

01/10/17

UNAH; (Re)Elections; Drug Trafficking; Public Health; Corruption; Penal Code; Journalists; Toll System; But You Can't Say This

The newly elected UNAH interim dean, Francisco Herrera, continues to claim that there is nothing he can do against the criminalization of the students, hiding behind judicial independence.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/09/30/unah-se-desmarca-de-orden-de-captura-contr-a-estudiante-en-protesta/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/09/sigue-actuando-el-influyente-poder-de.html>

The EU ambassador told the TSE in a meeting that the EU's electoral observation mission intends to create confidence in the electoral process... El Pulso goes back to 2001 to start its explanation of why the newly approved way to vote in a continuous line is a step back. The Liberal Party announced a protest against the perceived illegal changes of domicile accepted by the TSE. CONADEH, meanwhile, demands that all candidates for a public office must show that they haven't violated human rights in the past.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/09/30/union-europea-quiere-crear-confianza-proceso-elecciones-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/el-voto-en-rama-continua-desnaturalizacion-de-los-avances-democraticos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/partido-liberal-anuncia-movilizacion-para-protestar-por-decisiones-del-tse.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/aspirantes-a-cargos-publicos-deben-demostrar-que-no-son-violadores-de-ddhh-conadeh.html>

According to information by the MP, the Cachiros laundered 143 million Lempiras with government contracts during the Pepe Lobo administration.

<http://tiempo.hn/cachiros-lavaron-contratos-con-estado/>

The Honduran Medical College (CMH) accuses JOH of using public funds for political campaigning rather than improving the failing public health system.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/09/30/gobierno-populismo-sistema-salud-olvido/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/colegio-m%C3%A9dico-en-emergencia-gobierno-hace-populismo-y-tiene-en-el-olvido-al-sistema-de>

El Pulso published the presentation held by the sociologist Leticia Salomón for the book "Controlling Corruption and Impunity in Honduras 2014-2018".

<http://elpulso.hn/la-corrupcion-y-la-impunidad-estudiados-como-fenomenos/>

El Tiempo reports on the recently approved articles of the Penal Code which directly violate freedom of expression. The article cites human rights defenders as well as a joint statement by the IACHR and OACNUDH expressing their preoccupation.

<http://tiempo.hn/derechos-humanos-violan-libertad-de-expresion-honduras/>

The Honduran German Andino won the Gabriel García Márquez 2017 Award for his work on the world of the Maras in Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/09/30/periodista-hondureno-gana-premio-gabriel-garcia-marquez-2017/>

<https://elpais.com/especiales/2016/el-habito-de-la-mordaza/>

The president of the privatizing body Coalianza, Miguel Ángel Gámez, announced that they will take over the toll collection from the San Pedro Sula municipality.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/09/30/coalianza-y-gobierno-de-honduras-van-por-el-peaje-de-sps/>

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<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3919-pero-eso-no-se-dice-30-septiembre-2017>

02/10/17

Journalists; (Re)Elections; IHSS; Evacuations; and the Ever Growing Amount of Remittances

UNESCO will hold a conference today in Tegucigalpa on security for journalists and the fight against impunity.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/seguridad-para-periodistas-en-agenda-de-la-unesco-esta-semana>

Omar Rivera demands that the Clean Politics Unit prioritize the investigation into candidates who have been mentioned in the past for supposedly having links to "corruption networks and criminal structures". Libre congressman and lawyer Jari Dixon announced that the Opposition Alliance's activists are investigating the official TSE electoral census believing it to contain many deceased Hondurans.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/10/01/omar-rivera-volarles-ojo-los-candidatos-narcos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/01/urge-conformar-bloque-institucional-candidatos-nexos-al-crimen-organizado/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/como-desproporcional-califica-el-censo-electoral-el-diputado-jari-dixon.html>

Two days after the MACCIH, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) also announces that they continue to follow various lines of investigation into the IHSS corruption case.

ATIC claims that they know in which countries the Hondurans with open arrest warrants for the IHSS case live. At the same time, ATIC' director Ricardo Castro laments that they can't be arrested because Honduras doesn't have an extradition agreement with these countries.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-espera-salgan-a-relucir-nombres-de-otros-politicos-ligados-al-descalabro-del-ihss.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/01/ausencia-convenios-extradicion-impide-captura-involucrados-robo-al-ihss/>

Copeco emitted a red alert for different communities around the Ulúa River in the north of Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/01/decretan-alerta-roja-para-municipio-aledanos-a-ribera-del-rio-ulua/>

<http://tiempo.hn/arenal-y-olanchito-intibuca-lluvias/>

Honduras received over \$3.2 billion in remittances up to September 22. It is estimated that the total amount this year will be 10% higher than in 2016.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/diaspora-hondurena-ha-enviado-3-mil-216-millones-en-remesas-este-2017.html>

03/10/17

HRDs; Journalists; Secrecy Law; Int. Delegations; IHSS; (Re)Elections; Transport Sector; MACCIH; Armed Forces; Economy; Extradition; and No Break for God

Bertha Oliva, general coordinator of COFADEH, is currently in Europe, where she will participate tomorrow and on Thursday at a conference in Madrid about the criminalization of human rights defenders in Latin America. The days before, she has been in the Basque Country presenting the bleak human rights situation in Honduras to state and non-state actors.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-gobierno-carece-de-una-politica-a-favor-de-los-ddhh-bertha-oliva/>

C-Libre's director Edy Tabora fears that the recent legal changes (Penal Code) will further deteriorate the situation of journalists in Honduras. Tabora participated with other national and international organizations at the forum by UNESCO to discuss plans to stop attacks against freedom of expression in Honduras.

Among the participants was the Latin American director of Reporters without Borders, Emmanuel Colombié.

At the same event, the president of the Association of Journalists Honduras (CPH), Dagoberto Rodríguez, demanded the creation of a safe environment for journalists. At the same time, board members of his institution have threatened journalists for investigating corruption allegations at the pension fund for journalists, IPP.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/02/se-esta-generando-una-grave-situacion-juridica-los-periodistas-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/02/persecucion-fisica-y-juridica-contra-periodistas-en-honduras-alerta-a-la-unesco/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/02/organismos-internacionales-periodistas-discuten-plan-frenar-crimenes-ataques-libertad-expresion-honduras/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1912-llega-a-honduras-el-director-de-rsf-para-america-latina-para-hablar-con-periodistas-sobre-el-estado-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-en-el-pais>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/unesco-propone-plan-de-proteccion-de-periodistas-ante-asesinatos-en-honduras>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/02/directivos-del-cph-urgen-seguridad-periodistas-investigan-colegas-pedir-informacion-pensiones/>

One important step to improve the situation of journalists would be the derogation of the Secrecy Law, which the MACCIH demanded on several occasions and now Amnesty International also demands.

Mario Diaz, coordinator of the judicial branch courts, agrees, calling the law a cause of impunity.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/la-organizacion-amnistia-internacional-sugiere-derogar-ley-de-secreto-de-estado>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-mas-noticias/la-ley-de-secretos-debe-ser-derogada-para-generar-transparencia-mario-diaz.html>

Both Pasos de Animal Grande and Defensores en Línea took up the report by the Honduras Forum Switzerland published after an eight-day visit to Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1913-en-un-informe-de-su-tercer-mision-a-honduras-la-reeleccion-del-joh-es-preocupante-para-el-foro-honduras-suiza>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/foro-honduras-suiza-preocupada-por-estigmatizacion-difamacion-y-criminalizacion-de-los-defensores-de-derechos-humanos/>

According to the head of investigation at the CNA, they hope to reveal soon further names of politicians linked to the IHSS corruption scandal.

<http://tiempo.hn/cna-espera-revelar-nombres-otros-politicos-ligados-al-desfalco-del-ihss/>

After being criticized by the political opposition, the TSE now concedes that there is no "perfect [electoral] census". But criticism also comes from the former TSE magistrate Augusto Aguilar. According to the Clean Politics Unit, still less than a fifth of all candidates complied with the requisite to open a bank account for their electoral spending. Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle lays bare the failures of the JOH administration these last four years, be in fighting corruption, tackling extreme poverty or even improving the economic situation.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/no-hay-censo-perfecto-reconoce-el-tse-que-lo-atribuye-a-legislacion-desfasada.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/problema-del-censo-electoral-es-historico-reconoce-exmagistrado-del-tse.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/entrega-del-censo-electoral/>

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-solo-unos-700-aspirantes-politicos-abierto-cuentas-campana/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/02/miseria-corrupcion-politica-fraude-lo-bueno-seguir/>

Radio Progreso criticizes a recently approved tax break for the transport sector as a last-minute vote winning tool by the National Party.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3921-exoneracion-a-transportistas-es-una-medida-para-ganar-votos-en-tiempos-electorales-afirma-diputada>

Mario Díaz, the coordinator of the judicial branch courts, believes that Honduras sent a bad message by not approving the MACCIH's Efficient Collaboration Bill. According to him, this can be interpreted as an unwillingness to fight corruption. The journalist Telma Mejía presents her analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the MACCIH. She underlines the need of a strong alliance with Honduran citizens, even more after denigrating attacks by the Honduran elites.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/de-no-ser-aprobada-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz-honduras-quedar-muy-mal-nivel-internacional>

<http://elpulso.hn/valoraciones-de-la-maccih-fortalezas-y-debilidades/>

According to ConfidencialHN, the Honduran government bought a new ship for the Naval Forces from the Colombian company Cotecmar for \$13.5 million.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/02/mientras-hay-carencias-en-honduras-joh-gasta-13-millones-en-nuevo-barco-militar/>

El Pulso takes up and expands the recent criticism of the uncritical reception of Moody's decision to upgrade Honduras from B2 to B1 regarding financial risk.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-riesgo-de-las-calificadoras-internacionales/>

According to the Security Minister Julián Pacheco Tinoco there are six to eight (doesn't even he know...?) open arrest warrants for Hondurans wanted by the US.

<http://tiempo.hn/julian-pacheco-ocho-ordenes/>

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<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/02/epicfail-politico-nacionalista-creo-que-dios-hizo-el-mundo-en-siete-dias-y-no-en-seis/>

04/10/17

Renewable Energy; HRDs and UNAH; ZEDEs; Journalists; HR; Corruption; (Re)Elections; Political Opposition; Peace; and the Smiling General

ConexiHon reports on the unequal treatment by the Honduran judicial system of local inhabitants denouncing the activities of a solar energy company (their legal complaints are ignored) and of the criminalization of the inhabitants by the company (the judicial system takes it up and brings the human rights defenders to court).

The article writes about the situation around the municipality of Namasique, Choluteca, where several communities protest against the imposition of a solar power plant Los Prados by the company Scatec Solar. 14 local human rights defenders are accused of coercion. In a initial audience, a judge decided that they can await trial with alternative measures to imprisonment, i.e. they have to sign in regularly at the court house and are not allowed to participate in protest. Furthermore, the judge decided to dispatch Military Police agents for the "protection" of the company for six months. One of the defendants lawyers denounces that the judge has become an ally of the company rather than an independent body.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/justicia-desigual-para-comunidades-que-denuncian-abusos-de-promotores-de-energia-solar>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/la-justicia-del-sur-se-arrodilla-ante-empresarios-de-energia-y-criminaliza-defensores>

One of the three men responsible for cleaning up the police force as part of the purging committee, the evangelical priest Alberto Solorzano claims against all evidence that the police officials and agents who attacked human rights defenders and students on September 8 had only reacted to being attacked themselves...

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/03/policias-respondieron-una-agresion-pastor-solorzano/>

The minister of Economic Development, Arnaldo Castillo, announces that in November the latest international companies can settle in the ZEDEs. At the same time, it still hasn't been made public where they are supposed to be.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/empresas-interesadas-en-zedes-haran-millonaria-inversion-en-honduras.html>

Reporters without Borders, whose Latin American director Emmanuel Colombié is currently in Honduras, organized a forum with Honduran journalists about the criminalization of their profession and the threats they receive. The two journalists Ariel D´Vicente and Jairo López speak about the difficult situation in the south of Honduras. Reporters without Borders demands the derogation of all recently approved laws violating freedom of expression as well as a stop to the criminalization of journalists.

A day before, UNESCO also had organized an event with Honduran journalists voicing the same demands.

The Association of Journalists Honduras (CPH), meanwhile, awaits a Supreme Court decision regarding their constitutional challenge against the Article 335B of the Penal Code.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/03/periodistas-choluteca-relatan-estan-siendo-criminalizados-amenazados-video/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/03/reporteros-sin-fronteras-pide-al-gobierno-honduras-frenar-ataques-la-prensa/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/03/honduras-los-paises-mas-riesgosos-ejercer-periodismo-reporteros-sin-fronteras/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/10/honduras-gremio-periodistico-espera-que.html>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1915-con-apoyo-de-la-unesco-se-inicia-el-camino-para-un-plan-de-accion-de-seguridad-para-periodistas-y-contra-la-impunidad-en-honduras>

On her recent visit to Honduras, Marcia Aguiluz of CEJIL spoke with Defensores en Línea about the human rights situation in Honduras and the many challenges human rights defenders face.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-desafios-que-no-supera-honduras-desde-el-golpe-de-estado/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) stays in the headlines. Yesterday, it announced five high profile corruption investigations at the IHHS, the Health as well as the Education Secretariat, and ENEE.

<http://tiempo.hn/el-consejo-nacional-anticorrupcion-investiga/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/denuncias-de-cinco-nuevos-casos-de-impacto-anuncia-el-cna.html>

The Liberal Party will present a legal challenge against the electoral census. The CNA invites the presidential candidates to sign a manifest against corruption.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/partido-liberal-anuncia-que-impugnara-el-censo-nacional-electoral.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/cna-invita-a-presidenciables-a-firmar-manifiesto-morazanico-contra-la-corrupcion.html>

Manuel Zelaya, the coordinator of the Opposition Alliance, would like to see the Liberal presidential candidate Lusi Zelaya join forces with them to stop the reelection of JOH and guarantee transparent elections.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/con-luis-zelaya-en-la-alianza-seriamos-el-70-y-el-pn-no-tendria-opciones-de-ganar-mel.html>

On October 13, women human rights defenders will meet in Honduras as part of the campaign "1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-sera-sede-del-encuentro-1000-mujeres-para-el-premio-nobel-de-la-paz/>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3922-la-risa-del-general>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/03/joh-pretende-compararse-con-morazan-y-los-dificiles-tiempos-que-les-ha-tocado-vivir/>

05/10/17

Berta - US; Journalists; Tolupanes; MACCIH; LGTBI; (Re)Elections; Women's Rights; Insecurity; Education; and the True Meaning of the "Semana Morazánica"

Silvio Carillo makes the link between the impunity in Berta Cáceres case and US policy "supporting a corrupt government charged with human rights

abuses (and with documented ties to drug traffickers) that is aggressively curbing freedom of expression, speech, and press."

<http://sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/blog/2017/10/are-bay-area-reps-helping-honduras-get-away-murder>

In Santa Rosa de Copán, the journalist Osmín España suffered an attack by unknown assailants. He was shot at various times and one bullet hit his head leading to brain death.

According to Proceso Digital, the doctors told his family that he won't survive. This is already the fourth murder of a journalist in Honduras this year and the 72nd since 2001. 66 of the cases rest in impunity.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/04/ejecutan-a-comunicador-en-la-zona-occidental-de-honduras1/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/matan-a-comunicador-social-en-santa-rosa-de-copan.html>

The indigenous Tolupanes in Yoro have their first community radio called Radio Tepemechín.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3925-en-victoria-yoro-surca-los-aires-la-primera-radio-comunitaria-en-tribus-tolupanas>

El Pulso investigates why National congresswo/men are afraid of approving the MACCIH's Efficient Collaboration Bill, a bill needed to "disentangle criminal networks, and to find out how they operate, who takes part in them, where profits are made, and who protects them."

