidarity Credit for Rural Women (Credimujer) Program. But until today, there is no budget assigned to it nor are their clear rules established on how it will function. Therefore, women's organization took demanding that Congress acts.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1865-mujeres-rurales-demandan-operatividad-de-credimujer>

In a public statement, CEJIL expressed its preoccupation about the rise in femicide in Honduras. It demands an integral policy to protect women.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/cejil-exige-politica-de-proteccion-integral-ante-aumento-de-femicidios-en-honduras>

Yesterday new protests emerged against the privatization plans by the government of public health in Honduras.

The president of the Sitramedhys labor union, Miguel Mejía, denounces that the government created the current crisis in the public health system to push forward its privatization plans.

The president of the Medical Chamber Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, also believes that the newly presented health task force is nothing more but a show for the media before the coming elections. The political will lies somewhere else: while the budget of the Health Secretariat rose by 11% in 2017, the one for the Defense and Security Secretariat rose by a staggering 58%.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/17/realizan-protetas-en-honduras-para-evitar-privatizacion-de-la-salud/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/17/denuncian-que-crisis-premeditada-en-sistema-de-salud-es-para-justificar-la-privatizacion1/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/17/fuerza-tarea-salud-show-mediatico-del-gobierno-presidenta-del-colegio-medico-honduras/>

David Matamoros, the TSE's president, speaks of "bad people" trying to denigrate the Honduran elections. Around the same time in 2013, a similar campaign took of against anyone speaking about the dire human rights situation in Honduras and about the possibility for electoral fraud.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/17/presidente-de-autoridad-electoral-culpa-a-malas-personas-que-cuestionan-comicios-generales/>

Honduran citizens continue to protest at local RNP centers for their failure to hand out their identity cards.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/pobladores-se-toman-la-oficina-del-rnp-en-santa-rosa-de-copan.html>

Radio Progreso denounces the inequality ingrained in the Honduran legal system and in its application.

<http://www.radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3825-paisaje-legal-hondure%C3%B1o-17-agosto-2017>

<http://tiempo.hn/banegas-iniciativa-de-ley-exonerar-instituciones-evangelicas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/17/ante-impagables-deudas-ciudadanos-exigen-acuerdos-de-pago/>

19/08/17

Int. Community; Journalists; HIDROCEP; Berta - Trial; UNAH; FoE; MACCIH; Penal Code; Campesinas; Campesinx; Military Police; CNA; Judicial Power; Toll System; Poverty; (Re)Elections; Political Opposition; Lawyers; and Happy Birthday CDM

Criterio published an important article accusing the international community of hypocrisy. It criticizes that on the one hand press releases are emitted which highlight certain human rights violations, but the Honduran government continues to commit them - even publicly accusing human rights defenders and showing a lack of political will to change things - but the money continues to flow to Honduras. COFADEH also calls out to the international community to stop pursuing their double agenda, be it the Spanish cooperation, the Inter-American Development Bank or the US and to hold Honduras accountable for its human rights violations.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/18/la-hipocresia-la-comunidad-internacional-ante-las-violaciones-los-dd-hh-los-abusos-del-gobierno-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-honorables-delincuentes-corruptos-lo-saben/>

The former president of the business lobby COHEP, Eduardo Facussé, criticizes the main Honduran media outlets for misinforming the public. He accuses them of being paid by the government to paint a rosy picture of Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/18/adolfo-facusse-llama-la-insurreccion-acusa-los-medios-callar-cambio-favores-economicos/>

The violent repression on two occasions in one week of a peaceful protest camp in Pajuiles, Tela, has led to various press releases condemning the attacks, two coming from the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras. Now the Honduran government reacts by having the Human Rights, Justice, Governance and Decentralization Secretariat publish a statement. It not only portrays it as a conflict between inhabitants and not of state repression, it also doesn't condemn the violence but highlights at first position the importance to guarantee a safe space for...investments.

<http://www.sdhjgd.gob.hn/biblioteca-virtual/noticias/noticias/955-comunicado-en-relacion-al-conflicto-entre-las-comunidades-en-tela-atlantida-que-se-manifiestan-tanto-a-favor-como-en-contra-de-la-central-hidroelectrica>

Eight persons were arrested in the murder case of Berta. Four of them had their preliminary audience back in June and now COPINH announces that this Monday the preliminary audience against the remaining four will take place.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/08/audiencia-preliminar-en-caso-bertha.html>

The spokesperson of the courts in Tegucigalpa announced that the resolution in the case of the 19 criminalized student and the one criminalized journalist will be published next week.

The trial against the 15 criminalized students from the CURLP campus, meanwhile, was postponed because UNAH authorities claimed that the judge had links to human rights organizations...

Radio Progreso presents new scenarios on how the crisis at the UNAH could play out now that Congress nominated a mediating commission.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/18/justicia-hondurena-fallara-la-proxima-semana-por-juicio-contra-universitarios/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-alarga-proceso-de-criminalizacion-estudiantil-contra-15-universitarios-en-choluteca/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3835-tesis-universitaria-toma-nuevos-escenarios-ante-nombramiento-de-comisi%C3%B3n-legislativa>

The president of the Anti-Corruption Bar Association, José Antonio Ávila, presented another constitutional challenge against the Article 335B, the new article of the Penal Code violating freedom of expression.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/18/honduras-presentan-otro-recurso-contra-peligrosa-ley-bozal-oscar-alvarez/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias-presentan-otro-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-el-articulo-335-b-ante-la-csj.html>

The MACCIH presented two new international experts joining their team. During the press conference the MACCIH reiterated its criticism of the changes made to the Penal Code, which resulted in lower penalties for corrupt officials. Furthermore, they emphasized once more the need to approve its Efficient Collaboration Bill.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/18/dos-nuevos-expertos-internacionales-llegan-la-maccih/>

<http://tiempo.hn/fiscal-persiquio-fujimori-en-maccih/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/18/jefe-de-maccih-reafirma-que-nueva-ley-contempla-delacion-premiada/>

Even though Nationalist congresswo/men still try to deny the consequences of their changes to the Penal Code, various other legal experts beyond the MACCIH also criticize them. Some even interpret it as another attack against the MACCIH.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3834-reducci%C3%B3n-de-penas-busca-blindar-a-actuales-funcionarios-del-estado-coinciden-especialistas>

Defensores en Línea reports on an important victory by indigenous Lenca campesinas to gain, as women, the right to work their land.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/indigenas-lencas-de-simpinula-hemos-eliminado-el-patriarcado-las-mujeres-tenemos-el-mismo-derecho-a-trabajar-las-parcelas/>

Meanwhile in San Pedro de Tutule, La Paz, the situation after the criminalization and arrest of campesinos of the Grupo Campesino 09 de Julio remains tense.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nos-hemos-criado-a-puro-ayote-y-patate/>

Four former member of the Military Police were sentenced for kidnapping.

<http://tiempo.hn/culpables-4-ex-policias-militares-por-secuestro/>

El Pulso published some more information about the already dismissed rumors that spread this week that Gabriela Castellanos would be replaced as the director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA).

<http://elpulso.hn/gabriela-castellanos-se-queda-en-el-cna/>

The lawyer Juan Carlos Berganza denounces that the presumption of innocence is constantly violated in Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/18/juristas-insisten-que-todos-los-hondurenos-son-inocentes-hasta-ser-declarados-culpables/>

The president of the privatizing body COALIANZA, Miguél Gámez, is complaining that Hondurans are not willing to pay at toll booths. According to him, the World Bank is currently investigating this. It is unlikely that they will also investigate all the hints of corruption around these multi-million infrastructure projects.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/18/banco-mundial-investiga-por-que-los-hondurenos-no-quieren-pagar-peaje-por-usar-autopista-nortena/>

FOSDEH published its newest numbers on poverty in Honduras: 65% of Hondurans live in poverty and their situation has worsened in the last years.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/18/la-pobreza-en-honduras-afecta-al-65-por-ciento-de-la-poblacion-fosdeh/>

Because the Honduran government continues to fail to pay employees outstanding benefits, they start to strike next week. As a result, it becomes even more unlikely that the one million identity cards needed for the elections will be handed out in time.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1100154-508/paros-en-el-rnp-ponen-en-riesgo-identificaci%C3%B3n-para-pr%C3%B3ximas-elecciones>

Wilfredo Méndez, who was a pre-candidate for the mayoral race in Tegucigalpa, denounces a homophobic campaign against the Oppositional Alliance by the media close to the government.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2402-prensa-tradicional-manipulo-video-de-wilfredo-mendez>

Consumer protection organization criticize the raise of lawyers' fees made public this week.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1100143-466/condenan-aumentos-abusivos-de-los-honorarios-de-abogados>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2404-felicidades-mujeres-hondurenas-cumple-25-anos>

20/08/17

Penitentiary System; (Re)Elections; Women; National Police; and the Gulf of Fonseca

JOH announced that by October he will have closed down the prison in San Pedro Sula. He didn't elaborate where the inmates will be transferred.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/19/joh-cerrara-carcel-de-san-pedro-sula-a-donde-llevara-los-presos/>

Two companies presented offers to the TSE to replace Mapa Soluciones to transmit the final ballots of the coming general elections: the US company Afilon and the English company based in Panama Smartmatic. The TSE also informed that the polling stations will open at 7am on election day when there are representative of four parties present, i.e. it is not required that representative of all ten parties are there. This will be a challenge for the political opposition, as up to seven parties can be regarded as being close to the National Party.