<http://elpulso.hn/la-ley-que-los-politicos-temen-aprobar/>

Fernando Reyes published an article on the resilience of the LGTBI community in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/resiliencia-trans-en-resistencia-retos-para-paises-con-guerras-no-declaradas/>

After Salvador Nasralla, it is the turn of the Liberal presidential candidate Luis Zelaya to travel to Washington DC. He met with OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro and the State Department. TSE president David Matamoros Batson told the press that they won't allow "anti-fraud commandos" during the general elections. The Opposition Alliance had previously announced that they will have their activists on the look out for electoral fraud. At the same time, the TSE announced that they will continue to use the software by Mapa Soluciones to transfer electoral data. After protests by the political opposition for possible links between the company and the National Party, the TSE had canceled the contract with it. Nevertheless, the TSE continues to claim that the elections will be transparent given the 15'000 electoral observer they expect to be in Honduras at that time.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/04/luis-zelaya-denuncia-washington-las-ilegalidades-del-partido-nacional/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2454-luis-zelaya-pacta-con-oea-ampliar-vigencia-y-facultades-de-maccih>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/04/no-permitir-los-comandos-antifraude-david-matamoros/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2453-tse-usara-el-mismo-sistema-operativo-de-mapa-soluciones-en-proximas-elecciones>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/ente-electoral-hondureno-espera-15-mil-400-observadores-en-generales.html>

Radio Progreso reports on the Polétika initiative by various women and feminist organization together with CESPAD. They monitor the speeches of the presidential candidates and voice their policy demands.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/aunque-algunos-quieran-desacreditar-el-proceso-electoral-este-sera-el-mas-observado-de-la-historia-tse.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3924-plataforma-pol%C3%A9tica-vigila-y-demanda-compromiso-de-candidatos-presidenciales-con-los-derechos-de-la-mujer>

"Vanderbilt University's Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) and the Inter-American Dialogue presented a report titled "Beneath the Violence" (...) Based on surveys carried out in Central America, the authors created a "crime avoidance behavior index" that ranked countries according to the degree to which respondents said fears of crime had affected their daily lives.

The index showed that citizens in Honduras felt most impacted by insecurity throughout the region..."

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/how-fear-crime-central-america-impacts-daily-life-contributes-migration-report>

The Honduran government contemplates reactivating the police school unit formed by the previous president Pepe Lobo.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1114069-466/educaci%C3%B3n-y-seguridad-analizan-reactivaci%C3%B3n-de-la-polic%C3%ADa-escolar-en-honduras>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3923-semana-moraz%C3%A1nica-04-octubre-2017>

06/10/17

Femicide; HRDs; Journalists; Mining; (Re)Elections; Corruption; IHSS

According to journalist Giorgio Trucchi, violence against women has reached an epidemic level in Honduras: there are more than 20'000 cases of domestic violence per year, every 17 hours a woman is murdered (95% of the cases rest in impunity) and every day a woman disappears.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/188473>

PEN Honduras demanded in a public statement the prosecution of police officials involved in the attacks on students and human rights defenders on September 8.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1916-pen-honduras-demanda-acciones-prontas-al-mp-casi-un-mes-de-impunidad-para-mandos-policiales-que-torturaron-a-defensores-de-derechos-humanos>

The journalist Osmin España, who was attacked on Wednesday, died yesterday. The family of El Tiempo El Tiempo Ramón Cerritos, suffered harassment by the police as they entered their house, without a warrant, claiming that they were searching weapons.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/periodista-no-sobrevive-atentado-criminal>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/copan-tras-atentado-fallece-comunicador-social-osmin-espana/>

<http://tiempo.hn/policias-angustia-familia-fotografo/>

Martín Cáliz reports on mining in Honduras by looking at the communities in the Valle de Siria, where seven years after the closure of a mine people and nature still suffer from its consequences.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/10/05/5282/>

The Liberal Party presents documents which according to them prove that the electoral census has not been purged and that illegal changes of domicile were registered favoring the National Party. Radio Progreso lists eight things one has to know about the general elections in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/liberales-amenazan-con-tomarse-las-calles/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3926-ocho-claves-del-proceso-electoral-05-octubre-2017>

The sentencing of Alfredo Hawitt Banegas in the FIFA corruption scandal was postponed to March 14, 2018.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/05/sentencia-alfredo-hawitt-sera-14-marzo-del-2018/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alfredo-hawitt-sentencia-hasta-marzo-del-2018/>

Sandra Maribel Sánchez, journalist at Radio Progreso, demanded based on the Law of Access to Public Information about the financial flows at the IHSS. German Leitzelar, member of the intervention committee, got intertwined in excuses of why this isn't possible.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/05/periodista-pone-ridiculo-german-leitzelar/>

07/10/17

Berta - Impunity; HRDs; Bajo Aguán; Hydroelectricity; Journalists; National Police; Penitentiary System; Lempiras; and Honduras Inc.

The Mesoamerican Initiative by Women Human Rights Defenders (IM-Defensoras) published an open letter together with Honduran human rights organizations and signed by 163 regional and international human rights organizations to denounce the ongoing impunity in the case of Berta Cáceres and how since then the situation for human rights defenders in Honduras has become even worse.

<http://movimientom4.org/2017/10/se-agrava-situacion-de-represion-y-criminalizacion-contra-movimientos-sociales-organizaciones-y-mujeres-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

According to Amnesty International, 437 human rights defenders have been murdered in the last two years in 22 countries.

<http://movimientom4.org/2017/10/asesinados-437-ambientalistas-y-activistas-proderechos-humanos-en-dos-anos/>

Juan Moncada y Santos Torres, two campesinxs from the Bajo Aguán, came to the capital to denounce the murder of José Alfredo Rodríguez on September 20.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/militarismo-falta-de-dialogo-y-orfandad-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

200 days ago, the inhabitants in Pajuiles, Atlántida, decided to start a protest camp against the planned hydroelectric dam by the company HIDROCEP. They have suffered criminalization, harassment and repression, nevertheless, they continue to resist peacefully.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3931-pajuiles-entrega-generosa-de-amor-en-defensa-del-agua>

Reporteros de Investigación published a portrait of journalist and human rights defender Dina Meza followed by an interview with her.

The MP announced that the Special Prosecutor for Crimes against Life will coordinate the investigation of the murdered journalist Osmín España.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/10/06/dina-meza-en-los-zapatos-de-las-victimas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/06/mp-coordina-equipo-especial-esclarecer-crimen-del-periodista-osmin-espana/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/mp-coordina-equipo-especial-para-esclarecer-crimen-de-comunicador-social.html>

A group containing current and purged police agents were arrested for kidnapping a five-year old in Cortés.

<http://tiempo.hn/arrestan-secuestro-miembros-activos-depurados-la-policia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/capturan-a-policia-activo-y-a-dos-exagentes-vinculados-a-banda-de-secuestradores-en-santa-barbara.html>

El Pulso reports on the Honduran penitentiary system focusing on the control of some powerful inmates over the situation inside the prison walls and the tacit agreement by prison authorities and the government.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-gobierno-compartido-de-las-carceles-de-honduras/>

At the end of this month, the Honduran Central Bank will decide if it replaces the 1, 2 and 5 Lempiras bill with coins.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1114548-466/a-finales-de-octubre-se-sabr%C3%A1-si-desaparecen-billetes-de-1-2>

In an interview with Radio Progreso, the political analyst and former judge Ramón Barrios explains how under eight year of JOH (four years as the president of Congress and another four years as president), Honduras has been privatized.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3932-honduras-es-menos-gobierno-p%C3%BAblico-y-m%C3%A1s-una-honduras-sa-asegura-analista-ram%C3%B3n-barrios>

08/10/17

Berta - Father; Drug Trafficking; (Re)Elections; and One Year of Resisting Toll Booths

Several media outlets report that the father of Berta Cáceres was attacked and suffered a gun wound in Marcala, La Paz. According to Berta's family, he is only the biological father, but never played a role in her life.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/07/atentan-padre-bertha-caceres/>

<http://tiempo.hn/ultima-hora-atentan-padre-bertha-caceres/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1114883-466/padre-de-bertha-c%C3%A1ceres-result%C3%B3-herido-en-un-intento-de-robo-en>

The New York Times published a in-depth article on the Los Cachiros drug cartel and its leader Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga, who later on became an informant for the DEA. "Today, four years after Mr. Rivera's clandestine cooperation began, federal prosecutors in Manhattan have with his help charged seven police officers from Honduras's national force, along with the son of the country's former president and several members of a prominent Honduran banking family. The evidence, a prosecutor said at a hearing on Sept. 5, showed nothing short of "state-sponsored drug trafficking." (...) Concerned about the possibility of extradition to the United States, Mr. Rivera said they paid more than \$400,000 in bribes to President Porfirio Lobo, before and after his

November 2009 election. At President Lobo's home in early 2010, Mr. Rivera received the assurance he wanted."

Criterio published a Spanish version of the article.

Luis Zelaya demanded an investigation into the links between JOH, Pepe Lobo and drug trafficking.

As the article made headlines in Honduras, the JOH administration published a press release claiming that Los Cachiros want to discredit JOH and that the claims linking the National Party to drug trafficking are false.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/06/world/americas/after-78-killings-a-honduran-drug-lord-rivera-partners-with-us.html?emc=eta1>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/07/dinero-los-cachiros-pudo-haber-financiado-campana-joh-new-york-times/>

<http://elpulso.hn/bano-sangre-cachiros/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/07/luis-zelaya-pide-al-ministerio-publico-investigue-joh-pepe-lobo-nexos-narcotrafico/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/07/los-cachiros-recurrido-insinuaciones-falsas-buscan-involucrar-desacreditar-joh-casa-presidencial/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-detalla-sus-acciones-contra-el-crimen-a-partir-de-articulo-de-the-new-york-times.html>

Salvador Nasralla claims that Dan Jackson from the US State Department gave him the idea to have the Honduran elections postpone to implement the necessary electoral reforms.

The TSE announced to investigate various mayors running in the general elections for failing to open a bank account for their campaign funds.

The TSE also announced that some 50'000 Hondurans will be able to cast their vote in the US.

<http://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-posponer-elecciones-funcionario-eua/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/10/06/investigacion-alcaldes-no-tienen-cuentas-bancarias/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/unos-50-mil-hondurenos-estan-aptos-para-votar-en-eeuu-segun-el-tse.html>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3934-con-acto-pol%C3%ADtico-cultural-celebran-primer-a%C3%B1o-de-lucha-contra-peajes-en-honduras>

09/10/17

Berta - Father; (Re)Elections; National Police

The Security Secretariat emitted a press release regarding the attack against the biological father of Berta Cáceres. According to them, they apprehended a minor accusing him of aggravated assault.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/08/autoridades-aseguran-que-un-menor-ataco-al-padre-de-berta-caceres1/>

The TSE will announce with which company they replace the controversial Mapa Soluciones to transmit the electoral results.

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-anunciara-esta-semana-empresa-reemplazara-mapa-soluciones/>

Proceso Digital reports that JOH will approve today the new Organic Law for the police as well as the Police Career Bill.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-hernandez-sancionara-este-lunes-la-nueva-ley-organica-de-la-policia.html>

10/10/17

UNAH; Drug Trafficking; Journalists; Forced Displacement; (Re)Elections; Youth; JOH; Tasa de Seguridad; Corruption; Penal Code; Security; Renewable Energy; and Democracy or Dictatorship

The former UNAH dean Juan Almendarez Bonilla emphasizes that the most urgent task at UNAH at the moment is to withdraw the criminal charges against the criminalized students.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/juan-almendares-ninguna-universidad-del-mundo-ha-criminalizado-estudiantes-como-la-unah>

The New York Times article about the Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga claims that JOH also accepted bribes in 2013 continues to make headlines. InSight Crime also took it up, concluding that "[t]he accusations against Hernández remain unofficial at this stage, and the president is not yet facing any public investigations either at home or abroad. Still, the reported audio recording could further tarnish Hernández' image. In March, Rivera Maradiaga testified in a US court to having personally met and attempted to bribe the current president's brother Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández, who is a person of interest in a US investigation."

Ebal Díaz, the presidential assessor, speaks of a paid campaign against JOH.

The former president Pepe Lobo is also prominently mentioned in the article. He published an open letter yesterday, denying any contact with Los Cachiros or other drug trafficking groups.

The business lobby organization Cohep tries to talk down the content of the article.

Based on a scientific article in the Journal of Latin American Geography, El Pulso looks at the role of drug trafficking in rural economies.

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/honduran-president-denies-bribery-allegations-drug-trafficker>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/09/gobierno-y-empresa-privada-cierran-filas-sobre-acusaciones-de-periodico-estadounidense1/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/09/expresidente-porfirio-lobo-vuelve-negar-relaciones-los-cachiros-contratos-gobierno/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/09/vicepresidente-empresarios-descalifica-publicacion-the-new-york-times/>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-economia-del-narcotrafico-en-las-economias-rurales/>

The journalist Issac Calix denounces that pressure from the mayor of Roatán led to the cancellation of his TV program.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/periodista-denuncia-que-por-presiones-de-alcalde-municipal-le-cancelaron-su-espacio>

Defensores en Línea reports on the fear of 44 families in Danlí of being displaced from the land they have lived on for at least 14 years.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/danli-al-menos-50-ninos-y-sus-familias-temen-quedar-sin-hogar/>

The Opposition Alliance denounces that the controversial company Mapa Soluciones was replaced only at the last minute and they still don't know the name of the new company.

There are still 700'000 Hondurans who lack an identity card to participate in the coming general elections. The RNP claims that they will be printed and distributed on time.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/alianza-tambien-critica-contratacion-de-empresa-sustituta-de-mapa-soluciones.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/el-rnp-anuncia-entrega-de-700-mil-identidades-mediante-brigadas-regionales.html>

Young Hondurans supported by four NGOs will present on October 20 the Youth's Legislative Agenda. It is intended to serve for the newly elected Congress in 2018 to prioritize certain legislative processes important to the younger generation.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2457-juventud-hondurena-exige-inclusion-en-agenda-legislativa-2018>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/09/jovenes-honduras-lanzaran-propuesta-agenda-legislativa/>

JOH presented the seven pillars of his plan for government. During the presentation he attacked both the Opposition Alliance and the Liberal Party. Among other things, he told the audience that they are opposed to the Military Police, but he felt to mention that his government himself promised on the international level to withdraw them from the streets. His government also presented the plan Honduras 20/20 to the Latin American business lobby CEAL.

The plan's executive director Peter Feming said during the presentation that they also need the help of the media. They should stop reporting about the bad things happening in Honduras, but rather concentrate on the good things...

At the same this, the government admits that Honduras hasn't the qualified labor force that it is needed to put into action the plan 20/20.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/09/virulento-mensaje-joh-presenta-los-siete-pilares-plan-gobierno/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1115420-508/juan-orlando-hernandez-presenta-siete-pilares-de-su-plan-de-gobierno-2018-2022>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/exponen-programa-honduras-20-20-a-inversionistas-del-triangulo-norte.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/09/piden-a-medios-de-comunicacion-hacer-a-un-lado-la-violencia-y-empezar-a-promover-lo-bueno/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/09/neoliberalismo-vienen-crudas-reformas-para-que-honduras-implemente-plan-202011/>

JOH presents the use of the tasa de seguridad as primordial to fight crime in Honduras even though that it had devastating financial repercussions on health and education spending. He then claims that Honduras had great success in reducing crime and that his partners in the US told him that what is happening in Honduras "is almost a miracle"...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/09/joh-gracias-al-tason-de-seguridad-honduras-ya-no-es-el-pais-mas-violento-del-mundo/>

The Honduran chapter of Transparency International presented yesterday its country report.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-56-de-los-hondurenos-pago-sobornos-en-tribunales-segun-informe-de-ti.html>

According to Cohep's executive director Armando Urtecho, some reforms in the Penal Code contradict articles in the recently presented Tax Code.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/las-reformas-del-codigo-penal-contradicen-las-sanciones-establecidas-en-el-codigo>

The OAS will hold a two day summit on public security in San Pedro Sula. The event will start today at 9am.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/09/autoridades-seguridad-las-americas-se-reunen-manana-san-pedro-sula/>

According to ENEE, renewable energy makes up already 61% of energy production.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/61-de-la-energ%C3%AD-de-honduras-proviene-de-plantas-de-generaci%C3%B3n-renovable>

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<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/09/desarrollo-democracia-dictadura/>

11/10/17

Renewable Energy; UNAH; HRDs; Judicial Power; Security; Casa Alianza; Drug Trafficking; Political Parties; (Re)Elections; Agriculture; Health; and the Misuse of a National Hero

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on a David against Goliath-like encounter in the South of Honduras, where 14 local inhabitants are being criminalized for opposing a multi-million solar energy project. The trial against them is supposed to continue tomorrow in Choluteca.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1918-15-millones-de-dolares-anuales-en-ganancias-por-energia-fotovoltaica-estan-en-juego-en-los-prados-sur-de-honduras>

Proceso Digital reports that the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court admitted an amparo in favor of 19 students who were suspended for five years from the UNAH.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/sala-de-lo-constitucional-admite-amparo-a-favor-de-19-estudiantes-universitarios.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/10/admiten-recurso-a-favor-de-estudiantes-expulsados-de-la-unah/>

To commemorate the 12th anniversary of the nomination of a 1000 women for the Nobel Peace Prize, there will be a forum held this Friday in Honduras called "No Peace Without Women".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/foro-%c2%a8sin-mujeres-no-hay-paz%c2%a8/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/encuentro-de-las-1000-mujeres-por-la-paz-por-primera-vez-en-honduras/>

According to the newest report by the Honduran chapter of Transparency International, Honduras is one of the Latin American countries with most problems regarding transparency in its Judicial Power.

<http://tiempo.hn/poder-judicial-de-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2462-poder-judicial-hondureno-destaca-por-recibir-sobornos>

The OAS currently holds its security summit in Honduras. Its deputy general secretary Néstor Méndez mentioned in a presentation the importance of transparency and accountability in security spending to safeguard the institutions responsible for security from corruption. With the Secrecy Law and the tasa de seguridad, Honduras is lacking in this area.

The US also participated in the forum with its currently highest representative in the country, Heide Fulton. Once more she lauded the Honduran government for strengthening the police force.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/oea-ve-indispensable-blindar-las-instituciones-de-seguridad-ante-corrupcion.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-reconoce-fortalecimiento-de-la-policia-y-reafirma-apoyo-para-seguir-lucha-contra-crimen.html>

Casa Alianza's director José Guadalupe Ruelas denounces that Honduras is the country with the highest murder rates of minors in the region.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/10/casa-alianza-honduras-es-el-pais-con-mas-homicidios-de-menores/>

Fabio Lobo, who has been sentenced for drug trafficking in the US, has been transferred to a prison in Oklahoma.

Meanwhile in Honduras, the Security Minister Julián Pacheco also questions the New York Times article alleging that its content could be invented.

Alberto Solórzano, a member of the purging committee, believes that the revelations should be taken up by the MP and the MACCIH and that pressure from the public is needed to bring forward an investigation.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/10/fabio-lobo-habria-trasladado-una-prision-oklahoma/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-se-sabe-si-son-investigaciones-o-inventos-pacheco-sobre-publicaciones-del-nyt.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/10/pastor-asegura-que-solo-es-cuestion-de-tiempo-para-esclarecer-senalamientos-de-cachiro/>

Víctor Meza reflects on the role of 'letter-box parties' (partidos de maletín) in Honduras. These are small political parties with mostly shady funding which surge close to elections.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/10/de-partidos-y-maletines/>

Criticism against the way the TSE handles the replacement of the company Mapa Soluciones continues to rise.

TSE president David Matamoros doesn't like when the electoral census is being questioned. He dismissed the accusations of illegal changes of domicile and according to him, no more changes will be made to it.

On a party level, only five political parties out of ten have complied with the prerequisites of the Clean Politics Bill: the Oppositional Alliance, the Liberal and the National Party, Vamos and the Patriotic Alliance.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/seg%C3%BAAn-secretario-del-pl-empresa-que-sustituir%C3%A1-mapa-soluciones-ser%C3%AD-de-malet%C3%ADn>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2463-liberales-empresa-de-maletin-sustituira-a-mapa-soluciones>

<http://elpulso.hn/matamoros-batson-hay-quienes-quieren-desprestigiar-el-proceso-electoral/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/10/honduras-solo-cinco-partidos-cumplen-con-ley-de-politica-limpia/>

The coordinator of Vía Campesina, Rafael Alegría, denounces the effects of the last eight year of a Nationalist government on the agricultural sector.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/10/mentira-nacionalistas-estan-interesados-reactivar-desarrollo-agricola-del-pais-rafael-alegria/>

Suyapa Figueroa, the president of the Medical Association Honduras, calls JOH's proposal for the health sector "purely cynical" as he did the exact opposite in the last four years.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/10/propuesta-salud-joh-cinismo-presidenta-del-colegio-medico/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2460-medicos-hondurenos-cuestionan-plan-de-gobierno-nacionalista>

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<http://elpulso.hn/semana-morazanica-pretension-de-invisibilizar-a-nuestro-heroe/>

12/10/17

Indigenous Peoples; COPINH; HIDROCEP; HRDs; Drug Trafficking; (Re)Elections; Corruption; Violence; Mayor; Extortion; Penitentiary System; and What Makes Us Uncomfortable

Indigenous Lencas presented a complaint at the Special Prosecutor's Office for Ethnic Affairs and Cultural Heritage. They accuse the mayor of San Francisco de Lempira, Elmer Noel Molina, for approving four concessions for hydroelectric projects since 2010 without the required consultation.

Radio Progreso reports on an increase in criminalization of indigenous human rights defenders. Their article cites the case of OFRANEH activist Celso Guillé, who has been detained twice in just 24 hours.

El Tiempo reports on a protest by Garífunas against the failure of the Honduran government to comply with a sentence by the IACtHR regarding land tiles in Triunfo de la Cruz, Tela.

<http://elpulso.hn/pobladores-de-san-francisco-luchan-por-sus-rios/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3939-aumenta-criminalizaci%C3%B3n-contraluchadores-gar%C3%ADfunas-e-ind%C3%ADgenas-en-honduras>

<http://tiempo.hn/comunidad-garifuna-protesta-tela/>

Equal Times spoke with Bertha Zúniga Cáceres, the general coordinator of COPINH, about the investigation into her mother's murder, the situation of human rights defenders and COPINH's idea of development.

<https://www.equaltimes.org/environmentalists-in-honduras#.Wd385zBIM3E>

The disputed hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP in Pajuiles, Atlántida, was inspected for the third time by different authorities on October 9. MADJ denounces that they continue to speak out in favor of the project and try to downplay the environmental damage caused by it.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/11/hidrocep-continua-sin-pagar-los-danos-ambientales-pajuiles-tela-madj/>

Defensores en Línea interviewed María Julia Moreyra, the coordinator of the Women for Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean. She intends to help create a "peace board" in Honduras, a space where women can talk about the positive change coming from their work but also denounce those who oppress them.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/maria-julia-moreyra-las-mesas-de-paz-han-marcado-un-punto-referencial/>

Reporting on the newest drug trafficking case in Honduras, Radio Progreso writes that "the Honduran institutions are so dysfunctional that even the criminals themselves don't have faith in them. They don't trust them, because they [the institutions] respond to hidden interests by powerful people." As a result of this distrust, Juan Ramón Waldurruga, son of drug trafficker Ramón Mata, directly negotiated with the DEA after having been accused of drug trafficking.

Security Minister Julián Pacheco told the press that he was surprised by that Juan Ramón Waldurruga handed himself over to the US authorities. According to an article by El Tiempo, the case goes as far back as 2014. Back in March 2014, JOH signed a contract for the supply of renewable energy with Ramón Mata.

The trial against six Honduran police officials accused of drug trafficking in the US was postponed.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3940-entrega-de-mata-waldurruga-enciende-alarmas-en-pol%C3%ADticos-ligados-al-narcotr%C3%A1fico>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/para-nosotros-fue-sorpresa-la-entrega-de-mata-waldurruga-ministro-de-seguridad.html>

<http://confidencial.hn.com/2017/10/11/secretario-de-seguridad-niega-que-ee-uu-haya-pedido-extradicion-de-mata-waldurruga/>

<http://tiempo.hn/acusacion-contra-ramon-matta-2014/>

<http://tiempo.hn/gobierno-contrato-de-suministro-de-energia/>

<http://tiempo.hn/policias-hondurenos-en-estados-unidos/>

The Opposition Alliance launched a mobile app intended to help detect and denounce electoral fraud.

Radio Progreso presents some scenarios and opportunities for the time before and after the general elections.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gr6KmsDG9r8&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/10/honduras-alianza-de-oposicion-lanza.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3938-escenarios-y-oportunidades-11-octubre-2017>

El Pulso summarizes the recent report by the Honduran chapter of Transparency International highlighting the most important findings such as that Hondurans pay the second highest amount in bribes in Central America and they are least likely to denounce acts of corruption.

ConfidencialHN reports that several former employees of the San Pedro Sula municipality accused of corruption were let go for lack of evidence by the MP.

<http://elpulso.hn/6-de-cada-10-hondurenos-no-estan-dispuestos-a-denunciar-la-corrupcion-2/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/11/por-falta-de-pruebas-liberan-a-exempleados-de-alcaldia-sampedrana1/>

While state representatives from the OAS countries discuss violence in San Pedro Sula, the journalist Jennifer Ávila takes a closer look at the murder of the 19-year old Stephany Sevilla to underline violence's human cost.

Five years ago, Doctors without Borders (MSF) has been offering for five years integral services for victims of violence in a center in Tegucigalpa.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/10/11/la-matan-en-medio-de-la-bulla-del-futbol-y-la-demagogia/>

<http://elpulso.hn/msf-5-anos-en-respuesta-a-la-violencia-en-tegucigalpa/>

The former Nationalist mayor of Juticalpa, Olancho, Ramón Daniel Sarmiento Escobar, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for various crimes.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/11/15-anos-reclusion-condenan-exalcalde-juticalpa-olancho/>

<http://tiempo.hn/ramon-sarmiento-condenado-15-carcel/>

The Judicial Power published a list of the judges and magistrates with national jurisdiction on extortion.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/11/poder-judicial-nombra-jueces-competencia-nacional-materia-extorsion/>

More than 800 inmates were transferred from the prison in San Pedro Sula as well as the Támara prison in Francisco Morazán to the prison El Porvenir, also in Francisco Morazán.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/11/reubican-a-880-reclusos-en-carcel-de-el-porvenir1/>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3937-lo-que-nos-incomoda-10-octubre-2017>

13/10/17

UNAH; Berta - Impunity; MACCIH; Drug Trafficking; Violence; Armed Forces; (Re)Elections; JOH; Political Opposition; Journalists; ENEE; an the Honduran Lottery

The criminalized student Marvin Campos was provisionally acquitted because the witnesses by the MP failed to show up during the trial.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1920-los-testigos-del-mp-no-llegaron-juez-decreta-sobreseimiento-provisional-para-primer-estudiante-criminalizado-en-la-era-del-nuevo-rector-de-la-unah>

Padre Melo describes in a new article the murder of Berta Cáceres as a crime by Honduran machismo "firmly embedded in the structures of state, political, judicial, economic and even religious power" in Honduras. Out of this structure raises impunity which still covers the intellectual authorship of Berta's assassination.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/reportaje/item/3944-fue-la-violencia-machista-la-que-mat%C3%B3-a-bera-c%C3%A1ceres>

The MACCIH joins the drug trafficking discussion by emphasizing that supposed drug traffickers hand themselves over to the US because they fear for their lives in Honduras and because there is still no Efficient Collaboration Bill in place.

The MACCIH also announced that in the coming days they will present three corruption cases involving state officials and business people.

Proceso Digital reports that one of the affected state officials is the former president of the Judicial Power, Jorge Rivera Avilés.

According to the former presidential assessor Marvin Ponce, the MACCIH will have failed if not at least one big fish is being caught for corruption before the elections.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/12/narcos-se-estarian-entregando-ee-uu-preservar-vida-no-existe-ley-colaboracion-maccih/>

<http://tiempo.hn/maccih-anuncia-destapara-tres-caso-corrupcion/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/12/maccih-y-nuev-unidad-fiscal-investigaran-testimonio-de-exjefe-narco111/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-anuncia-caso-de-corrupcion-que-implica-a-expresidente-de-la-csj.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/si-antes-de-las-elecciones-no-cae-un-tiburón-la-maccih-habra-fracasado-marvin-ponce.html>

According to the Security Minister Julián Pacheco, there are eight open requests for extradition by the US.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/12/pendientes-ocho-capturas-extradicion-ee-uu-ministro-seguridad/>

Douglas Urbina of CIPREVI denounces that the Honduran state has not done enough against the structural character of violence.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/12/fenomeno-la-violencia-honduras-estructural-estado-ha-hecho-poco-nada/>

El Pulso reports on the most recent planned purchase of the Armed Forces, a new jet fighter fleet which can be operated from a distance. According to an agreement with Israel, they will be bought in the next two years together with a ship. As Honduras just bought combat ships from Colombia, the total cost will be around 4.5 billion Lempiras.

<http://elpulso.hn/honduras-sigue-incrementado-su-arsenal-de-guerra-para-que/>

Radio Progreso criticizes the Clean Politics Unit as too weak to serve as a real controlling body. The article lists some of the most recent violations of the Electoral Law by JOH and the failure of the Clean Politics Unit to reign him in.

Just days after announcing that everything is fine, the RNP backtracks saying that it may fail to hand out one million identity cards needed to vote in the general elections.

The TSE, meanwhile, met with the US embassy and announces that they have their complete support for the elections.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3945-comisi%C3%B3n-de-pol%C3%ADtica-limpia-sin-dientes-para-frenar-abuso-de-juan-orlando-hern%C3%A1ndez>

<http://tiempo.hn/rnp-riesgo-millon-identidades-falta-presupuesto/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/embajada-de-eeuu-quiere-que-el-hondureno-vaya-a-votar-y-se-respete-su-voto-matamoros-batson.html>

Contra Corriente fact-checks recent statements made by JOH regarding human rights, homicide rates and the economy.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/10/12/juan-orlando-hernandez-puso-el-respeto-a-derechos-humanos-como-logro-de-su-gobierno-en-su-lanzamiento-de-campana-es-cierto>

Manuel Zelaya, coordinator of the Opposition Alliance, criticizes media outlets for constantly misinterpreting their presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2465-mel-prensa-tradicional-manipulo-declaracion-de-nasralla>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/luis-niega-negociacion-con-la-alianza-y-dice-mel-y-nasralla-tienen-discursos-disimiles.html>

According to Criterio, the president of the governing board of the pension fund for journalists, Dagoberto Rodríguez, gets trapped in his own web of lies regarding the embezzled funds.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/09/14/miente-presidente-de-los-periodistas-el-gobierno-asigno-fondos-para-pensiones-pero-no-los-cobraron/>

The MP received over a 1000 legal complaints for excessive energy bills.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/m%C3%A1s-de-mil-denuncias-fueron-presentadas-ante-el-mp-por-el-cobro-excesivo-del-servicio>

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<http://elpulso.hn/la-loteria-clandestina-el-sueno-de-salir-de-pobres/>

14/10/17

MADJ; OFRANEH; COPINH; Drug Trafficking; Reelection; (Re)Elections; Corruption; Armed Forces; Penitentiary System; and Let Them Eat Cake à la Honduras

The indigenous Tolupán leader Luis Mejía suffered from an attack by unknown assailants who shot five times at the main door of his house in Candelaria, Yoro. The attack was accompanied by a note saying that they will murder him if he doesn't leave the community in the next three days. Luis Mejía is part of MADJ and he supported his community against a transnational company trying to get them off their land to produce cane sugar in mono-cultures.