<http://tiempo.hn/empresas-listas-mapa-soluciones/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1100382-410/con-solo-4-de-10-miembros-mer-se-iniciar%C3%A1n-comicios>

Proceso Digital reports on the situation of female politicians regarding the general elections.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/38-politica-nacional/hondurenas-en-azaroso-camino-tras-una-curul-en-el-parlamento.html>

Proceso Digital published a long article on their interpretation of the significance of the two new laws regarding the police approved in the last months: the Organic Law of the National Police and the Police Career Law.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/dos-modernas-normativas-consolidaran-depuracion-policia.html>

The executive president of the BCIE, Nick Rischbieth, makes promises about the Gulf of Fonseca area, where among other things, a ZEDE is planned.

<http://www.proceso.hn/economia/6-economia/plan-de-desarrollo-del-golfo-de-fonseca-oportunidad-para-convertir-zona-de-pobreza-en-una-de-riqueza-titular-del-bcie.html>

21/08/17

UNAH; (Re)Elections; Drug Trafficking; "Free" Trade; APP; MACCIH; Penitentiary System; Mining; and How to Tackle Violence in San Pedro Sula

The initial audience against 15 students from the CURLP campus in Choluteca is expected for this Friday. As their colleagues in Tegucigalpa, they are all accused of usurpation for participating in a protest. Congress' mediating committee announced new meetings for this week.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1868-audiencia-de-15-universitarios-del-curlp-sera-en-esta-semana>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/martes-y-miercoles-el-cn-se-reune-con-docentes-sindicato-y-academia-para-buscar-salida-a-crisis-de-la-unah.html>

Salvador Nasralla, presidential candidate of the Oppositional Alliance against Dictatorship, told media outlets this weekend that there are currently no conditions for fair elections in Honduras. He called for protest demanding reforms to the Electoral Law. This week, the discussion about the use of digital fingerprints will be taken up again.

Honduran youth organization organized a forum to discuss with the political parties the problems they face. Only the two vice-presidential candidate of the Oppositional Alliance showed up.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/20/nasralla-rechaza-condiciones-para-ir-a-comicios-generales-de-noviembre/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/20/nasralla-solicita-reunion-urgencia-decidir-futuro-las-elecciones-honduras/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1100623-508/consejo-consultivo-debatir%20la-posibilidad-de-la-huella-dactilar-en-pr%C3%B3ximas-elecciones>

<http://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/350993/candidatos-presidenciales-ignoran-juventud-foro>

The extradited drug trafficker Wilter Blanco Ruiz was sentenced to a 20 years prison penalty in Florida. He led the Atlantic Cartel, which operated for 10 years under the protection of members of the police and armed forces.

Meanwhile in Honduras, another presumed drug trafficker wanted by the US was arrested.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/20/narcotraficante-wilter-blanco-ruiz-condenado-20-anos-carcel-ee-uu/>

<http://tiempo.hn/amarateca-capturan-orden-de-extradicion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/detienen-a-extraditible-sergio-neptali-mejia-duarte.html>

CESPAD published a report on the effects of the "free" trade agreement between the US and Central America on Honduran basic grain producers.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1866-el-cafta-ha-casi-extinguido-a-los-productores-de-granos-basicos-en-honduras>

Honduras announced that as part of the Alliance for Prosperity it will invest \$945 million of its own funds and it will get another \$125 million from USAID. The decisions are made by an advisory council which was recently created through an executive order and is under the control of JOH.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-invertira-945-millones-de-dolares-en-proyectos-de-la-alianza-para-la-prosperidad.html>

The MACCIH is awaiting the individualization of the sentence against the former vice-president of the Judiciary Council, Teodoro Bonilla. It is expected for tomorrow and the first case of influence peddling since the arrival of the MACCIH in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-a-la-expectativa-de-pena-a-teodoro-bonilla.html>

One of the young inmates who escaped from the Renacimiento youth detention center last week was found dead in Choloma.

<http://tiempo.hn/choloma-menor-profugo-hallado-muerto-balazos/>

Inhgeomin informs that the Honduran mining industry exported goods worth \$87.3 million from January to July this year.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/economia/1100507-410/exportaciones-industria-minera-explotacion>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/20/la-candidata-los-candidatos-la-inseguridad-san-pedro-sula/>

22/08/17

Berta - Trial; Agua Zarca; HIDROCEP; UNAH; Tasa de Seguridad; CCC; (Re)Elections; RNP; National Party; MACCIH; Corruption; Journalists; Public Health; US; Deportation; and Landing Next to a Gasoline Tank

COPINH and MADJ published a joined press release denouncing the circumstances previous to yesterday's day in court, as the "Public Ministry, with an absolute lack of respect for due process and the rights of the victims, has not provided the information that supports their accusation so that the victim's representatives can analyze and participate adequately in the judicial process."

Later the day, the trial was once more postponed to September 6 and the judge ordered the MP to present their information to Berta's family's lawyers in 48 hours.

The Argentinean newspaper published an interview by Claudia Korol with Bertha Zúniga Cáceres on the ongoing trial against the material authors of her mother's murder.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/08/comunicado-copinh-y-madj-el-ministerio.html>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/08/el-copinh-comunica-que-la-audiencia.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/bertha-caceres-audiencia-implicados/>

<https://www.pagina12.com.ar/57156-semillas-de-bertha>

Over 80 international human rights organization signed an open letter to FMO and Finnfund. Even though the banks withdrew from Agua Zarca, they call for a dialogue process in seemingly close coordination with project owner, DESA. COPINH y MADJ demand from FMO and Finnfund "to cease promoting such an inherently flawed and potentially dangerous process. We sincerely hope international institutions will instead support efforts to obtain justice and truth, which are necessary to move forward and enable the communities to truly heal."

https://justassociates.org/sites/justassociates.org/files/sign_on_letter_to_fmo_and_finnfund_about_agua_zarca_project.pdf

https://justassociates.org/sites/justassociates.org/files/carta_al_fmo_y_finnfund_en_espanol.pdf

The Coalition against Impunity filled legal charges against various Honduran authorities in their role of the violent repression and criminalization of the peaceful protests against the hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-denuncia-a-autoridades-por-ataque-en-pajuiles/>

Padre Melo spoke with ConfidencialHN about possible ways out of the crisis at the UNAH and the role of the new mediating committee.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/21/el-gobierno-utiliza-la-tasa-de-seguridad-para-disimular-el-despilfarro-de-dinero/>

ConfidencialHN started a new series of article on the irregularities surrounding the Tasa de Seguridad. In the first installment, they explain how banks profit via high interest payments from the Tasa.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/21/hondurenos-han-pagado-mas-15-mil-millones-por-la-fallida-tasa-de-seguridad/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/21/el-gobierno-utiliza-la-tasa-de-seguridad-para-disimular-el-despilfarro-de-dinero/>

In the last weeks, social movements, human rights organizations and further organizations meet on several occasions to discuss the bleak scenario they face with the possible reelection of JOH. Yesterday, they

presented themselves to the public under the name Alignment against Continuity (Convergencia contra el continuismo).

See Attachment

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/llamamiento-a-la-conciencia-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/21/organizaciones-sociales-crean-convergencia-contra-el-continuismo/>

Bertha Oliva, general coordinator of COFADEH, denounces the presence of various human rights violators from the 80s who now run as candidates in the coming general elections.

Salvador Nasralla, the presidential candidate of the Oppositional Alliance, accused the OAS of white-washing the Honduran elections, i.e. the illegal reelection bid by JOH.

He raised the possibility that organized crime paid OAS functionaries to accept the election results.

The OAS reacted by threatening Nasralla to legally accuse him of defamation and slander.

The Oppositional Alliance backed up Nasralla, accusing the OAS of not investigating the role of JOH and the National Party in the IHSS corruption scandal.

Furthermore, they demand that the OAS doesn't accept the elections without any significant electoral reforms beforehand.

CEM-H will launch on Wednesday, August 30, "Polétika Honduras", a body to inform about and press for the inclusion of women specific topics in the political agendas of the presidential candidates.

Political analyst Julio Navarro criticizes the lack of real solutions presented by the political parties.

The former president of the TSE, Arístides Mejía, sees a massive voter turnout as the only way against the electoral fraud by the National Party. Meanwhile, the RNP demands further 15 million Lempiras by the Finance Secretariat to print the much needed identity cards for the elections.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/21/alertan-presencia-de-violadores-de-ddhh-en-candidaturas-a-cargos-publicos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/21/nasralla-acusa-la-oea-complice-la-instalacion-una-dictadura-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nasralla-funcionarios-de-oea-recibirian-dinero-para-avalar-proceso-electoral.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/21/oea-advierte-podria-actuar-legalmente-nasralla/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/oea-rechaza-acusaciones-de-nasralla-y-advierten-respuesta-legal-por-calumnias.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/21/alianza-opositora-respalda-nasralla-denuncia-complidad-la-oea-joh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/alianza-respalda-a-su-candidato-y-pide-a-oea-no-avalar-comicios-sin-reformas.html>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/08/es-un-placer-para-el-centro-de-estudio.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/21/julio-navarro-la-campana-electoral-sera-de-ataques-y-no-de-propuestas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/21/piden-votos-masivos-para-frenar-fraude-electoral/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/rnp-urge-finanzas-desembolsar-l15-millones-para-iniciar-impresi%C3%B3n-de-m%C3%A1s-de-un-mill%C3%B3n-de>

And while the RNP demands for more money, its employees are striking demanding themselves outstanding wages.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tomadas-instalaciones-del-rnp-en-tegucigalpa-y-sps.html>

A National Party councilor was murdered in El Negrito, Yoro.

<http://tiempo.hn/regidor-yoro-asesinado-el-negrito/>

The MACCIH has to wait a bit longer for the individualization of the sentence against the former vice-president of the now defunct Judiciary Council, Teodoro Bonilla. His lawyer didn't show up and the audience was postponed.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/21/posponen-audiencia-individualizacion-la-pena-teodoro-bonilla/>

<http://tiempo.hn/defensa-bonilla-no-llego-posponen-individualizacion-la-pena/>

The former director of Hondutel, Marcello Chimirri, was sentenced to nine years in prison and a 16.6 million Lempiras fine for illicit enrichment.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/21/condenan-exgerente-hondutel-9-anos-prision-pago-16-6-millones-lempiras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/condenan-a-chimirri-a-nueve-anos-de-carcel-y-al-pago-de-mas-de-16-millones-de-multa.html>

The presumed murderers of the journalist Aníbal Barrow, who was assassinated in 2013, were sentenced to 55 and 49 years in prison respectively. Two further men were sentenced to 13 and 3 years in prison.

<http://tiempo.hn/condenas-a-asesinos-de-anibal-barrow/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1100822-466/condenan-a-cuatro-personas-por-el-asesinato-del-periodista-anibal-barrow>

The Medical College Honduras (CMH) announced a big protest to have the Social Protection Bill derogated.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/cmh-anuncia-movilizaci%C3%B3n-para-exigir-la-derogaci%C3%B3n-de-la-ley-de-protecci%C3%B3n-social>

JOH traveled to Washington yesterday to meet with the Trump administration.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-hernandez-viajo-a-washington-para-seguimiento-a-temas-de-agenda-bilateral.html>

So far this year, 30'144 Hondurans have been deported by the US and Mexico.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hondurenos-deportados-a-mediados-de-agosto-superan-los-30-mil-segun-nuevo-informe.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1100590-466/palmerola-operar%C3%A1-por-diez-a%C3%B1os-con-tanque-militar-de-combustible>

23/08/17

Berta - Trial; HIDROCEP; COPINH; UNAH; National Police; Journalists; Impunity; Penal Code; (Re)Elections; Liberal Party; PDC; MACCIH; Terrorism; Corruption; Private Security; Migration; Lawyers; Chile; and Swimming to Victory

Dick & Miriam Emanuelsson spoke with Víctor Fernández, the lawyer of Berta's family, about the irregularities in the murder trial and the dubious role of the MP in not disclosing relevant evidence.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/08/honduras-abogado-del-caso-bertha.html>

Yesterday, the trial against 10 of the 17 criminalized members of MADJ for the peaceful protest against HIDROCEP took place. After the defense presented their case, and only after, the judge "remembered" to disclose that she is the sister of the mayor of Tela, a promoter of the project. The audience was suspended and a new judge will be assigned to the case. MADJ portrays on his homepage on of the strong women, Angélica Recinos, behind the protests against the hydroelectric company by HIDROCEP.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/08/22/Por-ser-hermana-del-alcalde-de-Tela-jueza-se-excusa-de-conocer-caso-Pajuiles>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/caso-pajuiles-se-suspende-audiencia-porque-jueza-es-hermana-de-alcalde-denunciado/>

<http://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/351168/defensores-ambiente-politica-hernandez-corrupcion>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/08/21/La-fuerza-de-mujer-en-la-defensa-del-agua>

Avispa portrays Gaspar Sánchez, a member of COPINH who combines the struggle for indigenous and LGBTI rights.

<http://avispa.org/2017/08/22/19438/>

The Jesuits in Canada wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Trudeau, calling for support for Padre Melo. Giorgio Trucchi portrays the crisis at UNAH as the mirror image of the authoritarianism of the JOH administration. Héctor Enoc Ulloa looks at the changes to the institutional structure and character of the UNAH under Julieta Castellanos, who became dean in 2009. Next week, Congress' mediating committee will present a possible solution to the crisis, which depends on three factors: i) to guarantee student representatives in the different organs of the UNAH ii) to start the electoral process of the new UNAH authorities and iii) to take measures to stop a further crisis to develop.

<https://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/2017/08/22/jesuit-leaders-condemn-attacks-melo/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/crisis-universitaria-es-el-reflejo-del-autoritarismo-del-regimen/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/el-asalto-del-julietismo-la-institucionalidad-de-la-unah>

<http://tiempo.hn/cn-plan-solucionar-crisis-en-la-unah/>

Both COFADEH and the MP demand the maximum penalty for three members of the police force found guilty for the murder of Mario Sequeira in 2010. A former police sub-commissioner was sentenced to 15 years in prison for money laundering. Two further police agents await trial in prison for injuring and illegally detaining a young man. Radio HRN published a long article on what the two new laws governing the police entail, from the perspective of Omar Rivera, member of the purging committee.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-pide-maxima-pena-contra-policias-que-torturaron-hasta-la-muerte-a-mario-sequeira/>

<http://tiempo.hn/15-anos-prision-excomisionado-policia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/22/honduras-encarcelan-l-a-dos-policias-por-brutal-paliza-a-ciudadano1/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/ley-org%C3%A1nica-y-ley-de-carrera-modernizan-marco-jur%C3%ADdico-policial>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the defamation and court case against the journalist Jairo López, who has been under attack for two years for reporting on corruption cases. Yesterday, the judges in Choluteca finally decided to drop the case against him.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1870-tribunal-de-sentencia-de-choluteca-por-unanimidad-se-excusa-de-seguir-conociendo-querella-contra-periodista-jairo-lopez>

Three years ago, campesino leader and human rights defender Margarita Murillo was murdered. Her family together with the Women's Forum for Life continue to fight for justice in her case.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3840-contin%C3%BAa-demandando-de-justicia-en-crimen-contra-margarita-murillo>

Edmundo Orellana makes two important points about the changes made to the Penal Code which favoring corrupt officials. One is the central role of the governing party to approve these changes and the other is the retroactivity of these changes, i.e. already charged and sentenced corrupt public officials may benefit from them.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/22/estrategia-perversa/>

<http://tiempo.hn/edmundo-orellana-reduccion-penas-favorecera-mario-zelaya/>

The Platform for Democracy, a new civil society outlet created among others by the previous president of COHEP, Juliette Handal, announces street protest against the illegal reelection bid of JOH. Gabriela Blen, one of the founders of the Indigenous Opposition movement and a current candidate for Congress of PINU, criticizes the position taken by the OAS against Salvador Nasralla (see yesterday). The OAS itself, after accompanying previous Honduran elections, has pointed out many weaknesses of the Honduran electoral system and make recommendations accordingly. But those recommendations still haven't been complied with. Further criticism comes from the director of CIPRODEH, Wilfredo Mendez, who states that the OAS failed to critically analyze the political context in Honduras. JOH continues to present the political opposition as the obstacle to electoral reforms, even though the National congresswomen have so far blocked any substantial improvement. The Clean Politics Commission, meanwhile, claims that they are ready to work and they only await the approval of their rules of procedure.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2406-reeleccion-es-ilegal-en-honduras-sociedad-civil>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/22/plataforma-la-democracia-ira-las-calles-exigir-no-la-reeleccion-ilegal-joh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/22/oea-ha-obviado-papel-honduras-se-escandaliza-declaraciones-salvador-nasralla/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/22/oea-intolerante-al-querer-proceder-salvador-nasralla-wilfredo-mendez/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/22/si-mel-quiere-reformas-que-se-ponga-a-trabajar-joh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/pretenden-cambiar-la-voluntad-del-pueblo-para-sumar-votos-de-nasralla-a-joh-denuncia-mel.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/comisionado-franco-asegura-que-reglamento-de-ley-de-politica-limpia-esta-finalizado.html>

Luis Zelaya, the presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, presents his plan of government. Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle disqualifies the plan in its entirety.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/22/luis-zelaya-promete-reconstruccion-del-estado-derecho/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/22/quien-le-va-creer-al-piche-plan-neoliberal-condensado/>

A former congressman of the Christian Democrats Party (PDC) shares his frustration with Criterio about the status of his former party as a satellite party of the National Party.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/22/la-democracia-cristiana-partido-satelital-efrain-diaz-arrivillaga/>

The MACCIH launched its Criminal Justice Observatory. After the positive decision by the Supreme Court, the MACCIH asks Congress to approve the Efficient Collaboration Bill.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/22/maccih-oficializa-creacion-observatorio-justicia-penal/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-presenta-observatorio-del-sistema-de-justicia-penal.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-pide-al-cn-aprobar-lo-mas-pronto-posible-la-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz.html>