<http://elpulso.hn/amenazas-a-lider-indigena-si-no-te-desapareces-en-tres-dias-si-te-vamos-a-matar/>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/10/12/Atentan-contral%C3%ADder-tolup%C3%A1n-si-no-te-desaparece%C3%A9s-en-3-d%C3%ADas-s%C3%AD-te-vamos-a-matar>

OFRANEH published together with CESPAD an in-depth report on the situation in the Punta Piedra community.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/188610>

Radio Progreso spoke with COPINH's Lilian Esperanza López about the

struggle by Honduras' indigenous peoples to survive attacks by national and international companies supported by the Honduran government.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3949-pueblos-origenarios-arrecian-lucha-hist%C3%B3rica-por-su-sobrevivencia-en-honduras>

InSight Crime took up the case of the drug trafficker Juan Ramón Matta Waldurraga. They report among other things on his father Juan Ramón Matta Ballesteros, who "was even a US ally during the so-called Iran-Contra scandal, the illegal operation that took place under the administration of former US President Ronald Reagan that used money from arms sales to Iran to organize a guerrilla insurgency in Honduras against the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua." InSight Crime concludes that after his arrest "Honduran elites from all sectors would be wise to worry about what Matta might offer to prosecutors in exchanged for a reduced sentence."

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/another-honduran-narco-negotiating-plea-deal-us-authorities>

The Convergence against Continuity, a recently formed popular movement bringing together different forces, announced new protests on a national level against the presidential reelection. Radio Progreso spoke with Carlos H. Reyes about the movement and its plans.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3947-convergencia-ciudadana-contra-el-continuum-prepara-acciones-nacionales-contra-la-reelecci%C3%B3n>

The Liberal Party and its supporters took to the streets to protest against various irregularities in the electoral process. JOH, meanwhile, didn't participate in a presidential debate organized by a university in San Pedro Sula. CONADEH demands financial support by the Finance Secretariat for the RNP to allow the latter to hand out the missing 750'000 identity cards needed in the general elections. The TSE denigrates the oppositional parties who pointed out the close links between the National Party and Mapa Soluciones, the company previously responsible to transmit the electoral results. Due to the protests, the contract with Mapa Soluciones was canceled and now the TSE blames the oppositional parties for having to pay a multi-million fine. And during all this, the electoral observation mission of the EU arrived in the country and met with the TSE.

<http://confidencial.hn.com/2017/10/13/irregularidades-en-proceso-electoral-provoca-movilizacion-de-liberales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/marcha-liberal-llego-al-tse-a-pedir-nulidad-del-censo-electoral.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2466-joh-el-gran-ausente-en-debate-politico-por-presidencia-de-honduras>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/defensor-del-pueblo-exhorta-finanzas-que-apoye-presupuestariamente-al-rnp>

<http://tiempo.hn/cancelacion-mapa-soluciones-indemnizacion-millonaria-erick-rodriguez/>

<http://confidencial.hn.com/2017/10/13/tribunal-electoral-festeja-llegada-de-personeros-europeos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/ue-se-interesa-en-observar-la-transmision-de-resultados-electorales-tse.html>

The state Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounces that the corruption investigation into INFOP stalled to protect state officials.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/13/csj-atrasa-investigacion-robo-del-infop-protoger-funcionario-cna/>

Two former members of the Armed Forces have been declared guilty for

raping a 25-year old woman.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/declaran-culpables-a-dos-exmilitares-por-violacion-de-una-mujer-de-25-anos.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/culpables-dos-ex-militares-violacion-mujer-25-anos/>

With the transfer of its last inmates, the prison in San Pedro Sula closed its doors yesterday.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/13/carcel-de-san-pedro-sula-cierra-sus-puertas-para-siempre-trasladan-941-reos/>

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<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/13/honduras-hambre-la-gente-haragana-segun-candidata-diputada/>

15/10/17

## Indigenous Peoples; Reelection; (Re)Elections; ZEDE; and the Penitentiary System

Radio Progreso reports on the struggle by indigenous peoples in Honduras to defend the commons and the high price they pay for it. MILPA for example has documented more than 40 conflicts surrounding their defense of self-determination as indigenous Lenca.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3950-defender-la-vida-por-medio-de-los-bienes-comunes-14-octubre-2017>

Criterio republished an important analysis by the legal scholar and human rights defender Joaquín Mejía Rivera on the illegality of the presidential reelection.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/14/enterese-se-gesta-la-ilegal-candidatura-joh-la-presidencia-la-republica/>

The civil society coalition Observación N-26 demands answers from the TSE regarding various irregularities in the electoral census.

The Clean Politics Unit reports that four mayors have been accused of using public funds for electoral advertisement.

According to the TSE, the political parties have incomplete ballots and many failed to nominate contestants for municipal courts.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/14/observacion-n-26-demanda-al-tse-aclarar-incongruencias-censo-nacional-electoral/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/n-26-demanda-al-tse-aclarar-incongruencias-en-el-censo-nacional-electoral.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/14/denuncian-a-varios-alcaldes-por-hacer-propaganda-con-recursos-publicos/>

<http://elpulso.hn/elecciones-generales-y-planillas-incompletas/>

In a party rally, JOH once more praised the ZEDEs as the way forward for Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/zede-y-plan-20-20-revolucionaran-el-empleo-dijo-herandez-en-quimistan-santa-barbara.html>

After having closed the prison in San Pedro Sula yesterday, the Honduran government announced to close the one in Santa Bárbara as well.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/cerrado-el-centro-sampedrano.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/14/cierra-para-siempre-la-carcel-de-san-pedro-sula1/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/14/joh-promete-que-cerrara-carcel-de-santa-barbara/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/carcel-de-santa-barbara-tambien-sera-cerrada-anuncia-gobierno.html>

16/10/17

Garífunas; (Re)Elections; Militarization; and the Penitentiary System again

The Garífuna human rights defender Silvino Zapata was murdered on Saturday night in La Masca, Cortés.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/15/asesinan-defensor-los-rios-honduras/>

<http://tiempo.hn/ultiman-defensor-de-la-comunidad-garifuna-en-omoa/>

The Episcopal Conference of Honduras finds critical words for the electoral process in Honduras. It criticizes the lack of separation of powers and the rule of law. They call out to Hondurans "not to shut their eyes to reality."

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/15/conferencia-episcopal-honduras-se-pronuncia-elecciones-sin-denunciar-abiertamente-la-ilegal-reeleccion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/conferencia-episcopal-de-honduras-pide-a-politicos-habilitar-el-derecho-y-la-democracia.html>

Criterion reports on the cooperation agreement between Israel and Honduras focused on the Armed Forces.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/15/israel-busca-penetrar-campos-politicos-militares-hondurenos/>

According to CONADEH, at least 215 murders took place between 2004 and 2016 in the now closed San Pedro Sula prison.

El Heraldo reports on the planned youth detention center Jalteva, 90km outside of Tegucigalpa.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/carcel-de-sps-fue-escenario-de-al-menos-60-hechos-violentos-con-330-victimas-en-13-anos.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1117233-466/honduras-estricto-sistema-de-seguridad-tendr%C3%A1-centro-para-menores>

17/10/17

HRDs; OFRANEH; Berta - Trial, Impunity; IHSS; Drug Trafficking; ATIC; UNAH; Women for Peace; Reelection; (Re)Elections; Liberal Party; Penitentiary System; Homicide Rate; Teen Pregnancy; Economy; Deportation; and a Preemptive Breakout

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on how the MP continues to criminalize the four human rights defenders who were attacked by the police while accompanying students on September 8. This is especially worrisome as a judge had previously decided to drop the charges against them.

Juan Almdares, the executive director of CPTRT, denounces that the president of its board, the psychologist Mario Zavala, was threatened at the airport by an anti-drug trafficking agent. Zavala was on the way to Europe to talk with human rights organizations there. Three weeks ago, Juan Almdares himself also received death threats by text.

Nora Urbina of the state protection mechanism for human rights defenders reports an increase in requests for protection coming mostly from human rights defenders, journalists and social communicators.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1925-a-pesar-que-juez-sobresayo-el-caso-ministerio-publico-sigue-investigando-a-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-que-fueron-torturados-y-detenidos>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/188640>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mecanismo-recibio-25-solicitudes-mas-para-proteger-periodistas-y-defensores.html>

OFRANEH demands an in-depth investigation of the recent murder of Silvinio Zapata Martinez, a Garífuna community leader in Masca.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/10/16/exigimos-investigacion-exhaustiva-sobre-asesinato-del-lider-garifuna-silvino-zapata-martinez/>

SOA Watch highlights possible reasons why the MP continuously failed to provide the legal team of Berta Cáceres' family with the necessary information, which led to the trial being postponed several times.

<http://www.soaw.org/about-us/equipo-sur/263-stories-from-honduras/4448-bertascaseoct11>

Bertha and Laura Zúniga participated in a regional gathering in Argentina where they denounced the impunity in the murder case of their mother.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2017/10/alerta-que-aqui-camina-bertha-en-el-32.html>

Bank accounts belonging to the National Party and linked to the IHSS corruption case stay frozen. This was decided by the Appeals Court, overruling a previous resolution by a lower court. Back in 2015, JOH admitted that his presidential campaign in 2013 received funding from companies linked to the IHSS corruption case.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/16/cuentas-bancarias-del-partido-nacional-seguiran-aseguradas-resuelve-corte-apelaciones/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/16/vuelven-a-confiscar-cuentas-del-partido-nacional-por-megafraude-al-ihss/>

The National Party changed tactics regarding the mounting evidence of their links with drug trafficking. The coordinator of the Council of Ministers, Ebal Díaz, no longer denies that the National Party received funding from drug traffickers, but he now claims that there is a list of people from all parties waiting to be extradited to the US. He went on to say that the presidential campaigns of Mauricio Villeda and Xiomara Castro in 2013 ALSO received drug money. These statements caused widespread reactions. The former TSE magistrate Enrique Ortez fears that the JOH administration is hiding the extradition list to protect the former president Pepe Lobo and with it JOH's chance to be reelected.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/16/una-lista-extradicion-vienen-todos-los-colores-ebal-diaz/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/16/jefe-del-gabinete-de-joh-acusa-a-xiomara-y-villeda-de-recibir-plata-del-narcotrafico/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/16/deja-vu-advierten-que-nacionalista-ocultan-informacion-para-no-afectar-proceso-electoral/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/16/wilfredo-mendez-la-corrupcion-no-debe-ser-tolerada-en-ningun-partido-politico/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/16/los-politicos-participan-en-la-misma-corrupcion-asi-se-evitan-confrontaciones/>

The director of ATIC, Ricardo Castro, told the press that people linked to drug trafficking have two options: "either they die or they hand themselves over to the justice system, because they know they will always be caught."

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/delincuentes-tienen-dos-opciones-o-se-mueren-o-se-entregan-a-la-justicia-ricardo-castro.html>

The UNAH authorities continue to denigrate the students by implying that it is their fault alone that university teachers won't be paid for the time of the protests.

<http://tiempo.hn/unah-anuncia-no-efectuara/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the forum "No Peace Without Women" which took place last week in Tegucigalpa.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-recursos-que-se-gastan-en-espionaje-y-armamentismo-deben-ser-orientados-a-combatir-el-hambre-y-la-pobreza/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/al-gobierno-le-molesta-escuchar-las-verdades/>

The former attorney general Edmundo Orellana interprets the recent statement by the Episcopal Conference of Honduras (see yesterday) as a statement against the presidential reelection.

The political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado points out how the statement highlights the exclusive character of the Honduran society, the lack of democracy and the injustice through a failed justice system.

Maybe feeling the pressure from the Catholic church, JOH organized a "prayer day".

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/16/mensaje-la-conferencia-episcopal-diplomatico-anti-reeleccionista-edmundo-orellana/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/16/mensaje-iglesia-catolica-habla-rehabilitar-la-democracia-no-existe-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/16/para-sanar-heridas-provocadas-por-la-violencia-joh-organiza-jornada-de-oracion/>

At the exact moment when the RNP should be hurrying up printing and distributing 700'000 missing identity cards for the coming elections, its employees went on strike because the state has failed to pay them their salaries for four months now.

The TSE started to print the ballot papers yesterday. It is expected to print over 18 million ballots.

The EU, meanwhile, announced that they will send a 72-person electoral observation mission.

<http://tiempo.hn/empleados-rnp-instalaciones-falta-pago/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/empleados-se-toman-el-rnp-en-la-capital.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/16/honduras-inicia-la-impresion-papeletas-las-elecciones-del-26-noviembre/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-inicia-con-la-impresion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-ue-enviara-72-observadores-a-las-elecciones-de-honduras-en-noviembre.html>

The Liberal Party denounces in a press conference that a National Party "hoard" led by a Nationalist congresswoman and congressman harassed the Liberal presidential candidate Luis Zelaya.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/16/liberales-denuncian-turba-nacionalista-intento-agredir-luis-zelaya/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/no-me-van-a-intimidar-dice-luis-que-asegura-vencera-al-oficialismo-en-las-urnas.html>

According to Jorge Burgos, the Honduran justice system fails to prosecute those responsible for bringing guns, drugs and cell phones into the Honduran penitentiary system.

The Honduran government, meanwhile, continues to promise the closure of more prisons.

At the same time it announces to build new presumably high-security prisons.

The sociologist Eugenios Sosa questions this strategy, emphasizing that the construction of high-security prisons won't improve the situation if the impunity rate continues to be so high.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/16/cuantos-estan-presos-las-armas-droga-dinero-encontrados-los-centros-penales/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/en-los-pr%C3%B3ximos-meses-se-podr%C3%AD-clausurar-tres-centros-penitenciarios>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-pozo-iii-en-tamara-nuevo-destino-de-reos-peligrosos.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1117564-466/el-nuevo-m%C3%B3dulo-de-t%C3%A1mara-una-pesadilla-m%C3%A1s-para-los-reos-en>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/no-sirve-de-nada-construir-c%C3%A1rces-de-m%C3%A1xima-seguridad-si-la-impunidad-contin%C3%BA-alta>

Jaime A Flores questions the recent statistics presented by UNAH's Violence Observatory. He criticizes that the observatory has taken over a "police lens" and it heavily relies on numbers by the Security Secretariat.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/16/observatorio-lentes-policiales/>

Human rights defender Jinna Rosales denounces the lack of interest by the current government for the high teenage pregnancy rate in Honduras.

<http://tiempo.hn/en-honduras-24-de-cada-100-ninas-se-embarazos-en-ninas-hondurenas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cada-24-de-100-ninas-quedan-embarazadas-en-honduras.html>

Honduras and Guatemala started negotiations with El Salvador to expand their customs union.

<http://tiempo.hn/inician-union-aduanera-entre-honduras-y-ca/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-salvador-inicia-negociaciones-para-union-aduanera-con-honduras-y-guatemala.html>

The US and Mexico deported over 36'500 Hondurans so far this year.