JOH is trying to stir up a terrorist threat to lay the ground work for his repressive approach to public security and more surveillance.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/expectante-eeuu-por-posible-mezcla-del-crimen-organizado-con-el-terrorismo-en-la-region-herandez.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/22/joh-el-vocero-presidente-de-honduras-asegura-que-a-ee-uu-le-precupa-el-terrorismo/>

ATIC arrested the director of the hospital in Santa Bárbara and five further officials on corruption charges.

http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1101323-410/capturan-director-hospital-santa_barbara-integrado-corrupcion-fraude-abuso-falsificacion

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/22/capturan-a-funcionarios-que-realizaron-compras-fraudulentas-de-medicamentos/>

According to National congressman Tomas Zambrano, the number of private security guards outnumbers the members of the police and the armed forces.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/el-n%C3%BAmero-de-guardias-de-seguridad-privada-supera-la-cantidad-de-la-pn-y-ffaa>

The UNHCR's high commissioner, Filippo Grandi, announced a visit to Central America to investigate the displacements taking place in the region.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/titular-de-acnur-visita-centroamerica-y-mexico-para-conocer-crisis-migratoria.html>

Criticism is rising inside the profession regarding a recent rise in fees for services by lawyers.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1101247-466/abogados-piden-modificar-el-nuevo-trancazo-del-colegio-de-abogados-de-honduras>

Chile's president Michelle Bachelet arrived yesterday evening in Honduras for a state visit.

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1101321-410/michelle_bachelet-joh-relacion-comercial-chile

<http://tiempo.hn/virgilio-padilla-natacion-pn-lo-ataca/>

24/08/17

UNAH; Zacate Grande; Corruption; Reelection; (Re)Elections; Tasa de Seguridad; Penal Code; MACCIH; Forced Disappearance; Organized Crime; Penitentiary System; US; Lawyers; Public Health; Debt; Chile; and National Identity

The student movement MEU invited for a public forum to analyze the crisis at UNAH which took place yesterday.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1871-concluyen-en-foro-en-la-unah-hay-desmantelamiento-de-los-organos-de-participacion-y-un-gobierno-con-tendencia-neofacista>

Defensores en Línea reports on the situation in Zacate Grande, where human rights defenders face many challenges. In the most recent case, two of them were sentenced to prison for usurpation. This is linked to a general deterioration of the human rights situation in the south of Honduras linked to government policies such as charter cities or the Hour of the South development project.

The new attention on the Fonseca Gulf may bring further human rights violations.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-hora-del-sur-y-la-incertidumbre-de-su-llegada/>

<http://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-40957279>

Salvador Nasralla demands that the Supreme Court finally comes to a decision regarding the illegal reelection bid by JOH. Months back, the Supreme Court received constitutional challenges regarding the reelection and just three months before the election, they still haven't processed them.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/23/nasralla-denuncia-parsimonia-del-supremo-por-inscripcion-ilegal-de-joh/>

PINU congresswo/men warn of new plans by the National Party to change the organic law of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) which enables corrupt behavior, e.g. they intent to drop the requirement that pay rises of public officials have to be reported to the TSC.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/23/35211/>

Sociologist Víctor Meza looks back at the promises made in 2013 to immediately work on electoral reforms and the lack of it four years later. Even though the demand is years old, the TSE now claims that there is little time for implementing digital fingerprints for the coming general elections.

The private business lobby COHEP signed an agreement with the TSE to supervise the elections. The political opposition is very critical of this, given the close link between the governing party and COHEP. They deepened on each other, as the latter doesn't want the former to investigate its corruption and the National Party needs money for its campaign.

What is even more, COHEP's president told the public that they won't support any party that doesn't support the government's 20/20 development plan. That doesn't seem the best requisite for an independent observer...

Interestingly, two former president of COHEP are among the fiercest critiques of JOH.

This Sunday changes of domicile must be registered at the RNP for the coming elections. Nevertheless, various RNP offices are currently occupied by their employees demanding outstanding paychecks.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/08/honduras-elecciones-sin-reforma.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/23/queda-poco-tiempo-y-dinero-para-implementar-huella-dactilar-tse/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/23/cohep-firmo-convenio-veeduria-electoral-presidente-los-engancho-salvador-nasralla/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/23/presidente-de-empresarios-pide-a-hondurenos-que-apoyen-iniciativa-2020-de-joh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/23/cohep-se-suma-veeduria-electoral-empresarios-se-preparan-protestar-la-reeleccion-fraude/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/preocupa-al-tse-las-tomas-de-registros-civiles-a-pocos-dias-que-concluya-plazo-de-traslados.html>

The economist and former president of the Honduran Central Bank, Hug Noé Pino, calls the management of the Tasa de Seguridad unconstitutional, as it leads to the indebtedness of Honduras, something only Congress has the official mandate for.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/23/endeudamiento-por-tasa-de-seguridad-es-una-violacion-a-la-constitucion-de-la-republica/>

El Tiempo published an update on the discussion about the lowering of the punishable age for minors.

<http://tiempo.hn/edad-punible-y-menores-infractores/>

Criterio published the content of the Efficient Collaboration Bill proposed by the MACCIH.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/23/conozca-la-ley-colaboracion-eficaz/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the case of Óscar Elías López Muñoz. He was forcefully disappeared six years ago in front of the eyes of his daughter and his family still awaits a response by the Honduran state on what happened to him. Next Wednesday, on the International Day of the Disappeared, COFADEH will commemorate him and many others.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/seis-anos-sin-saber-donde-esta-oscar/>

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana warns that the Honduran state may soon face legal demands going into the millions for its legally unsound approach to confiscate goods.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/23/estado-de-honduras-se-expone-a-millonarias-demandas-por-ley-de-confiscacion-exfiscal-general/>

The sociologist Pablo Carías spoke with El Tiempo about the principal problems of the penitentiary system in Honduras, corruption and impunity.

<http://tiempo.hn/carceles-hondurenas-corrupcion/>

Reporteros de Investigación published an article on the importance of the Palmerola base for the US military.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/08/22/estados-unidos-coordina-acciones-militares-para-america-latina-desde-honduras/>

José Díaz, president of the Lawyers' College Honduras (CAH), demands a stop to the denigration of lawyers based on the cases they work, e.g. if they defend a presumed drug trafficker in court.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/23/presidente-de-abogados-dara-acompanamiento-a-colegas-vinculados-al-crimen/>

The labor union of the IHSS, Sitrahss, denounces that the IHSS' intervention committee is partially responsible for the public health

crisis for its failure to buy adequate pharmaceuticals.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/23/denuncian-que-interventores-del-ihss-compran-medicamentos-al-estilo-pulperia/>

The finance minister Wilfredo Cerrato concedes that Honduras' external debt reached 45% of GDP, but he doesn't see this as a problem - unlike the civil society organization FOSDEH.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/23/322751/>

Honduras signed two cooperation agreements as part of the state visit by Chile's president.

During her visit, Michelle Bachelet also spoke out in favor of the Alliance for Prosperity.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/honduras-y-chile-firman-convenios-que-afianzan-cooperaci%C3%B3n-ambiental-y-forestal>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hernandez-anuncia-mision-multipropositos-en-chile-para-fortalecer-educacion-y-salud.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/bachelet-dice-region-centroamericana-es-prioritaria-para-chile-y-reafirma-apoyo-al-plan-alianza.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/identidad-nacional/>

25/08/17

Journalists; UNAH; LGTBI; Military Police; National Party; Drug Trafficking; CCC; Firearms; (Re)Elections; Oppositional Alliance; Corruption; Extradition; Electric Energy; Penitentiary System; and When a President Forces You to Dance with Him

The director of El Libertador and his wife, Johnny José Lagos and Lurbin Yadira Cerrato, were attacked by unknown assailants last night. Their car was shot at and Lurbin Yadira Cerrato was injured by a bullet. According to Lagos' son, one attacker said: "Kill this ***".

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/24/atentan-director-periodico-libertador-esposa/>

<http://tiempo.hn/atentan-director-libertador-esposa-tegucigalpa/>

C-Libre denounces that UNAH authorities denied the judge deciding in the criminalization case against 19 students and a journalist access to the security camera footage of the protest. Therefore, the accusations by them remain without any substantial evidence.

At the same time, there is a campaign on social networks denigrating the students.

According to Edgardo Casaña, one of the members of Congress' mediating committee, everyone seems to agree on the departure of UNAH's dean Julieta Castellanos.

El Tiempo speaks of three possible candidates, among them the highly controversial former Education Minister who faces criminal charges, Marlon Escoto. He just recently felt the need to publicly approve the reelection bid by JOH.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/autoridades-de-la-unah-niegan-informaci%C3%B3n-de-evidencia-juez>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/protestas-en-la-unah-generan-campa%C3%B1a-de-estigma-en-redes-sociales>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/meu-aboga-por-un-gobierno-provisional-con-duraci%C3%B3n-de-un-%C3%B1o>

<http://tiempo.hn/trascienden-tres-postulantes-reemplazar-julieta-castellanos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/escoto-expresa-respaldo-a-candidatura-de-hernandez-y-reafirma-aspira-a-dirigir-la-unah.html>

According to Honduran LGTBI organizations, 270 members of their community have been murdered in the last decade and more than 90% of their cases rest in impunity. This year alone, 24 LGTBI people were assassinated.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1872-honduras-comunidad-lgtbi-la-violencia-sin-limites-y-la-impunidad-que-todo-se-traga-homofobia-y-autoritarismo>

Omar Rivera, the coordinator of the Association of a More Just Society (ASJ), claims that the Military Police filled a security gap in Honduras. This will most likely be used by JOH, who has promised on various occasions at the UN level to get rid of them, a promise he continues to break.

The Military Police is four years old.

In an almost Trumpian statement, the head of the Military Police praised his forces to have made insecure places safe again. When asked where these places are, he wouldn't give an answer, claiming not wanting to marginalize them. But in the same sentence, he adds that these places are known by everyone in the world.

The Defense Sub-Secretary, Fredy Díaz, claims that he is not aware of any illicit actions by members of the Armed Forces, even though some of its members just recently have been sentenced.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/sociedad-civil-la-polic%C3%ADa-militar-vino-llenar-un-vac%C3%ADo-en-materia-de-seguridad-ciudadana>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/08/24/policia-militar-celebra-iv-aniversario/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/24/para-no-marginar-jefe-militar-evita-revelar-donde-ya-se-puede-caminar-en-paz/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/24/subsecretario-de-defensa-dispuesto-a-dar-fe-de-la-pureza-de-las-ffaa/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/24/si-alguien-tiene-algo-haganmelo-saber-general-francisco-alvarez/>

The same organization, ASJ, gave the National Party center stage to present itself as a party interested in transparency...

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/partido-nacional-expuso-la-ruta-para-fortalecer-las-bases-ante-la-sociedad-civil>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/partido-nacional-demuestra-su-compromiso-en-tema-de-transparencia-reinaldo-sanchez.html>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/omar-rivera-insta-nacionalistas-depurar-planillas>

"InSight Crime has uncovered new details about a plea agreement between US federal prosecutors and Wilter Neptalí Blanco Ruíz, the alleged leader of one of Honduras' most notorious drug trafficking groups, raising questions about what information the fallen kingpin may provide to authorities."

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/honduran-kingpin-plea-agreement-may-have-damning-consequences>

Padre Melo, one of the heads behind the newly created Alignment against Continuity (CCC) spoke with El Pulso about the need for this new civil society body.

On the same occasion, i.e. the presentation of the CCC, El Pulso also

spoke with COFADEH's Bertha Olvia about the dire prospect for the coming general elections.

<http://elpulso.hn/ismael-moreno-parar-el-continuisimo-es-parar-el-modelo-neoliberal/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3842-%C2%BFde-qu%C3%A9-continuisimo-hablamos?-24-agosto-2017>

<http://elpulso.hn/entrevistada-a-bertha-oliva/>

InSight Crime published a five-part investigation into firearms trafficking in Honduras. Among their findings are, that the US "is the origin of close to half of the unregistered weapons seized in Honduras" and that the "legal framework on firearms control is contradictory and inconsistently applied".

<http://www.insightcrime.org/investigations/firearms-trafficking-in-honduras>

Oppositional politicians filed a complaint at the MP. They found that there were more registered voters in Santa Rita, Yoro, as people living there.

Libre congressman Rafael Alegría warns of the use by the National Party of the credentials of the "bonsai" parties. Six of them not even received 4000 votes, but they get over 200'000 credentials for the voting stations.

There are further accusations that the governing party is actively blocking the distribution of new identity cards for new voters.

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) held a forum in Tegucigalpa on democracy and the coming elections. In an interview with El Libertador, its coordinator Jennifer Erazo expressed her preoccupations about the transparency of the process.

TSE president David Matamoros Batson once more repeats that there is neither money nor time for the introduction of digital finger prints.

And while women's organization struggle to include their topics in the debates around the general elections, Honduran media outlet still feel the need to call out female politicians about their beauty...

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/24/santa-rita-yoro-mas-electores-habitantes-segun-tse-bartolo-fuentes/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/diputado-de-libre-denuncia-ante-el-mp-irregularidades-en-censo-electoral-de-santa-rita.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/24/denuncian-que-partidos-bonsai-abasteceran-220-mil-credenciales-al-partido-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/24/denuncian-que-el-partido-nacional-bloquea-entrega-de-identidades/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2409-fundacion-alemana-preocupada-por-reeleccion-y-transparencia-electoral>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-sin-recursos-implementar-huella-en-elecciones/>

The Oppositional Alliance against the Dictatorship published its 14 points plan which will be officially presented to the public on Monday.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/24/conozca-plan-gobierno-la-alianza-opositora-la-dictadura/>

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-conozca-a-las-bellas-candidatas-a-diputadas-que-participaran-en-las-generales/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1101878-468/fotos-as%C3%AD-visten-las-mujeres-m%C3%A1s-elegantes-involucradas-en-la-pol%C3%ADtica-de>

The former deputy attorney general, Yuri Melara, faces trial for falsifying public documents.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/24/brindan-medidas-sustitutivas-a-exfiscal-adjunto-acusado-por-estafa-continuada/>

A judge approved the extradition of the presumed drug trafficker Noé Montes Bobadilla to the US.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/24/juez-declara-lugar-extradicion-noe-montes-bobadilla/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/24/autorizan-extradicion-de-presunto-narcotraficante-a-ee-uu/>

The about to be created Energy Ministry will have a budget of some 110 million Lempiras for this fiscal years, half of it coming from donations.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/m%C3%A1s-de-100-millones-de-lempiras-ser%C3%A1-el-presupuesto-que-manejar%C3%A1-el-nuevo-ministerio-de>

Another 190 inmates were transferred from various regional prisons to the new El Pozo and La Tolva prisons.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/fuertes-operativos-para-trasladar-a-190-reos-de-carceles-de-el-progreso-la-ceiba-y-santa-barbara.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/23/alumnos-yoro-obligados-bailar-joh-puntos/>

26/08/17

HIDROCEP; Renewable Energies; Journalists; UNAH; Corruption; (Re)Elections; Economy; Penal Code; Femicide; Homicide Rate; National Police; and the Coup's Legacy

After various violent eviction by state and non-state forces of the peaceful protest camp against the HIDROCEP hydroelectric project, a dialogue was initiated. In a first signed agreement, it was decided that the project will stop for the time being and that a request will be send to the MP to withdraw the 17 cases of criminalization against human rights defenders. The dialogue took place with the presence of the representative of the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras, María Soledad Pazo.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3847-suspender-construccion-de-proyecto-hidroelctrico-sobre-r%C3%ADo-mezapa-es-parte-de-los-acuerdos-del-primer-dialogo>

The inhabitants of Villa de San Francisco, Francisco Morazán, opposed a renewable energy project by the company Tres Valles based on the generation of energy from biomass. They occupy part of the street and denounce that they weren't consulted.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3846-villa-de-san-francisco-resiste-a-mega-proyecto-de-la-azucarera-tres-valles>

Both C-Libre and COFADEH condemn the recent attack against the director of El Libertador and his wife on Thursday evening.

El Libertador lists further messages of solidarity with them.

The Honduran state and media outlets close to it, meanwhile, try to present it as a robbery. Nevertheless, Jhonny Lagos heard one of the assailants saying to the other: "It's him, kill this ***".

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/atentan-contra-director-de-el-libertador-y-su-esposa>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/es-el-mata-a-ese-hijo-de-puta/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2411-el-mundo-se-solidariza-con-el-libertador>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/25/policia-atribuye-director-libertador-fue-victima-robo/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1102259-466/secretar%C3%ADa-de-seguridad-atentado-contra-periodista-johny-lagos-y-esposa-fue-por>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/25/secretaria-de-seguridad-dice-que-atentado-contra-periodista-hondureno-fue-un-crimen-comun/>

UNAH's vice-dean Ajax Irías pretends that everything needed for resolving the crisis at the UNAH is already part of its Organic Law. Julieta Castellanos swore in two new members of the University Council and this in the middle of the crisis that among other things revolves around the missing participation of students in this governing body.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1102268-466/un-gobierno-interino-tomar%C3%ADa-las-riendas-para-dirigir-la-unah>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/rectora-de-la-unah-juramenta-nuevos-integrantes-al-consejo-universitario.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/25/juramentan-mas-miembros-del-consejo-universitario-de-la-unah/>

An investigation into the Road Fund brought to light that they worked with several companies active in money laundering.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/25/fondo-vial-reconoce-sutilmente-que-trabajo-con-empresas-lavadoras-de-activos/>

Nincy Perdomo calls out to politicians to respect the rights of children in the electoral campaign. El Pulso spoke with Rihanna Ferrera, one of the first trans women running for Congress in Honduras. The Clean Politics Unit will present a report to the TSC regarding irregularities in campaign spending by public officials. Salvador Nasralla announced new protests if there aren't any prospects of electoral reforms in the coming days. The National Party continues to present Libre as the main culprit for missing electoral reforms. Yesterday its congressman Antonio Rivera Callejas claimed that they would vote in favor of raising the number of TSE magistrate from three to five.