<http://tiempo.hn/numero-deportados-hondurenos-asciende-36546-ano-2017/>

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<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/16/joh-demuele-la-carcel-selfie-la-historia/>

18/10/17

COPINH; Tolupanés; Garífunas; Journalists; Bajo Aguán; Campesinas; Business and HR; Drug Trafficking; Reelection; (Re)Elections; LGTBI; National Police; Militarization; MACCIH; UNAH; Int. Delegations; Public Health; Teen Pregnancy; Education; Palm Oil; and Surviving Honduras

COPINH denounces the mistreatment of nine Lenca communities by the National Agrarian Institute.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2017/10/el-copinh-denuncia-publicamente-las.html>

17 days ago, the indigenous Tolupanes in San Francisco Locomapa, Yoro, installed a protest camp to defend their territory against illegal logging and mining. They have suffered year-long threats and attacks and in 2013, three of their leaders were murdered. As a result, the IACHR emitted special protection measures for them, but the Honduran state never offered real protection.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3953-en-medio-de-amenazas-ind%C3%ADgenas-instalan-campamento-por-la-defensa-del-territorio-tolupan>

In what has become a common routine, state officials deny any link between the murder of Garífuna leader Silvino Zapata and land disputes. The mistrust by the Garífuna community in the Honduran state is also exemplified by the latter's failure to comply with an already two-year old sentence by the IACTHR regarding the Garífuna communities Punta Piedra and Triunfo de la Cruz.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/muerte-de-lider-garifuna-no-tiene-nada-que-ver-con-pelea-de-tierras-segun-ina.html>

<http://confidencial.hn.com/2017/10/17/director-del-ina-atribuye-asesinato-de-ambientalista-garifuna-a-delincuencia-comun/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3952-estado-de-honduras-sin-cumplir-sentencia-de-corte-idh-a-favor-de-comunidades-gar%C3%ADfunas>

Ronnie Huete Salgado presents a grim picture of the situation of journalists in Honduras, a country where they face threats, criminalization and murder.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/10/honduras-el-peligro-del-periodista.html>

Defensores en Línea reports on the threat by police and Xatruch forces to evict campesino families belonging to the Empresa Asociativa Campesina Gregorio Chávez in the Bajo Aguán.

According to the campesino organization COPA, the eviction took place later that day and they denounce the use of force by state security forces which didn't take into consideration the presence of children, elderly persons and women.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-arrecia-hostigamiento-contra-familias-campesinas-de-comunidad-de-panama-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/17/campesinos-del-aguan-denuncia-brutalidad-policia-militar-desalojo-finca-recuperacion/>

On October 15 the world commemorates the International Day of Rural Women. Some 2 million women live in rural areas in Honduras and 1.3 million of them suffer from poverty due to unequal access to land and credit. At the same time, they are being criminalized by the state as more than 1700 campesinas are currently confronting legal process.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-el-dia-internacional-de-las-mujeres-rurales-exigimos-un-alto-a-la-criminalizacion/>

The OHCHR emitted a press release on business and human rights, writing that " Victims seeking redress for corporate human rights abuses are suffering intimidation, harassment, detention and in some cases even murder, a group of UN experts has warned, setting out new proposals to give victims a key role in the processes designed to protect their rights and provide effective remedies."

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22250&LangID=E>

Radio Progreso concentrates on the role of the Security Minister Julián Pacheco in the whole drug trafficking debate. In the past he had denied meeting with Los Cachiros, but later on he admitted that they had approached him. Nevertheless, he never went after them. And in the presence, he pretended to be surprised when Juan Ramón Matta Waldurraga, the son of the notorious drug trafficker Ramón Matta Ballesteros, handed himself over to the US authorities.

The Opposition Alliance and the Liberal Party demand that Ebal Díaz, the coordinator of the Council of Ministers, releases the supposed extradition list the latter talked about yesterday.

The president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta, denies the existence of such a list.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3951-los-cachiros-matta-waldurraga-y-el-ministro-de-seguridad-17-octubre-2017>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2470-oposicion-hondurena-exige-revelar-lista-de-politicos-extraditables>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/17/mel-zelaya-dice-la-lista-extraditables-aparece-joh-se-borra-publica-otra/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/17/poder-judicial-asegura-que-no-existen-peticiones-de-extradicion-escondidas1/>

The newly formed Alignment against Continuity, a coalition of social movements and NGOs, will present tomorrow a request at the TSE to have the reelection bid by JOH declared unconstitutional. This request will be followed by a protest march on November 7. Defensores en Línea published the request which lists the legal grounds on why the reelection is illegal.

Even before receiving the document, the TSE announced that "it is not an opportune moment" and that they should have presented in an earlier stage. He may have forgotten that many such complaints have already been filed in the past.

In an OpEd in the New York Times, Joaquín Mejía also writes about the illegality of the attempted reelection by JOH.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/por-ser-insconstitucional-organizaciones-sociales-y-politicas-solicitaran-al-tse-la-derogacion-de-candidatura-de-joh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/17/37463/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/17/tse-los-que-pretenden-frenar-reeleccion-de-joh-a-estas-alturas-estan-desfasados/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/es/2016/10/17/el-despotismo-amenaza-a-honduras/>

The Liberal Party and the Opposition Alliance signed an agreement to join forces to "fight against continuity in the streets, the imposition of a dictatorship and electoral fraud."

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/17/alianza-partido-liberal-firman-acuerdo-fraude/>

Rihanna Feerrera, member of the LGTBI community, runs for Congress for PINU. She denounces that both the TSE and the RNP discriminate against LGTBI candidates.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/17/denuncian-discriminacion-hacia-integrantes-de-diversidad-sexual1/>

A young Honduran man denounces that he was falsely accused of extortion by the National Anti-Extortion Force (FNA) and that they tortured him so that he would confess to crimes he didn't commit.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/17/otro-planchon-fuerza-antiextorsion-golpeo-y-humillo-a-joven-que-fue-liberado-por-falta-de-pruebas/>

ConfidencialHn reports on the militarization program for Honduras' children, the Guards of the Fatherland.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/17/guardianes-de-la-patria-forma-sutil-de-terror-y-adoctrinamiento-militar/>

The MACCIH revealed details about two of three new investigations. The first is the case of the Los Cachiros, in which the former president Pepe Lobo and other state officials are involved. The second is about the former president of the Supreme Court, Jorge Rivera Avilés. There is also a third case, but Juan Jiménez Mayor told the press that it is very sensitive and there won't be any public statements on it for the time being.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/17/conozca-los-equipos-integrados-investigacion-cuales-los-primeros-casos-la-maccih/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/video-maccih-reafirma-que-investiga-tres-grandes-casos-de-corrupcion-publica.html>

Some 900 UNAH lecturers are contemplating going after the UNAH to demand payment for the period of the student protests.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/10/honduras-h-catedraticos-por-hora.html>

A delegation consisting of four Nobel Peace Prize Laureates will visit both Honduras and Guatemala between October 20 and 28 to get to know the difficult situation of women human rights defenders in the two countries.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/17/cuatro-laureadas-nobel-la-paz-visitaran-honduras-guatemala/>

Due to lack of pharmaceuticals and outstanding salaries, the employees at the psychiatric hospital Mario Mendoza laid down their work yesterday.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/17/falta-medicamentos-pagos-salariales-empleados-del-hospital-mario-mendoza-realizan-asamblea-informativa/>

The UN Population Fund (UNPFA) presented a study on teenage pregnancies in Honduras, describing it as a manifestation of the worrisome levels of inequality and poverty in the country.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/onu-el-embarazo-adolescente-es-el-mayor-problema-de-la-poblacion-de-honduras.html>

Teachers protested yesterday outside of the Finance Secretariat demanding the payment of outstanding paychecks.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/17/martes-de-protestas-reclaman-pagos-de-sueldos-atrasados/>

Proceso Digital reports that Honduras will export a record amount of palm oil this year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-400-mil-toneladas-de-aceite-exportara-honduras-en-2017-cifra-record-segun-productores.html>

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<http://elpulso.hn/sobrevivir-a-honduras-los-ninos-y-la-violencia/>

<https://www.hondurasinmiedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Dossier-violencia-ni%C3%B1os-Honduras-2017.pdf>

19/10/17

UNAH; Tolupan; HRDs; Journalists; Drug Trafficking; (Re)Elections; LGTBI; Bajo Aguán; MACCIH; National Police; Migration; Penitentiary System; Public Health; and New Horizons

UNAH teacher Sergio Rivera denounces that even though the dean of the UNAH changed, there are still private security guards of ESPA roaming around threatening students and staff. Yesterday morning, he was threatened by a guard when he took pictures of mural paintings by students. A court in Comayagua ordered a temporary stay of proceedings in the case of five students accused of usurpation. The legal team of the students is surprised as they had laid bare the weak evidence of the accusers and expected a definitive rejection of the criminalizing charges. A group of students protested outside of the UNAH against the criminalization of protests.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-julietismo-no-se-ha-desmontado-en-la-unah/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sobreseimiento-provisional-a-cinco-estudiantes-del-currc/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/18/estudiantes-de-la-unah-toman-de-forma-sorpresiva-en-bulevar-suyapa1/>

Consuelo Soto, an indigenous Tolupan human rights defenders in San Francisco de Locomapa, was awarded the national Carlos Escaleras Prize for defenders of mother earth and natural resources in Honduras. The prize carries the name of human rights defender Carlos Escaleras who was assassinated on Tocoa, Colón 20 years ago.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/indigena-tolupan-galardonada-con-el-premio-nacional-carlos-escaleras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-cumplen-20-anos-del-asesinato-del-ambientalista-carlos-escaleras/>

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3956-%E2%80%9Cveinte-a-%C3%B1os-no-es-nada%E2%80%9D>

Defensores en Línea portrays Itsmania Pineda, one of the six Honduran women nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. She tells about herself: "My life is not my life, rather it is a synthesis of a lot of Hondurans."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mi-vida-no-es-mi-vida-es-el-resumen-de-un-monton-de-hondurenos-y-hondurenas/>

An agent of the National Anti-Extortion Force (FNA) threatened the journalist Lidieth Díaz, telling her to "get lost or we will disappear you." JOH's presidential guards stopped a journalist from covering a public speech by JOH in Copán.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/18/o-te-perdes-o-te-desaparecemos-amenazan-de-muerte-a-periodista-de-confidencialhn/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/guardias-de-honor-presidencial-obstruyen-trabajo-periodista-en-reuni%C3%B3n-pol%C3%ADtica-del>

InSight Crime took up the recent statements by the presidential advisor Ebal Díaz that all parties have some links to drug trafficking. The article concludes with an outlook of what the recent developments in this regard could mean for the relationship between the US and JOH as well as the certification process of Honduras by the State Department. The former president of ANDI, Adolfo Facussé, demands that Ebal Díaz releases the extradition list and that the ballots are purged of candidates with links to drug trafficking and organized crime.

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/organized-crime-infiltrates-all-in-honduras-presidential-advisor>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/18/no-sabemos-votar-gente-financiada-crimen-organizado-fito-facusse/>

Political analyst Víctor Meza believes that the general elections should be postponed by three to six months to allow for substantial electoral reforms and purge the electoral census. He ridicules the TSE magistrates who say that this would violate the Constitution, as it is violated on a daily basis in Honduras.

The TSE, meanwhile, met with OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro in Washington.

And the Honduran ambassador to the EU meet with the head of the EU electoral observation mission.

The use of both the OAS and the EU electoral observation mission by the National Party to legitimize the presidential reelection has been denounced in a recent report by the Honduras Forum Switzerland.

The Liberal Party announced that they won't recognize electoral results based on the transmitted ballots. They will only recognize the hand counted ones.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/18/elecciones-deberian-positivas-corregir-todas-las-irregularidades-victor-meza/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/18/no-cambiamos-las-reglas-del-juego-corremos-riesgo-elegir-presidente-las-redes-del-crimen-organizado-victor-meza/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2473-oea-llama-a-washington-autoridad-electoral-de-honduras>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/18/autoridad-electoral-denuncia-conjura-para-sabotear-elecciones-de-noviembre/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/representantes-de-honduras-se-reunen-con-jefa-de-la-mision-de-observacion-electoral-de-la-ue.html>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1926-pn-podria-instrumentalizar-presencia-internacional-preocupante-que-oea-y-ue-observen-elecciones-en-honduras>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/18/luis-reafirma-que-solo-reconocera-resultados-de-escrutinio-en-mesas-electorales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/luis-dice-que-solo-aceptara-resultado-de-actas-electorales-y-pide-a-elvin-santos-no-esperar-llamado.html>

The main media outlets have taken up the legal complaint against the TSE by Rihanna Ferrera. She runs for Congress for Pinu and she demands that she can use her chosen name and not her name of birth, Pedro Ernesto Ferrera.

<http://tiempo.hn/candidata-transexual-fotografia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/candidato-transexual-denuncia-ante-mp-porque-en-papeleta-electoral-no-aparece-con-su-nombre-femenino.html>

The Agrarian Platform denounces the recent violent eviction of campesino families belonging to the Empresa Campesina Gregorio Chávez.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/18/plataforma-agraria-exige-posesion-la-tierra-familias-campesinas-aguan/>

ConfidencialHN reports that the MACCIH will investigate the Los Cachiros-National Party nexus.

The MACCIH presented a new head of investigation and a new international prosecutor.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/17/investigaran-a-un-expresidente-por-supuestos-nexos-con-cachiros-y-a-exconcejales-por-corrupcion1/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/18/maccih-investigara-supuesto-financiamiento-de-cartel-al-partido-nacional/>

<http://tiempo.hn/maccih-nuevo-jefe-investigacion-fiscal/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-maccih-presenta-nuevo-jefe-de-investigacion-y-otro-fiscal-internacional.html>

Victor Meza criticizes that the main political parties haven't understood the concept of a community police or in the case of the National Party, don't even see the need for it. Police authorities announced that they now will also evaluate the physical conditions of the members of the National Police Force.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/18/candidatos-la-presidencia-no-tienen-idea-lo-policia-comunitaria/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2474-policia-hondurena-despedira-a-los-gorditos>

<http://tiempo.hn/policias-gorditos-en-honduras/>

The sociologist Leticia Salomón criticizes that the National Party doesn't have a clear plan when it comes to migration policies.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/18/nacionalistas-no-tienen-plan-trabajo-migracion-pese-flagelo-afecta-miles-hondurenos/>

In the so-called high security prison El Pozo, an inmate was hurt during a fight between inmates. The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) announced that beginning from now, "order, control and discipline" have to be followed to enter a prison. One wonders, what the rules were before...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/18/carcel-segura-atentan-contr-presidiario-en-el-penal-el-pozo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/rina-entre-reos-deja-un-herido-en-el-pozo.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/inp-solo-con-carnet-se-podra-ingresar-a-centros-penales-a-partir-de-noviembre.html>

An employee at the psychiatric hospital Mario Mendoza filed a complaint against its director's "right hand" for psychological and physical aggressions as well as death threats.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/18/denuncian-que-en-hospital-siquiatrico-entregan-medicamentos-vencidos-a-pacientes/>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3954-nuevos-horizontes-18-octubre-2017>

20/10/17

Renewable Energy; UNAH; HRDs; Journalists; Reelection; (Re)Elections; US; Organized Crime; Corruption; MACCIH; Predatory Lending; Penitentiary System; and the Highway of Death

FIAN International wrote an open letter to the EU embassy in Honduras to express their preoccupation about the criminalizing trial against 14 inhabitants of Los Prados, Choluteca. They local people protest against a solar energy project which belongs to 70% to the Norwegian company Scatec Solar.

See Attachment

The Human Rights Board presented a legal complaint against a public prosecutor for ordering the violent eviction at the UNAH on September 8, which led the police to attack students and human rights defenders. Radio Progreso spoke with the new ad-interim dean at the UNAH campus in San Pedro Sula, Isbela Orellana. In the interview, she failed to promise the withdraw of the criminalizing charges against students.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1927-sed-de-justicia-mesa-de-ddhh-presentara-denuncia-contra-fiscal-que-ordeno-sacar-del-bus-del-conadeh-a-defensores-y-estudiantes-de-la-unah>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/por-abuso-de-autoridad-denuncian-a-la-coordinadora-de-la-fiscalia-de-turno/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3959-nuevas-autoridades-universitarias-llaman-a-dialogar-para-evitar-conflictos>

El Pulso reports on the role of the Honduran state in the murder of the environmental defender Carlos Escaleras Mejía 20 years ago in Tocoa, Colón. Back in 2005, the IACHR accused Honduras of having violated its convention for not having properly investigated the assassination. In the second part of the article, El Pulso presents Miguel Facussé as the principal intellectual author of the murder.

The Honduran state asked for forgiveness yesterday when inaugurating the Carlos Escaleras Square in Tocoa.

Today a delegation of four former Nobel Peace Laureates will arrive in Honduras to investigate its human rights situation. They will stay in Honduras for four days before traveling to Guatemala on October 24.