<http://elpulso.hn/menores-en-politica/>

<http://elpulso.hn/rihanna-ferrera/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/25/los-proximos-dias-no-reformas-electorales-llamar-la-gente-las-calles-salvador-nasralla/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/unidad-de-politica-limpia-entrego-al-tsc-lista-de-funcionarios-para-verificar-su-patrimonio.html>

Radio Progreso criticizes the economic policies of the JOH administration.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3844-amores-neoliberales-25-agosto-2017>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/para-aumentar-dos-miembros-al-tse-que-libre-convenza-a-los-demas-partidos-tono-rivera.html>

The Center for Women's Rights held a workshop on the impact of the reforms to the Penal Code to women's rights, e.g. the lowering or even disappearing of penalties for some crimes against women.

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/cual-sera-el-impacto-del-nuevo-codigo-penal-en-los-derechos-de-las-mujeres-en-honduras/>

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/ante-la-criminalizacion-mas-organizacion/>

Proceso Digital published an article highlighting the impunity and the

disrespect of the media in cases of femicide.

<http://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/impunidad-e-irrespeto-mediatico-marcan-crimes-contras-mujeres.html>

The Security Secretariat claims that the homicide rate dropped by 24% in the first eight months this year compared to 2016...

http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1102287-410/honduras-homicidios-fusina-muertes_violentas

A former member of the police force was found guilty yesterday for homicide. Another police agent was arrested for stealing from her colleagues.

<http://tiempo.hn/ex-policia-condenado-matar-ciudadano-tegucigalpa/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/capturan-una-agente-policial-asignada-al-centro-renacer-en-tamara>

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/world/coups-legacy-violence-corruption-honduras-endures>

28/08/17

Bajo Aguán; Hydroelectricity; Indigenous Peoples; UNAH; Corruption; National Party; (Re)Elections; Happiness; Penitentiary System; and GoT - Honduran Edition

Jaime Cabrera, Coordinator of the Agrarian Platform of the Aguán, denounces that the Armed Forces have surrounded campesino families at the Paso Aguán farm.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1876-ante-recuperacion-de-tierras-ejercito-a-la-caza-de-jovenes-campesinos-en-comunidad-de-panama-en-el-aguan>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the Sazagua Lenca community in La Paz. Three years after the arrival of the hydroelectric project CECA, the inhabitants feel betrayed by the company, which made many promises, but all they got was lack of water and contamination.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1875-lencas-de-sazagua-se-que-daron-sin-rio-y-con-promesas-incumplidas-por-hidroelectrica>

"Monitoring Indigenous Peoples' rights around the world may have just gotten a bit easier, thanks to a new tool called the Indigenous Navigator. The Navigator is an interactive watchdog that allows users to keep track of the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), outcomes from the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and key elements of the Sustainable Development Goals -- more than one-third of which are related to UNDRIP."

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/41734-indigenous-navigator-offers-new-way-to-monitor-indigenous-rights-worldwide>

While the mediating committee is expected to present possible solutions to the crisis at UNAH, their authorities continue to denigrate and criminalize the students. In a new effort, they filed legal charges against the students for supposedly stealing books and computers...

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/autoridades-denuncian-al-meu-ante-la-dpi-por-saqueos-a-libreria-de-la-unah.html>

Omar Riverva makes the link between what is currently happening in Guatemala and Honduras. He sees it as a warning sign for Honduran politicians running in the coming general elections. Salvador Nasralla doesn't believe that MACCIH will stand up to the

National Party in Honduras and investigate JOH.

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/38-politica-nacional/guatemala-es-ejemplo-para-politicos-hondurenos-que-financian-sus-campanas-con-recursos-de-origen-ilicito-omar-rivera.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/27/lo-guatemala-aviso-los-politicos-hondurenos-financian-campanas-recursos-ilicitos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/los-de-la-macch-no-tienen-los-dientes-para-atacar-a-los-de-arriba-solo-a-los-de-abajo-salvador-nasralla.html>

Criterio reports of National Party activist breaking the electoral law by hanging up posters before midnight.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/27/partido-nacional-violenta-ley-electoral-al-colocar-publicidad-tiempo-los-activistas-joh-tapizaron-desde-anoche-las-principales-ciudades-del-pais-propaganda-politica-redaccion-cri/>

Even though many RNP offices aren't currently open due to protests by their employees and occupations by political activist, its director discards the possibility that the period to change one's domicile will be prolonged.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/autoridades-del-rnp-descartan-prorroga-para-traslados-domiciliarios.html>

According to the World Happiness Report, Honduras has the least unhappy inhabitants among all Latin American countries except Haiti.

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-segundo-pais-mas-triste-america-latina/>

<http://worldhappiness.report/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/03/HR17.pdf>

Two more skeletons were found inside the Támara prison.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/encuentran-dos-osamentas-mas-en-modulo-de-la-penitenciaria-nacional.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/video-parodia-diputado-jorge-calix-usa-juego-de-tronos-en-contra-del-partido-nacional/>

29/08/17

Bajo Aguán; HIDROCEP; Tolupanes; UNAH; Tasa de Seguridad; IACtHR; TSC; FoE; Children; (Re)Elections; Opposition Alliance; Corruption; Labor Unions; Electric Energy; Renewable Energy

The Agrarian Platform of the Aguán had warned on Sunday, that they face an imminent threat by state and non-state security forces. Yesterday, they were attacked by private security guards and Edgardo Rodríguez suffered a gun wound. A lot of the attacked campesinxs are beneficiaries of special protection measures granted by the IACHR.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1877-atacan-movimiento-de-recuperacion-de-tierras-balas-contra-campesinos-en-el-aguan-dejan-primer-herido>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/plataforma-agraria-denuncia-nuevo-ataque-campesinado-en-el-aguan>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/guardias-de-seguridad-de-hieren-de-bala-a-campesino-en-recuperacion-de-tierra-en-el-aguan/>

The blog by MADJ published a portray of Albertina López, one of the strong woman behind the peaceful protest against the hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/08/28/El-campamento-es-mi-vida-Albertina-L%C3%B3pez>

MADJ wrote an open letter to the Attorney General, denouncing the impunity in the murder of the three indigenous Tolupanes, María Enriqueta Matute, Armando Fúnez Medina and Ricardo Soto Fúnez, in August 2013.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/08/28/4-a%C3%B1os-del-triple-asesinato-tolupan>

According to Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez, a transition government for the UNAH is likely. Proceso Digital even cites her as saying that it is the only solution. And just as a broken record, Julieta Castellanos once more accuses the students to be financed by third parties.

<http://tiempo.hn/doris-gutierrez-en-relacion-unah/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/diputada-gutierrez-mira-como-unica-solucion-un-gobierno-de-transicion-en-unah.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/meu-no-suelta-los-edificios-porque-les-reclaman-los-que-les-financiaron-senala-rectora-castellanos.html>

In a new report on the Tasa de Seguridad, ConfidencialHN writes that the JOH administration used almost 15% of the funds coming from the Tasa de Seguridad to build up the state intelligence service used to spy on "oppositional leaders, journalists and all that are hostile to the JOH administration".

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/28/joh-gasto-casi-dos-mil-millones-para-espiar-a-opositores/>

Two years ago, nine Honduran human rights organizations and CEJIL came together to form the Monitoring Table for Rulings by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. On September 13, they will present their work.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cumplimento-estatal-con-las-victimas-es-a-medias/>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez denounces the new reforms for the TSC presented in Congress lowering oversight of the use of public money. She makes a link to the recently approved reforms to the Penal Code, which lowered the penalties for corrupt officials.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/08/28/gutierrez-denuncia-cn-se-pretende-reformar-ley-del-tsc/>

Talking about Venezuela, JOH claims that in his traveling abroad he hasn't found a country with that many media outlets as Honduras, which must mean that there is widespread freedom of expression in Honduras... And of course, just minutes after he said that, the uncomfortable questions to him regarding the situation in Guatemala were censured.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/28/joh-afirma-que-en-honduras-hay-tolerancia-y-libre-expresion-cuando-abrira-globo-tv/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/28/censura-sincronizada-medios-callan-momento-incomodo-de-joh-sobre-el-papel-implacable-de-la-cicig/>

El Pulso speaks with Casa Alianza and Coiproden about the failure of the Honduran political system to put the problems of children center stage. Several Honduran human rights organizations try to promote the participation of the youth through their project "Youth for the Dialogue and Democracy in Honduras".

<http://elpulso.hn/mientras-los-ninos-no-voten-no-seran-prioridad-wilmer-vasquez/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/28/ciprodeh-le-da-seguimiento-curso-juvenil-democracia/>

According to Fosdeh's deputy director Ralph Flores, a main obstacle in guaranteeing transparent elections is the Secrecy Law. Nevertheless, the Clean Politics commissioners claim to be ready to stop the flow of illicit money into the electoral process. With the official start of the electoral campaign, the MACCIH reminds politicians about the obligations in the Clean Politics Bill. The reminder maybe already came to late, as the TSE announced that the National Party, the Liberal Party and UD all violated the law by hanging up electoral campaign material before the official start. The Clean Politics Bill sets limits to the use of campaign money. For example presidential candidate supposedly can only spend \$19.9 million. Criterio lists further the limits for mayors and congresswo/men, which depend on the department the candidate is running in. The National Party wants the OAS to certify the electoral census. The RNP estimates that there are some 250'000 new voters registered.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/28/ley-de-secretos-impedira-a-fiscalizadores-de-campana-saber-de-donde-proviene-el-dinero/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/28/fiscalizadores-de-campanas-prometen-castigos-por-ingreso-de-dinero-ilicito/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/28/la-maccih-recuerda-los-politicos-cumplimiento-la-ley-politica-limpia/>

<http://tiempo.hn/politicos-pagaran-propaganda/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/28/conozca-los-montos-financiamiento-las-campanas-politicas-acuerdo-al-nivel-electoral/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/partido-nacional-sugiere-que-sea-la-oea-la-que-certifique-el-censo-electoral.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/28/partido-nacional-solicita-al-tse-cancelar-contrato-mapa-soluciones/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/alrededor-de-200-mil-nuevos-votantes-habrian-solicitado-su-identidad.html>

The Opposition Alliance officially presented its program yesterday. Criterio highlights the following points: a new constitution, a CICIH and the derogation of both the privatizing body COALIANZA and the ZEDEs, i.e. Charter Cities.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/28/35453/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-oposicion-presenta-plan-gobierno-2018-2022/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/28/hombres-mujeres-honduras-ayudenme-derrotar-la-bestia-salvador-nasralla/>

Miguel Briceño, member of the Honduran Indignados Movement, announced a new March of the Torches for this Friday to retake the struggle against corruption to the streets of Honduras again. The MP demands nine years in prison for the former vice-president of the Judiciary Council, Teodoro Bonilla Euceda, who was found guilty of influence peddling.

<http://tiempo.hn/viernes-resurgira-marcha-de-las-antorchas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/28/indignados-piden-reactivar-marcha-de-las-antorchas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/28/ministerio-publico-pide-nueve-anos-reclusion-teodoro-bonilla/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/mp-pide-pena-maxima-inhabilitacion-y-multa-de-300-mil-lempiras-contra-teodoro-bonilla.html>

Honduran labor unions came together to create the Unitary Trade Union Institute of the Honduran Workers (ISUTH).

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/28/crean-instituto-sindical-unitario-los-trabajadores-honduras-isuth/>

On the first day of the official campaign, JOH announced that his government is about to implement an energy subsidy for Hondurans consuming less than 75 kWh. This is part of the recently announced Energy Secretariat.

<http://tiempo.hn/subsidio-factura-energia-para-mas-necesitados/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nueva-secretaria-de-energia-y-subsidio-para-los-mas-pobres-reconfirma-presidente-herandez.html>

Radio HRN reports on a new wind power project in San Marcos de Colón, Choluteca.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/construyen-parque-de-energ%C3%AD-e%C3%B3lica-en-el-sur-del-pa%C3%ADs>

30/08/17

COFADEH; Renewable Energy; Extractive Industries; Garífunas; Coup d'état; Relections; (Re)Elections; Women; National Party; US; Drug Trafficking; Extradition; Irregularities; Public Employees; Forced Displacement; and the Right to Defend Democracy

COFADEH commemorates today the National Day of the , which since 2011 is also the International Day of the Detained and Disappeared. COFADEH organized a so-called Memory Route which begins today at 7.30am at their offices in Tegucigalpa.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/un-recorrido-por-la-memoria-el-30-de-agosto-dia-nacional-del-detenido-desaparecido/>

On Saturday, Radio Progreso reported on the protest by inhabitants of Villa de San Francisco, Francisco Morazán, opposed to a renewable energy project by the company Tres Valles based on the generation of energy from biomass. Yesterday, the police and COBRAS special forces violently attacked them and arrested six protesters and a 14 year-old. The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders condemns the repression and criminalization. Libre congressman Rafael Alegría denounces that Congress' vice-president Antonio Rivera has thrown out a motion for a peaceful solution to the protest.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1879-brutal-represion-policial-contra-comunidad-que-se-opone-a-proyecto-electrico-que-traera-graves-problemas-ambientales>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-en-fuerte-represion-capturan-a-seis-ambientalistas-y-un-menor-de-edad/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/29/red-defensoras-derechos-humanos-condenan-ataque-pobladores-la-via-san-francisco/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/29/culpan-a-vicepresidente-del-parlamento-por-ocultar-solucion-a-crisis-en-villa-de-san-francisco/>

Radio Progreso reports on the role of women in defending their land against extractive industry projects.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3851-el-cuerpo-de-las-mujeres-el-primer-territorio-a-defender>

OFRANEH denounces new intents by the state, this time in the form of the Education Ministry, to take away their community land. The Education Ministry claims that the development project to rebuild schools by the

European Union demands that the land belongs to the state.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/08/29/insolita-presion-del-ministerio-de-educacion-para-desmembrar-titulos-comunitarios-garifunas/>

The Intercept publishes an investigation by Jake Johnston on the role of the Pentagon in the 2009 coup d'état in Honduras.

<https://theintercept.com/2017/08/29/honduras-coup-us-defense-department-center-hemispheric-defense-studies-chds/>

Criterio offers an overview of the movements which were recently formed (the Platform for Democracy; the Alignment against Continuity) or which come together once more (the March of the Torches) to oppose JOH's reelection and protest against corruption.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/29/sera-se-vuelven-encenderse-las-antorchas-honduras/>

The Clean Politics Bill favors the (still illegal) reelection campaign by JOH giving him the possibility to continue inaugurating new projects until 45 days before the elections.

The MP's Special Unit against Electoral Offences already received 99 complaints.

The TSE announced that by September 12 they hope to have chosen the company auditing the elections.

Luis Zelaya, meanwhile, denounces that the termination of the contract with the Mapa Soluciones company won't improve the transparency in the electoral process if the new company is forced to work with the same software and electronic system. The TSE claims that this is not the case. Javier Suazo compares the three government plans by the Opposition Alliance, the Liberal Party and the National Party regarding its view on state reform. According to him, all three are firmly anchored in a model of a centralized state and lack any vision for more decentralization and local development.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/29/ley-politica-limpia-permite-joh-continue-inaugurando-obras-la-prohibicion-sera-45-dias-las-elecciones/>

<http://tiempo.hn/delitos-electorales-en-honduras-2/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-senala-que-para-el-12-de-septiembre-tendran-la-empresa-que-auditara-las-elecciones.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/pl-denuncia-que-se-usara-mismo-sistema-de-mapa-soluciones-tse-contesta-no-hay-decision-todavia.html>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/187718>

Last week, several civil society organizations and social movements held a public event, where they presented the political agenda for women and feminists.

<http://www.cemh.org.hn/exitoso-lanzamiento-de-la-agenda-politica-de-las-mujeres-y-feministas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/movimientos-feministas-vigilaran-compromisos-de-presidenciables-con-problematika-de-mujeres.html>

El Pulso reports on the trial run by the National Party of the coming general elections. During this event, JOH announced the creation of the Defend the Vote Commission.

<http://elpulso.hn/cachurecos-listos-para-enfrentar-proceso-electoral/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/partido-nacional-reactiva-comision-de-defensa-del-voto.html>

The highest US representative in Honduras, Heide Fulton, once more

praises Honduras. This time for the special unit investigating violent deaths in the Aguán. She fails to mention that just days ago, another campesino was shot at and wounded by a private security guard and that the Honduran state continues to fail to protect the campesinxs with special protection status granted by the IACHR.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/estados-unidos-alaba-exhumaciones-para-esclarecer-caso-en-el-bajo-aguan.html>

"Yankel Rosenthal Coello—the former Minister of Investment of Honduras, president of Honduran soccer club C.D. Marathón, and a prominent businessman – pled guilty to an offense involving providing financial services to significant Honduran drug trafficker"

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-honduran-cabinet-official-pleads-guilty-manhattan-federal-court-money-laundering>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/29/35509/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/yankel-rosenthal-se-declara-culpable-en-corte-federal-de-eeuu.html>

Another presumed drug trafficker on the US' wish list, Arnulfo Fagot Máximo, was arrested yesterday. A judge will decide on his extradition.

<http://elpulso.hn/cae-tio-arnulfo/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/29/capturan-hondureno-solicitado-extradicion/>

El Heraldo reports on irregularities regarding the National Agriculture University and seized property by drug traffickers.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1103364-466/m%C3%A1s-de-medio-mill%C3%B3n-gasta-al-mes-la-una-en-bienes-incautados>

Some 10'000 employees of the Education Secretariat demand outstanding paychecks.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/08/honduras-mas-de-10-mil-empleados-de.html>

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, is currently in Honduras. He expressed his hope that Honduras approves the Forced Displacement Bill before November's elections.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-es-el-primer-pais-de-la-region-que-hablo-de-desplazamiento-forzado-filippo-grandi.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3850-nuestro-derecho-a-defender-la-democracia-29-agosto-2017>

31/08/17

Forceful Disappearance; UNAH; Bajo Aguán; Drug Trafficking; JOH; MACCIH; (Re)Elections; Homicide Rate; Armed Forces; Corruption; Penitentiary System; Impunity; Coup d'état; Gulf of Fonseca; and the Real Honduran Family

Honduras commemorated yesterday the National and International Day of the Victims of Forceful Disappearance. The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras emitted a press release "reaffirming its complete solidarity and support for victims of forceful disappearance, with their families, and all those accompanying them in their struggle for truth and justice." COFADEH organized a whole day around the topic, which included a protest outside of Congress.