<http://elpulso.hn/miguel-facusse-mato-a-carlos-escaleras/>

<http://tiempo.hn/estado-de-honduras-pide-perdon-por-el-asesinato-de-carlos-escaleras-a-20-anos-de-su-muerte/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nobeles-de-la-paz-conoceran-situacion-de-riesgo-que-viven-los-defensores-de-ddhh-en-honduras-y-guatemala/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2476-premios-nobel-investigaran-violencia-contra-hondurenas>

In a recent public statement, the MACCIH's Jiménez Mayor called out to Honduran journalist to accompany their work against corruption with investigative journalism. The former director of the Journalism School, Juan Ramón Durán, welcomes this statement but also underlines the danger of this line of work in Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/19/ejercer-periodismo-critico-investigacion-puede-costar-la-vida-juan-ramon-duran/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/19/jefe-de-maccih-pide-mas-prensa-de-investigacion-en-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/19/37578/>

More voices are added to the call to have the reelection bid by JOH stopped and the electoral process postponed. The newest one comes from the former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana.

PINU congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez also considers having the process postponed.

The Alignment against Continuity officially presented yesterday its request to the TSE to have the candidacy of JOH nullified.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/la-reelecci%C3%B3n-no-debe-realizarse-en-el-pa%C3%ADs-orellana>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/19/posponer-las-elecciones-debe-considerarse-doris-gutierrez/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/convergencia-contra-el-continuismo-exige-se-declare-nula-inscripcion-de-joh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2477-vienen-protestas-si-tse-no-anula-candidatura-de-joh>

The employees of the RNP have expanded their protest as some of them occupied its archive building in Tegucigalpa. Coming back from Washington, the president of the TSE, David Matamoros, continues to pretend that there is no problem whatsoever with the Honduran electoral process. His colleague, TSE magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo told Proceso Digital that only a hurricane can stop the electoral process.

<http://tiempo.hn/empleados-del-rnp/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/empleados-por-contrato-del-rnp-se-toman-archivo-central-exigiendo-pago-de-salarios.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-dice-que-no-fue-a-washington-a-desmentir-denuncias-de-fraude-que-hicieron-presidenciables.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/solo-una-catastrofe-podrian-provocar-la-suspension-de-las-elecciones-dice-magistrado-del-tse.html>

A US delegation met with the General Secretary of the Honduran Government, Jorge Ramón Hernández Alcerro.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ministro-coordinador-de-gobierno-recibe-delegacion-del-congreso-de-los-eeuu.html>

InSight Crime published a new investigation " into the Urbina Soto family in Honduras, and their criminal legacy." Various members of the family have run for office for the National Party and have strong links to JOH.

<http://www.insightcrime.org/investigations/honduras-political-clan-criminal-fiefdom>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/19/clan-politico-honduras-feudo-criminal/>

Edmundo Orellana Mercado, the former Attorney General, emphasizes the role of the selection process for Judicial Power and MP employees in maintaining high levels of corruption in Honduras. According to FOSDEH, 50 billion Lempiras are lost due to corruption in Honduras each year, that is 10% of the GDP.

<http://elpulso.hn/edmundo-orellana-mercado-el-cn-es-el-verdadero-responsable-del-incremento-del-crimen-en-honduras/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/por-corrupci%C3%B3n-se-desv%C3%AD-fondos-de-alrededor-de-50-mil-millones-de-lempiras>

The MACCIH has now been in Honduras for 18 months and since its first day it demanded the derogation of the Secrecy Law as it impedes it work. Nevertheless, there has been no progress on this front. Furthermore, when presenting the Efficient Collaboration Bill, Congress continuously postponed its approval and it is now scheduled for 2018. The MACCIH announced a new system to file complaints against corruption. On Wednesday, the MACCIH presented a new international prosecutor (see yesterday), Allan Hernández from El Salvador. There, ee was involved in a questionable trip with the then Attorney General Luis Martínez.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/19/ley-secretos-colaboracion-eficaz-siguen-siendo-obstaculo-la-maccih/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-anuncia-creacion-de-un-sistema-certificado-de-denuncias-de-corrupcion.html>

<http://diario1.com/zona-1/2014/12/fiscal-general-silencio-su-viaje-mas-comprometedor/>

El Pulso reports on a new wave of informal predatory lending practices in Honduras due to widespread poverty and a lack of official lending facilities.

<http://elpulso.hn/los-ilegales-prestamos-colombia-en-honduras-como-funcionan/>

After a fight between inmates at El Pozo, family visits have been suspended. At the same time, prison authorities announced punishing the culprits. And the prison has been intervened by the Military Police.

<http://tiempo.hn/suspendidas-visitas-el-pozo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/19/sistema-penitenciario-castigara-a-los-agresores-del-reo-herido-en-el-pozo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/19/tras-rina-en-el-pozo-militares-intervienen-centros-penales/>

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<https://contracorriente.red/2017/10/19/la-ruta-la-muerte/>

21/10/17

UNAH; Campesinxs; HRDs; Journalists; TSC; Reelection; (Re)Elections; Corruption; Tourism; ENEE; Debt; Penitentiary System; and Two-Tier Justice

Even though it disappeared a bit from the headlines, the defamation, criminalization and harassment of students continues. The newest case involves the vice-dean of the UNAH, Ajax Irías. Even though he hasn't the legal power to do so, he threatened students to pay back stipends they had received otherwise he wouldn't let them be graduated. The lawyer Kenia Oliva, representing some 160 students, filed a legal complaint against him.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1928-devuelven-el-dinero-de-la-beca-o-no-se-graduan-vice-rector-ajax-irias-denunciado-por-coacciones-y-amenazas-contr-estudiantes-becados>

Police and Armed Forces evicted indigenous Lenca campesino families San Pedro de Tutule, La Paz. MILPAH denounced the eviction and the destruction of their dwellings and crop.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/queman-casas-y-destruyen-cultivos-a-indigenas-en-desalojo-en-tutule-la-paz/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/10/honduras-17-familias-fueron-dejadas-sin.html>

Radio Progreso spoke with Mery Agurcia, lawyer at COFADEH, about the role of human rights defenders in today's Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3963-las-defensoras-y-defensores-en-honduras-son-h%C3%A9roes-contempor%C3%A1neos-afirma-mery-agurcia>

C-Libre also denounces the recent death threat by an agent of the National Anti-Extortion Force (FNA) against the journalist Lidieth Díaz.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/polic%C3%ADa-antiextorsi%C3%B3n-amenaza-de-muerte-periodista-durante-cobertura-informativa>

Recent statements by drug traffickers collaborating with the US have brought to light several links to the National Party. Even the MACCIH just recently announced that it will investigate the links between Los Cachiros and the former president Pepe Lobo. Therefore, it may not come

as a surprise that the Honduran authorities try to shine the light somewhere else by having the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) announce an investigation of the former president Manuel Zelaya.

At least they announced that the former president Pepe Lobo, whose son has been convicted of drug trafficking in the US, would also be investigated for illicit enrichment...

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/20/abren-nueva-investigacion-expresidente-manuel-zelaya/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-van-a-aburrir-de-investigarme-me-deberian-dar-premio-por-empobrecimiento-ilicito-mel.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/20/no-me-extranan-esas-investigaciones-mel-zelaya/>

<http://tiempo.hn/enriquecimiento-ilicito-investigacion-zelaya-lobo-sosa/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tsc-investiga-gestiones-de-los-expresidentes-manuel-zelaya-y-porfirio-lobo.html>

As mentioned before, the request by the Alignment against Continuity to have the candidacy of JOH nullified wasn't the first of this kind.

Already back in January, the Liberal lawyer Maribel Espinoza presented a similar request to the TSE. This request has now been rejected and she will now seek out the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court.

<http://elpulso.hn/tse-deja-sin-lugar-solicitud-de-nulidad-de-la-inscripcion-del-presidente-juan-orlando/>

A deputy director at the RNP threatens protesting employees that their protest could be classified as an electoral crime.

<http://tiempo.hn/empleados-rnp-pueden-ser-acusados-de-delitos-electorales/>

According to the president of the Honduran Medical Chamber (CMH), the Honduran government is going after doctors who denounce irregularities in the public health system.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/20/denuncian-represalias-contramedicos-que-denuncian-irregularidades-en-el-sistema-sanitario/>

Giorgio Trucchi published an analysis of the tourism sector in Honduras and its recently approved (and disputed) Tourism Promotion Law.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/188763>

C-Libre denounces that ENEE fired its official for access to public information under false pretenses.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/gerente-de-la-enee-despide-oficial-de-acceso-informaci%C3%B3n-p%C3%BAblica>

Public debt has grown by 9.6% in the first eight months this year and now reaches 31.1% of GDP. These numbers by the Honduran Central Bank support the claims by critics of the government who denounce its debt-fueled growth strategy.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/crece-9-6-la-deuda-hondurena-en-ocho-meses-y-asciende-al-31-1-del-pib.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/20/hondurenos-pagaran-en-2018-unos-34-mil-millones-de-lempiras-en-deuda-externa/>

More and more things come to light regarding the recent incident in the so-called high-security prison El Pozo. Apparently prison guards shot on inmates "to stop a riot from taking place".

ConfidencialHN reports that the director of El Pozo, the army lieutenant colonel Benjamín Vargas, has been suspended and an investigation was started against him.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/de-guardias-penitenciarios-eran-disparos-que-recibieron-reos-en-el-pozo-segun-conaprev.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/20/aseguran-que-para-disuadir-reyerta-en-el-pozo-custodios-dispararon-contra-pandilleros1/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/20/tras-amotinamiento-suspenden-al-director-de-carcel-el-pozo1/>

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<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2479-honduras-asesinato-de-carlos-collier-camino-a-la-impunidad>

22/10/17

Berta; HRDs; Campesinx; National Police; (Re)Elections; JOH; Unemployment; Drug Trafficking; and the Silence of 700 Disappeared Girls and Women

The delegation of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates visited Río Blanco on Friday and later they met with Berta's mother in La Esperanza.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/10/21/dos-premios-nobel-gira-intibuca/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on two worrisome events this year when human rights defenders traveling abroad were questioned and threatened by state security forces at the airport.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1931-inteligencia-del-estado-amedrenta-a-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-a-su-salida-del-pais-en-el-aeropuerto-toncontin>

COFADEH visited the indigenous Lencas campesino family in San Pedro de Tutule, La Paz, who lost their homes and fields two days ago after state security forces put fire to it as a form of eviction. There are currently more than 700 indigenous campesinx facing criminal charges in La Paz alone for land reclamation.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/indigenas-bajo-fuego-y-agua/>

ConfidencialHN reports on the harassment by ATIC agents of a Catholic priest. They entered his house without a warrant, insulted him and caused damage to his house. They accuse him of collaborating with the former head of police, Jorge Alberto Barralaga.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/21/cura-de-mierda-vos-sos-testaferro-de-los-barralaga-amenazan-a-sacerdote1/>

Luis Zelaya, presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, interprets the refusal of the OAS to certify the electoral census as a tacit concession that it is not good.

Lester Ramírez Irías presents an analysis of the Honduran democracy, or what he calls "Reelection, Political Hegemony and an Anticipated Fraud". He not only highlights problems with the electoral system, but also with the Honduran political culture.

CONADEH presented a phone line to denounce electoral crimes.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/21/la-oea-no-certifico-censo-electoral-luis-zelaya/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/la-oea-no-certifico-el-censo-electoral-del-tse-afirma-candidato-liberal-luis-zelaya.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/reeleccion-hegemonia-politica-y-fraude-anunciado-democracia-catracha/>

<http://tiempo.hn/conadeh-denunciar-violaciones-derechos-politicos-elecciones/>

The presidential candidate of the Opposition Alliance, Salvador Nasralla, denounces that the JOH campaign uses Copeco warehouses to store material used on the campaign trail.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2480-estrategia-juegos-del-hambre-en-honduras-denuncia-nasralla>

El Tiempo reports on the problem of un- and underemployment, which together affects up to 70% of Hondurans.

<http://tiempo.hn/desempleo-en-honduras-cifras-alarmantes/>

The former president Pepe Lobo continues to claim that he hasn't collaborated with drug traffickers.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/21/pepe-reitera-que-no-es-amigo-de-narcos-ni-criminales/>

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<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/10/21/2633/>

23/10/17

Berta - Agua Zarca; Drug Trafficking; (Re)Elections; ZEDEs; Violence; Education;

Criterio reports on the visits of the delegation by Nobel Peace Laureates to Río Blanco where they demanded justice for Berta Cáceres. During their visit, they were accompanied by Berta's daughter Berta Zúniga.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/22/visita-honduras-mujeres-nobel-la-paz-exigen-justicia-berta-caceres/>

<http://tiempo.hn/mujeres-nobel-de-la-paz-berta-caceres/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/hija-de-berta-caceres-dice-a-nobeles-de-paz-lucha-ambiental-sigue-en-honduras.html>

El Tiempo reports that the Constitutional Chamber dismissed the appeal by COPINH against the Agua Zarca project.

<http://tiempo.hn/inadmisible-recurso-copinh-agua-zarca/>

Political analyst Víctor Meza presents last week's statement by Ebal Díaz, the coordinator of the Council of Ministers, as another proof that Honduras can't be considered a "serious country". We have a public official openly admitting that his party used funds originating from drug trafficking in its electoral campaigns and trying to deflect from this with the childish argument that every party does this. One could expect an immediate reaction by the MP inviting Díaz to be questioned about his statement but nothing the like happens and everything continues as before.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/22/ebal-diaz-manifiesta-complejo-del-tuberculoso-victor-meza/>

El Tiempo reports on one of the irregularities in the electoral census. Roberto Estevez Zablah died 13 years ago, but his family now found out that he got the right to vote in the coming general elections.

<http://tiempo.hn/fallecio-hace-13-anos-habilitado-votar/>

Proceso Digital continues to promote the ZEDEs, claiming that it turns Honduras in the "center of development for Central America". JOH, meanwhile, got brought his followers to the street to demand the

creation of ZEDEs.

He seems to promise ZEDEs everywhere, from the coastal regions, to Francisco Morazán and Olancho.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-se-convertira-en-el-polo-de-desarrollo-de-la-region-con-las-zede.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/miles-de-nacionalistas-participan-en-mega-marcha-en-la-capital-en-apoyo-a-hernandez.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/10/22/masiva-concentracion-nacionalista-pedir-las-zonas-empleo/>

Last week one topic grabbed the Honduran headlines, the death of the twenty-year old Carlos Emilio Collier Núñez. He died in a car as a result of three gun wounds, his parents speak of murder, the five friends who were with him, claim that he took his own life. El Pulso offers an overview of the events and what happened since.

<http://elpulso.hn/asesinato-carlos-collier/>

In an OpEd for Criterio, Fidel Ernesto García of the teachers' union COPEMH writes about the deleterious effects of the Fundamental Education Law on the Honduran education sector.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/22/concursos-docentes-anticonstitucionales-arbitrarios-e-indignantes/>

24/10/17

Journalists; Mining; Berta - Agua Zarca; Bajo Aguán; DEA; ZEDE; Corruption; Women's Rights; MACCIH; (Re)Elections; Drug Trafficking; Hydroelectricity; Disappearances; and Being the Banana Republic Once Again

Carlos Oveniel Lara, cameraman for Channel 12 was murdered yesterday in Copán. Previous to his death, he had denounced receiving murder threats. C-Libre denounces the death threat by an FNA agent against the journalist Lidieth Díaz.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/asesinan-camar%C3%B3grafo-cuando-se-dirig%C3%ADa-su-centro-de-trabajo>

<http://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/asesinan-a-camarografo-en-la-entrada-copan.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/23/la-impunidad-fomenta-el-circulo-vicioso-de-la-repeticion-c-libre/>

COPA denounces death threat against the priest Erlin Henríquez, who has accompanied the community of Abisinia in Tocoa, Colón. The inhabitants of Abisinia have rejected in a public forum on October 15 mining projects in their area.

<http://movimientom4.org/2017/10/comunicado-copa-ante-amenazas-de-muerte-al-pastor-erlin-henriquez/>

Víctor Fernández from MADJ, who accompanies as a lawyer COPINH and Berta's family, believes that the close relationship between the Judicial System and the Honduran government and economic elite explains why the legal complaint against the Agua Zarca project was dismissed by the Constitutional Chamber. He then continues to explain why from a legal perspective the decision of the chamber is wrong. Berta's daughter Olivia Zúniga Cáceres denounces that the Judicial Power in Honduras serves criminal interests.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/23/cs-j-actua-peticion-del-copin-h-debido-al-alineamiento-institucional-tienen-gobierno-los-empresarios/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/23/la-corte-honduras-esta-al-servicio-las-estructuras-del-crimen-olivia-zuniga-caceres/>

Campeño organizations denounce that six human rights defenders and two campesinos were detained by state security forces in a violent eviction of the Empresa Asociativas Campesinas Nuevo Ebenezer in Colón.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/23/6-defensoras-detenido-desalojo-violento-campesinos-aguan/>

The New York Times questions the official statements by the DEA regarding the Ahuas Case in Honduras. A newly published video, under a Freedom of Information Act request, "strongly suggests that the D.E.A.'s account of crossfire in the May 2012 mission was not accurate". It indicates that the DEA agents fired on a boat of civilians and not the other way around. The released video follows a "scathing report published by the inspectors general of the departments of Justice and State earlier this year that challenged the D.E.A.'s version of events." Criterio published a Spanish translation of the article.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/23/world/americas/drug-enforcement-agency-dea-honduras.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Famericas>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/23/new-york-times-revela-la-dea-mintio-episodio-del-2012-la-mosquitia/>

La Tribuna cites the new EU ambassador speaking positively about the ZEDES. The Chinese company Lamericom is presented as one of the first to operate from a ZEDE in Honduras. According to its vice-president, they will start working already in the beginning of next year. The article by El Tiempo lists more companies, apparently all of them are about to invest in a non-existing ZEDE.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/10/23/diplomaticos-honduras-abre-las-puertas-al-crecimiento-economico/>

<http://tiempo.hn/veinte-mil-nuevos-empleos-empresa-china-honduras/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/10/23/ocho-firmas-interesadas-generan-50000-empleos/>

The coordinator of APJ, Omar Rivera, demands that the newly created Special Prosecutor Unit against the Impunity of Corruption (Ufecic) should start with going after "someone relevant and emblematic to show a clear sign that to combat impunity one has to start from the top."

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/23/dirigente-civil-pide-a-investigadores-ignorar-sardinitas-y-exige-caceria-de-tiburones1/>

The Nobel Peace Prize Laureates currently visiting Honduras met with women's rights organizations and today they will hold a press conference about their visit.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/conversan-con-nobel-de-la-paz-sobre-desafios-de-las-mujeres-politicas.html>

Several civil society organizations wrote an open letter to demand from Congress' president Mauricio Oliva Herrera an extraordinary session to approve the Efficient Collaboration Bill, which is essential for the work of the MACCIH.<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/23/corruptio-optimi-pessima/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/23/37754/>

Defensores en Línea criticizes the failure of the main media outlets to inform critically about the electoral process and the accusations against it, e.g. the legal action taken by the Alignment against Continuity against the illegal presidential reelection bid.

Legal expert Joaquín Mejía Rivera emphasizes this, i.e. the illegality, once more in a new article for Criterio.

JOH, meanwhile, met with the head of the EU observation mission, Marisa Matías.

The RNP continues to promise the missing identity cards for the general

elections.

This Wednesday, the TSE gains control over part of the Armed Forces to "safeguard" the elections.

ConfidencialHN conducted surveys in 11 Honduran departments and questioned 2313 adults. According to their survey, 32% would vote for Salvador Nasralla, 26% for JOH and 33% are still undecided.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-alianza-politico-social/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/23/dos-demeritos-democraticos-la-candidatura-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2483-joh-recibio-a-jefa-de-mision-de-observacion-electoral-de-europa>

<http://tiempo.hn/rmp-entregara-cerca-1-2-millones-identidades-los-proximos-dias/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/proximo-miercoles-fuerzas-armadas-pasan-a-disposicion-del-tse.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/23/encuesta-nasralla-triunfa-por-seis-puntos-ante-joh-a-un-mes-de-las-elecciones/>

Young Hondurans met with political candidates to present them the Youth Legislation Agenda.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2481-juventud-hondurena-impulsa-agenda-legislativa-joven>

Both El Libertador and El Tiempo report that eight armed men entered the perimeters of the MP building in La Ceiba to seize the car of the drug trafficker Wilter Neptalí Blanco Ruiz. The later had been extradited from Costa Rica to the US where he was sentenced for drug trafficking on August 20. He received a reduced sentence for collaborating with the US.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2482-roban-carro-en-ministerio-publico-de-narco-presos-en-ee-uu>

<http://tiempo.hn/roban-carro-wilter-blanco-ministerio/>

The head of the ENEE concedes that there are "anomalies" in the contract for the hydroelectric dam Patuca III.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/23/gerente-de-la-enee-admite-anomalias-en-construccion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gerente-de-la-enee-reconoce-que-hay-anomalias-en-firma-del-proyecto-patuca-iii.html>

On October 13, three young girls between 12 and 13 years disappeared. Yesterday, the police informed that they have been found. The reason for their disappearance is not known yet.

<http://elpulso.hn/menores-sb/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/23/tras-10-dias-fuera-de-sus-casas-menores-desaparecidas-son-encontradas1/>

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<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/23/reglamento-las-ciudades-modelo-simil-la-carta-rolston/>

25/10/17

HRDs; Journalists; Berta - Movie; ZEDEs; Reelection; (Re)Elections; LGBTI; JOH; Corruption; MACCIH; Abortion; Extraditions; National Police; Mayors; and Another Prison Transfer

The Latin American Working Group published an article on the closing space for human rights defenders in Honduras and what exactly this entails, e.g. criminalization, crackdowns on social protest, the Secrecy Law,...

The Nobel Peace Prize Laureates held a press conference yesterday after a four-day visit to Honduras. They demanded a stop to the murder of human rights defenders in Honduras and they announced to be closely following the case of Berta Cáceres, demanding justice for her.

<http://lawg.org/action-center/lawg-blog/69-general/1927-honduras-space-for-activists-and-journalists-closing-wide-open-for-corruption>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nobeles-piden-no-mas-asesinatos-contra-defensores-y-exigen-justicia-para-berta-caceres/>

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3970-ganadoras-del-premio-nobel-por-la-paz-respaldan-lucha-por-el-territorio-y-piden-justicia-para-berta-caceres>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/premios-nobel-de-paz-piden-a-honduras-investigar-crmenes-de-defensores-ddhh.html>

One case in point of the closing space is the situation of the journalists. With the recent murder of the cameraman Carlos Lara, 73 journalists have been murdered since 2003 in Honduras. Furthermore, CONADEH documented 24 attacks against journalists this year alone.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2484-ya-son-73-periodistas-asesinados-en-honduras-desde-2003>

El Heraldo (!) promotes the Kickstarter campaign for Katia Lara's movie about Berta Cáceres.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/entretenimiento/1119841-466/muerte-de-ambientalista-bertha-caceres-ser-llevada-a-la-pantalla-grande>

FOSDEH calls the ZEDEs a worrisome new form of privatization of national territory and the construction of an illusion.

According to Ebal Díaz, the cabinet's secretary, the Honduran government intends to invest \$630 million in the construction of a ZEDE in the south of Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/24/las-zedes-modelo-privatizacion-la-construccion-una-ilusion-economista-del-fosdeh/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/24/ebal-diaz-asegura-que-el-proyecto-ciudades-modelo-de-joh-atraera-inversion-extranjera/>

Radio Progreso explains how the presidential reelection can be classified as an act of corruption and why this makes the role of the international community in the Honduran electoral process even more disappointing.

Oscar Esquivel delivers one explanation why this came about. Honduras has had nine presidents in the last 35 years and some of them wanted to stay in power, but no one had the control necessary to force it through. JOH, meanwhile, controls the TSE, RNP and has many favorable judges in the Supreme Court, the Attorney General is a close ally. Furthermore, he has the army on his side, as well as the media and the leadership of the Catholic Church.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3969-si-la-reeleccion-corrupta-24-octubre-2017>

<http://elpulso.hn/26-de-noviembre-dia-de-elecciones-atipicas/>

The civil society platform Observation N-26 presented its next piece of analysis of the electoral process. They mentioned the uncertainty veiling the process due to last minute changes, the problems with the electoral census, the last minute budget increases for the TSE and the presidency for the elections, the breach of article 104 of the Electoral Law which would guarantee more gender equity, the difficult situation of trans candidate, and more.

Víctor Meza, director of CEDOH, highlights the growing aggressiveness of the electoral discourse as the elections approach.

According to Migdonia Ayestas, director of the Democracy, Peace and Justice University Institute (IUDPAS), there have been ten murders of politicians so far in this electoral process.

The TSE signed the contract with the company responsible to transmit the electoral results yesterday.

Both the Liberal Party and the Opposition Alliance have announced that they won't accept the underlying system used to transfer the election results.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/24/proceso-electoral-sera-incierto-cambio-reglas-del-juego-ultimo-momento/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/24/proximidad-elecciones-discurso-politico-se-torna-mas-agresivo-victor-meza-video/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/24/informe-observacion-n-26-advierde-viciado-proceso-electoral/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/actual-proceso-electoral-arrastra-practicas-politicas-tradicionales-segun-on-26.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/24/diez-las-muertes-violentas-presente-periodo-electoral/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tribunal-supremo-electoral-2/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/24/alianza-opositora-y-liberales-rechazan-sistema-de-transmision-de-resultados/>

Indyra Mendoza, coordinator of the Lesbian Network Catrachas, highlights an increase of LGBTI candidates in this electoral process.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/24/aumentan-candidaturas-la-diversidad-sexual-honduras-indyra-mendoza/>

Criterio criticizes that JOH has violated the Clean Politics Law, but the corresponding authorities fail to investigate it.

Later on, the commissioner of the Clean Politics Unit, Javier Franco, announced that they will look into recent statements by JOH.

The Medical Association Honduras (CMH) denounced in a press release the lies by JOH and called him a "vulgar demagogue". They reacted to statements by JOH made in a TV appearance that the CMH made an alliance with the political opposition party Libre. The CMH now demands a space on the same TV program - Frente a Frente - to clarify their position.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/24/joh-viola-ley-politica-limpia-actores-vinculantes-evitan-juicios-al-respecto/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/24/politica-limpia-investigara-a-joh-por-hacer-proselitismo-desde-el-gobierno/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/24/colegio-medico-llama-falaz-vulgar-demagogo-joh/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/24/denuncian-que-en-honduras-los-hospitales-son-sepulcros-blanqueados/>

ConfidencialHN uncovered that various Honduran institutions, among them the IHSS, use an auditing company highlighted by the World Bank for corruption.

MADJ held a protest in San Pedro Sula outside the Special Prosecutor for the Environment, demanding that it investigates the concession to the

company Aguas de San Pedro which is responsible for delivering drinking water in the area. MADJ presented a formal complaint already two and a half years ago, but the MP failed to act.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/24/firma-auditora-castigada-por-banco-mundial-por-corrupcion-revisa-finanzas-a-instituciones-hondurenas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/24/madj-exige-al-mp-investigar-la-concesionaria-aguas-san-pedro-municipalidad-sps/>

The president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta, announces that the MACCIH will present new corruption charges in court in the coming days.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/maccih-presentara-acusaciones-por-delitos-de-corrupcion-en-proximos-dias-anuncia-argueta.html>

The Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against Life (FEDCV) prosecuted a doctor who had for years offered abortion in a clandestine clinic.

<http://elpulso.hn/medico-acepta-culpa-y-es-encarcelado-por-practicar-abortos-clandestinos/>

Salvador Nasralla, presidential candidate of the Opposition Alliance, told the public that becoming president he would continue with the extraditions.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2486-nasralla-ratifica-mantener-extradiciones-a-ee-uu>

The purging committee met with representatives of the international community, the G-16, to present their work in the last 18 months.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/comision-depuradora-expone-logros-de-la-reforma-policia-ante-comunidad-internacional.html>

The former mayor of San Pedro Sula, Óscar Kilgore, was sentenced to three years in prison for abuse of authority.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1119639-466/condenan-a-tres-a%C3%B1os-de-c%C3%A1rcel-a-ex-alcalde-sampedrano-%C3%B3scar-kilgore>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/24/condenan-a-tres-anos-de-carcel-al-ex-alcalde-de-sps-oscar-kilgore/>

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<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/24/sorpresivo-traslado-de-reos-desde-tamara-a-flamante-carcel/>

26/10/17

UNAH; Reelection; (Re)Elections; DEA; Extradition; Mitch; Penitentiary System; and Chronicles of a Consolidated Dictatorship

The TSE thanked the former UNAH dean Julieta Castellanos for forming "leaders that represent the development and future of our country" as well as for her help in "strengthening democracy" in the country...this represents a blow to all the students facing criminal charges by the UNAH for their struggle to increase democracy inside the university. Yesterday, she also got to prove her democratic credentials by basing the political opposition and not questioning the illegal reelection attempt by JOH.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-firma-de-convenio-con-universidades-tse-rinde-homenaje-a-julieta-castellanos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/25/julieta-castellanos-arremete-sin-piedad-la-oposicion-politica/>

The EU electoral observation mission recommends the regulation of the illegal reelection process. Its spokesperson Marisa Matias also tried to emphasize that the EU's participation is not to give legitimacy to the electoral process but to help it become more democratic, transparent and inclusive.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/25/union-europea-sugiere-reglamentar-la-ilegal-reeleccion-presidencial-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/25/union-europea-dice-que-es-importante-reglamentar-la-reeleccion1/>

Criterio criticizes a recent press conference by civil society organizations around the Association for a More Just Society for solely criticizing the political opposition for creating doubt about the electoral process while failing to mention the illegal reelection bid by JOH.

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez denounces that as in previous years, the sale of credentials to oversee the ballots has started. One reason for the creation of the so-called bonsai parties is the lucrative business with the credentials.

The EU electoral observation mission was officially presented to the public by its spokesperson Marisa Matias yesterday morning. Its first 22 observers spread out to the different departments in Honduras. Yesterday, the TSE finally revealed the name of the two companies replacing Mapa Soluciones in processing and transmitting the electoral results: Dale Vucanovich and ASICA. The companies ASOTO and McGregor were hired to audit them.

At the same time, the TSE announced that it won't pay any compensation to Mapa Soluciones.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/25/miembros-sociedad-civil-sesgan-postura-eleccionaria-favor-joh/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/25/denuncian-que-venta-de-credenciales-para-elecciones-cuestan-hasta-400-dolares/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/25/union-europea-presenta-mision-honduras-proceso-electoral/>

<http://tiempo.hn/union-europea-observara-las-elecciones-imparcialidad-total/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/25/primer-contingente-observadores-europeos-se-desplaza-los-departamentos-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tse-revela-nombres-de-empresas-que-trasmitiran-resultados-electorales.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/25/dos-empresas-informaticas-sustituiran-a-mapa-soluciones-a-pocos-dias-de-las-elecciones/>

<http://tiempo.hn/incertidumbre-entorno-millonaria-indemnizacion-mapa-soluciones/>

El Tiempo cites COFADEH criticizing the lack of progress in the Ahuas case. The topic regained attention after, first, a publication of a damning report by the inspectors general of the departments of Justice and State which challenged the DEA's version of events and, second, the release of a video that further undermined the position of the DEA. COFADEH's Bertha Oliva accuses the MP of having tried to erase evidence.