See Attachment

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/protestas-se-desarrollan-en-el-marco-del-d%C3%AD-nacional-del-detenido-desaparecido>

The Constitutional Chamber rejected an application for Amparo asking to stop the harassment of students by police and military forces. The student movement MEU denounces that Julieta Castellanos, UNAH's dean, uses her private security forces to damage UNAH property and then accuse them of having done it. Congress presented their proposal to solve the crisis at the UNAH: to nominate an interim-dean and to hold student elections. The dean is supposed to take control on September 26 and stay in power until March 2018. The students didn't had their wish of a transition council fulfilled, but, according to Criterio, they gave a vote of confidence to the proposal. El Tiempo, meanwhile, presents a more skeptical view by the students, fearing that the criminalization continues and that even though they got rid of Julieta Castellanos, her cabinet still stays in place. The students announced a press conference today. Julieta Castellanos greeted the proposal, but not without blaming once more the students for the crisis at the UNAH. The teachers' association at UNAH, ADUNAH, denounces that UNAH authorities denied their representatives access to the session of the University Council.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/rechazan-recurso-para-impedir-acoso-policial-y-militar-a-estudiantes-de-la-unah/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/denuncian-que-seguridad-privada-de-julieta-intenta-desprestigiar-la-lucha-estudiantil/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/30/congreso-aprueba-dictamen-nombrar-rector-interino-la-unah-celebrar-elecciones-estudiantiles/>

<http://tiempo.hn/congreso-aprueba-dictamen-meu-no-esta-conforme/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/30/se-busque-realizar-proceso-elecciones-estudiantiles-vital-la-estabilidad-la-unah-julieta-castellanos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/estudiantes-acuerpan-dictamen-de-comision-parlamentaria-para-revertir-tesis-en-la-unah/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/castellanos-valora-respeto-a-autonomia-de-parte-del-cn-y-dice-del-meu-depende-reinicio-de-clases.html>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/autoridades-de-la-unah-niegan-acceso-sesiones-del-consejo-la-adunah>

The Agrarian Platform of the Aguán denounces a new wave of defamation and criminalization of the campesino families recuperating the Paso Aguán and Remolinos farms in Trujillo, Colon. This week, the Special Investigation Unit for Violent Deaths in the Bajo Aguán is conducting seven exhumations with the help of the US and Guatemalan experts in forensic anthropology.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/08/honduras-secretaria-de-seguridad-y-la.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/30/estados-unidos-guatemala-colaboran-exhumaciones-cadaveres-conflicto-agrario-aguan/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/exhuman-cuerpos-de-campesinos-ejecutados-por-paramilitares-en-el-bajo-aguan2/>

InSight Crime concludes an article on Yankel Rosenthal, who pleaded guilty in a US court to money laundering, the following way: "In addition, it is possible that the former member of President Hernández's cabinet [i.e. Yankel Rosenthal] could have information about other

corrupt actors in the current administration. A former top member of the Cachiros organization recently testified in US court that the president's brother, Tony Hernández, a congressman in Honduras who has been named a "person of interest" in a US investigation, had solicited a bribe from the drug trafficker. It may be that Yankel Rosenthal will find himself in a position to provide further details about such allegations."

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/honduras-ex-minister-rosenthal-admits-laundering-drug-money>

In an OpEd for Radio Progreso, Chaco de la Pitoreta denounces that teachers in El Progreso are pushed to participated in a weekend with their students at the so-called Actívate program by JOH. This represents a misuse of public education for political gains. At the same time, JOH to hold Health Fares to distribute pharmaceuticals to Hondurans.

JOH's Minister of the Presidency Ricardo Cardona, meanwhile, solemnly promises that they will comply with the Clean Politics Bill...

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/coberturaespecial/mision-regional-de-investigacion-y-denunciaaaa/item/3853-act%C3%ADvate-activa-la-violencia-en-la-educaci%C3%B3n>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/el-candidato-presidente-joh-pide-medicamentos-para-su-campana-reeleccionista/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/gobierno-hondureno-promete-cumplir-la-ley-de-politica-limpia.html>

Arturo Rendón Pineda comments on the MACCIH's refusal to investigate the reelection by JOH and its failures to link the IHSS corruption case with party financing by the National Party.

MACCIH's Efficient Collaboration Bill is still stuck in Congress. The coordinator of the Sentencing Tribunals of the Francisco Morazán department, Mario Díaz, emphasizes the importance of this bill and calls out to Congress to approve it.

Víctor Meza believes that is more reasonable to strengthen the MACCIH than to hope for a CICIH.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/30/la-maccih-no-se-metere-tema-la-reeleccion/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/solicitan-desengavetar-en-el-cn-la-ley-de-colaboraci%C3%B3n-eficaz>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/victor-meza-recuperar-la-institucionalidad-mas-que-fortalecerla-equivale-a-construir-la-democracia/>

The civil society coalition Observación N-26 presented its first report on the Honduran general elections. They highlighted among other things, the failure of political parties to present complete plans of government, irregular changes to the electoral process, less participation of women, missing guarantees for the participation of the LGBTBI community and a growing polarization.

Indira Mendoza fears that the violence against members of the LGBTBI community may even increase during the campaign.

According to UNAH's Violence Observatory, nine people dedicated to politics have been murdered so far this year.

The TSE continues to highlight the amount of observers for the coming elections, hoping that this would distract from its short-comings.

Caritas' director German Cáliz believes that the TSE is one of the main problems regarding Honduran elections. Its magistrate shouldn't be party representatives, but people respecting the Honduran constitution and laws.

Of the 99 filed complaints for electoral offenses, only three cases have been prosecuted.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/30/observacion-n-26-recomienda-dialogo-campanas-respeto-eviten-odio-proceso-electoral/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/coalicion-de-observacion-n-26-destaca-polarizacion-y-menor-participacion-de-mujeres.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/temen-violencia-contra-miembros-de-la-diversidad-sexual-durante-campana-politica/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/nueve-politicos-han-sido-asesinados-este-ano-electoral-informa-el-ov-unah.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-800-observadores-legitimaran-elecciones.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/caritas-solicita-el-respeto-al-estado-de-derecho-y-de-la-democracia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/honduras-tres-de-99-delitos-electorales-han-sido-judicializados/>

According to UNAH's Violence Observatory, the homicide rate in Honduras rose by 2.8% between 2015 and 2016.

The Honduran government, meanwhile, continues to claim that this year the homicide is supposed to fall by up to 25%. Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle explains which homicide rates really fell (e.g. of adult Maras or homicides directly linked to drug trafficking) and which rates didn't fall (e.g. for environmental defenders).

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/el-%C3%ADndice-de-homicidios-subi%C3%B3-un-28-en-el-2016-seg%C3%BA-datos-del-observatorio-de-la-violencia>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/30/violencia-politica-3er-aniversario-funebre-margarita/>

Two members of the Armed Forces were detained by ATIC and accused of homicide.

According to La Tribuna, they are responsible for the murder of two campesinos in 2015 and 2016.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/capturan-a-dos-militares-por-sicariato-y-trafico-de-armas-en-olancho.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/08/31/atic-captura-soldados-muerte-dos-campesinos/>

The new anti-corruption judges will start their work on September 11.

<http://tiempo.hn/juzgados-anticorrupcion-instalaran-11-septiembre/>

The former Attorney General, Edmundo Orellana, speaks out against those who try to use the crisis of the Honduran prison system as an excuse to privatize it.

Reacting to the recent findings of arms deposits in the Tamára prison, Migdonia Ayestas of the UNAH's Violence Observatory believes that the right question to ask is: What have the administrators of the prisons been doing?

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/para-vigilar-carceles-no-se-necesita-ayuda-internacional-segun-efiscal-orellana.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/piden-a-autoridades-menos-alardeo-y-mas-respuestas-por-armamento-encontrado-en-carcel/>

Honduras is among the countries with the highest impunity according to the 2017 Global Impunity Index (Índice Global de Impunidad - IGI) from the Center for Studies on Impunity and Justice (Centro de Estudios sobre Impunidad y Justicia - CESIJ) and the University of the Americas Puebla (Universidad de las Américas Puebla - UDLAP).

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/latin-america-scores-poorly-in-new-global-impunity-index>

<http://www.udlap.mx/cesij/files/IGI-2017.pdf>

Criterio picked up the newest article by Intercept on the link between the US and the Honduran coup d'état.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/08/30/investigacion-revela-nueva-informacion-papel-tuvo-ee-uu-golpe-militar-honduras-ano-2009/>

JOH and his Nicaraguan and El Salvadorian counterpart met in Managua to present their plan for the Gulf of Fonseca.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/presidente-hernandez-y-similares-de-nicaragua-y-el-salvador-ponen-en-marcha-plan-maestro-de>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/08/30/presidentes-centroamericanos-se-reunen-por-territorio-maritimo-comun/>

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