<http://tiempo.hn/cofadeh-nada-masacre-misquitos-dea/>

Sergio Neftalí Mejía is the 16th assumed drug trafficker extradited to the US.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2489-extraditan-este-dia-al-decimosexto-hondureno-a-ee-uu>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/25/mandan-a-otro-extraditable-hacia-estados-unidos/>

Nineteen years ago, Honduras was devastated by hurricane Mitch. Radio

Progreso denounces that since then, environmental degradation has not been improved, rather it decreased. There is still a lack of knowledge regarding socio-environmental disasters.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3971-lo-que-el-viento-del-mitch-se-llev%C3%B3-25-octubre-2017>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3972-a-19-a%C3%B1os-del-mitch-honduras-muestra-ejemplos-de-vulnerabilidad>

The National Penitentiary Institute informed that they have so far this year transferred over 5000 inmates to more secure prisons.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-cinco-mil-reos-trasladados-reporta-a-la-fecha-el-instituto-penitenciario.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1119972-466/m%C3%A1s-de-cinco-mil-privados-de-libertad-han-sido-trasladados-a-distintos>

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<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/25/cronicas-una-dictadura-consolidada/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/25/comando-sur-da-luz-verde-4-anos-mas-joh/>

27/10/17

COPINH; Campesinx; HRDs; ASJ; COFADEH; MACCIH; (Re)Elections; Migration; Floods; Mayors; and the Voice of Those Who Don't Have a Voice

It seems the president of the Honduran Association for Renewable Energies (AHER), Elsie Paz, has made COPINH her main enemy. She doesn't miss an opportunity to attack the organization. Her newest attempt is blaming the Nobel Peace Laureates for having been instrumentalized for a political agenda by COPINH. She goes on to accuse COPINH of promoting violence and spreading misinformation. All of this just days before independent investigation results into the murder of Berta Cáceres are expected to be published.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/10/26/elsia-paz-ahora-deberian-venir-los-nobel-economia-ver-avanzamos/>

ConexiHon denounces that 17 indigenous campesino families are without a place to live since their eviction by the police and armed force last Friday in San Pedro de Tutule, La Paz.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/17-familias-campesinas-sin-vivienda-tras-violento-desalojo-en-la-paz>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the MP dismisses a complaint by human rights defender Tomy Morales. She told the public prosecutor that she is being followed constantly and that pictures are taken of her, but she was told that this doesn't violate any law and her complaint won't be processed. It is important to highlight here that Tomy Morales was one of the four human rights defenders attacked by the police on September 8 when accompanying criminalized students.

The group Ecumenical Women for the Right to Chose denounces being censored, persecuted and even threatened by the Bishops' Conference and the Evangelical Confraternity.

Criterion reports on a new initiative by the IACHR and the UN to promote the protection of human rights defenders in the Americas. The initiative is called Mechanism of Joint Actions to contribute to the protection of HRDs in the Americas. Last year, three out of four murdered HRDs lost her or his life in the Americas.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1933-porque-no-reune-los-requisitos-de-tipo-penal-dice-fiscal-se-niega-a-recibir-denuncias-por-seguimiento-y-vigilancia-contra-tomy-morales>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/10/26/iglesia-amenaza-a-mujeres-ecumenicas-de-honduras/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1932-ecumenicas-por-el-derechos-a-decidir-temen-por-su-vida-y-responsabilizan-al-cardenal-de-lo-que-les-pase>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/26/derechos-humanos-la-onu-lanzan-plan-proteger-defensores-derechos/>

Oscar Miguel Marroquín criticizes in an OpEd the Association for a More Just Society and denounces its perceived closeness to the National Party.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/26/la-asociacion-una-sociedad-mas-justa-asj-al-servicio-del-crimen-corrupcion-e-impunidad/>

COFADEH's general coordinator Bertha Oliva was nominated an honorary member of the Colombian foundation Fundación Hasta Encontrarlos.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/fundacion-hasta-encontrarlos-nombra-miembro-honorario-a-la-coordinadora-del-cofاده/>

The MACCIH strongly supports the call from civil society to have Congress hold an extraordinary session to approve the Efficient Collaboration Bill.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/26/maccih-respalda-sesion-extraordinaria-congreso-aprobar-ley-colaboracion-eficaz/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/26/jefe-de-maccih-pide-al-legislativo-hondureno-reunirse-de-inmediato-para-aprobar-ley-de-colaboracion/>

After Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez, it is now the turn of the Liberal presidential candidate Luis Zelaya to denounce that the so-called bonsai parties are selling their places at the polling stations allowing the National Party to get control of them.

Javier Suazo critically analyses the role of the EU electoral observation mission and what he hopes from it.

The former Liberal TSE magistrate Enrique Ortez Sequeira proposes a fast count mechanism at the toll station before the results are sent to the TSE.

The TSE announced that it analyses the possibility for a fast count.

Both the Liberal Party as well as the Opposition Alliance withdrew from the TSE's Advisory Council for the lack of electoral reforms.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/26/luis-culpa-a-partidos-bonsai-por-venta-de-credenciales/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/188870>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/el-pl-impulsa-la-propuesta-conteo-r%C3%A1pido-en-la-transmisi%C3%B3n-de-resultados-electorales>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/26/tse-desmiente-opositores-y-analiza-posibilidades-de-implementar-el-conteo-rapido1/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/26/partido-liberal-libre-pinu-y-alianza-patriotica-abandonan-el-consejo-consultivo-del-tse/>

In a regional conference held in San Pedro Sula, the High Commissioner of the UNHCR, Filippo Grandi, expressed his preoccupation about the situation of thousands of people forcefully displaced by violence in Mexico and the Northern Triangle.

El Pulso reports about the fear that Trump may cancel the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for some 60'000 Hondurans living in the US.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3973-gobiernos-y-organizaciones-debatieron-sobre-migraci%C3%B3n-forzada-en-centroam%C3%A9rica>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-adopta-compromisos-en-materia-de-refugio-y-desplazamiento-interno.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/trump-podria-deportar-a-60000-tps/>

According to COPECO, 43 Hondurans have lost their lives in this year's rainy season. And the current situation remains tense. Classes have been suspended in four departments for the time being.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2494-43-hondurenos-han-perdido-la-vida-en-temporada-lluviosa>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2491-cancelan-clases-en-honduras-por-inundaciones-y-desborde-de-rios>

While one former mayor of San Pedro Sula has just been sentenced to three years in prison, another one has an open arrest warrant against him.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/26/libran-otra-orden-de-captura-contr-el-profugo-exalcalde-rodolfo-padilla/>

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<http://www.conexihon.hn/mujer-nobel-de-la-paz-periodistas-tienen-que-seguir-siendo-la-voz-de-los-que-no-tienen-voz>

28/10/17

Ahuas; National Police; ATIC; UNAH; HRDs; MACCIH; (Re)Elections; ZEDEs; Public Health; Floods; Deportation; and Poetry Saturday

With all the new revelations regarding the Ahuas case and the role of the DEA, nacla offers an overview of the last five years.

<https://nacla.org/news/2017/10/27/ahuas-killings-five-years-later-collateral-damage-drug-war>

According to investigations by Radio Globo, the head of the National Police Force Félix Villanueva is protecting a former police inspector and his uncle who head a criminal organization in Olancho.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/27/jefe-policial-protegeria-a-peligrosa-banda-criminal-que-opera-en-olancho/>

ATIC agents are being accused of abuse of authority while raiding the national women's prison in Támara.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/27/abusos-de-la-atic-roban-dinero-y-aparatos-electronicos-de-carcel-femenina/>

The MP and the police claim that they have arrested one of the murderers of the UNAH student Luis Joel Rivera Perdomo. Rivera Perdomo was active in the student movement.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/27/capturan-a-pandillero-por-matar-a-estudiante-de-sociologia-de-la-unah/>

Various international human rights organization wrote an open letter to the Honduran presidential candidates urging them to include protection measures for human rights defenders in their plans of government. Bertha Oliva denounces that the Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla did not receive the two Nobel Peace Laureate during last week's visit to

Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/candidatos-presidenciales-en-honduras-urge-incluir-medidas-relativas-a-proteccion-a-los-derechos-humanos-y-sus-defensores-en-sus-planos-de-gobierno/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-en-el-pais-hay-un-secuestro-permanente-de-informacion/>

Contra Corriente cites the MACCIH's spokesperson Juan Jiménez Mayor saying: "We are currently having difficulties with our investigations because we don't have the necessary tools." He speaks about Congress' unwillingness to approve the Efficient Collaboration Bill as well as the still not derogated Secrecy Law.

Oscar Miguel Marroquín criticizes the appeal by Juan Jiménez Mayor as he should very well know that the National Party-controlled Congress won't approve a mechanism that would help undermine their power.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/10/27/estamos-camino-dificil-las-investigaciones-no-tenemos-las-herramientas-juan-jimenez-mayor/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/27/la-maccih-mision-cumplida-presidente/>

Alfredo Serrano Mancilla, director of Celga, writes about the fallacies of electoral polls in Latin America and how they are misused to prejudge the eventual outcome instead of getting it right.

Starting today, the Electoral Law prohibits the publication of electoral polls.

The EU's electoral observation mission attracts attention. El Pulso now also published an article on it.

Libre Congressman Rasel Tomé criticizes the the head of the EU mission Marisa Matías for failing to mention the missing representation of Libre at the TSE and the departure of the Liberal Party and the Oppositional Alliance from the TSE Advisory Council.

The RNP presented their plan to distribute the missing identity cards needed for the general elections.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/27/las-encuestas-no-aciertan-america-latina/>

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-queda-prohibido-publicar-resultados-de-encuestas-electorales/>

<http://elpulso.hn/mision-de-observacion-de-la-ue-ya-esta-en-el-pais/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/rasel-tome-considera-irresponsables-declaraciones-de-la-jefa-de-la-mision-de-la-ue.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/rnp-da-a-conocer-programacion-de-entrega-de-identidades-a-nivel-nacional.html>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle analyses the use of the ZEDEs in the political campaign of JOH.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/26/37906/>

Even though the intervention committee at the IHSS claims that the access to pharmaceuticals has been improved, complaints about the lack of basic drugs have not decreased.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/27/peligra-vida-de-derechohabientes-del-ihss-por-falta-de-medicinas/>

Radio Progreso reports on the ongoing damages through the current floods in Honduras. Four more people have died and over 7000 families displaced.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3976-cuatro-muertos-y-m%C3%A1s-de-siete-mil-familias-afectadas-por-inundaciones-reporta-copeco>

According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the number of Hondurans deported between January and September from the US and Mexico has decreased by 34.1% in comparison to the same time period

in 2016.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/las-deportaciones-al-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica-caen-un-35-6.html>

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<http://elpulso.hn/luis-andres-zuniga/>

29/10/17

## Berta - Assassination; Journalists; National Police; Penitentiary System; (Re)Elections; and the Role of Mauricio Oliva

The New York Times published a new article on the intellectual authorship behind Berta Cáceres' assassination. An international legal team has investigated her murder and they will present their findings the coming Tuesday in Tegucigalpa. Nevertheless, the NYT already has access to their findings and it cites the lawyers saying: "The existing proof is conclusive regarding the participation of numerous state agents, high-ranking executives and employees of Desa in the planning, execution and cover-up of the assassination."

<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/10/28/world/americas/honduras-bertha-caceres-desa.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/28/quienes-ordenaron-crimen-bertha-caceres-nunca-enfrentaran-la-justicia-abogados-internacionales/>

The offices of Channel 6 were shot at by unknown assailants. According to the Security Secretariat, this happened when the police chased a car jumping a police stop.

Channel 13 canceled without previous notice the program by Jackeline Bonilla. She denounces that this is linked to her criticism of the JOH administration. Executives at Channel 13 had told her in the past to "slow down" with her critical coverage.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2496-atacan-otro-medio-de-comunicacion-en-honduras>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/28/canal-13-cancela-arbitrariamente-programa-economista-jackeline-bonilla/>

The police reacted with a press release to the investigations by Radio Globo and ConfidencialHN linking the director of the National Police Force Félix Villanueva to organized crime.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/28/policia-hondurena-sale-en-defensa-de-su-jefe-y-niegan-vinculos-con-criminales/>

Inmates in the El Porvenir prison rioted yesterday. There hasn't been an official statement, but according to witnesses, some 200 inmates started to riot protesting against the restriction of family visits.

Conaprev claims that due to their work, inmates at the "high-security" prison El Pozo now have access to fitness equipment and that they have more time outside of their cells.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/28/motin-carcel-porvenir-unos-200-reos-intentan-fugarse/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reos-se-amotinan-y-se-suben-a-los-techos-en-carcel-de-el-porvenir.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2495-honduras-instalan-sistemas-de-entretenimiento-a-reos-en-el-pozo>

The TSE announced an electoral observation mission consisting of former

Latin American and Spanish presidents.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/al-menos-seis-expresidentes-observaran-elecciones-de-noviembre-en-honduras.html>

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<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/28/mauricio-oliva-coloquial-discurso-demagogico/>

30/10/17

Berta - Assassination; Public Health; (Re)Elections; National Police; Migration; Penitentiary System; and the Importance of not Forgetting

Honduras Culture and Politics has picked up the newest revelations by the New York Times the intellectual authorship of Berta Cáceres murder based on GAIPE's independent investigation. The main newspaper in Honduras so far haven't reacted to the article.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/10/lawyers-group-desa-executives.html>

In a public event, the first lady Ana García de Hernández announced last July that the computed tomography (CT) machine in the San Felipe Hospital had been repaired after three years without working. ConexiHon denounces that this just was a public stunt and the CT machine still doesn't work.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/es-falsa-noticia-de-la-reparacion-de-la-maquina-de-tomografia-del-hospital-san-felipe>

The TSE canceled a test run for the transmission of the electoral results due to the rain.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1121111-508/tribunal-supremo-electoral-suspende-prueba-del-sistema-por-alerta-y-estragos-de>

The purging committee travels to Washington to share their work of the last 18 months with US officials.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/29/extensa-comitiva-viaja-washington-socializar-logros-desafios-del-proceso-reforma-policial/>

Another Honduran delegation is already in Washington to lobby for the renovation of the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Hondurans living in the US.

<http://tiempo.hn/renovacion-del-tps-mision-del-gobierno/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1121140-471/etapa-crucial-para-los-hondure%C3%B1os-inscritos-en-el-estatus-de-protecci%C3%B3n-temporal>

A 25-year old inmate died in the Támara prison. The authorities announced that they will investigate the death. At the same time they told the press that they believe a cardiac arrest to be the cause of the death...

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/inp-informa-que-reo-fallecido-en-penitenciaria-de-tamara-fue-producto-de-un-infarto.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/29/37956/>

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<http://www.conexihon.hn/historia-contra-el-olvido-un-acto-necesario>

31/10/17

Berta - GAIPE; COPINH; HRDs; Femicide; Astropharma; Corruption; Congress; Reelection; (Re)Elections; JOH; MACCIH; Floods; Basic Goods; Poverty; Agriculture; Mining; Armed Forces;

Today the independent investigation body GAIPE will present its findings regarding the assassination of Berta Cáceres. The press conference takes place at 10.30am in the Hotel Maya in Tegucigalpa. There should also be a live stream.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2017/10/invitacion-presentacion-informe-gaipe.html>

Gaspar Sanchez, the Sexual Diversity Coordinator for COPINH, was interviewed together with Bryan Rogers, the International Coordinator for Witness for Peace in Honduras, for the Grass is Greener radio show.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-240416425/the-grass-is-greener-2017-10-4>

Some 180 human rights organizations from 15 countries signed an open letter denouncing the situation of repression and violence against women human rights defenders in Honduras.

The human rights defender Karen Mejía represents Honduras' HRDs in the global campaign "We Are All Human Rights Defenders" by the church organization Justice and Peace. El Tiempo interviewed her for the occasion.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/cerca-de-200-organizaciones-denuncian-aumento-de-represion-contra-defensoras-en-honduras>

<http://tiempo.hn/karen-mejia-resuena-en-campana-mundial/>

Suyapa Martínez of the Center for Women's Rights (CDM) denounces that of the 365 known cases of femicide in 2016, only two had a verdict by a judge. This high level of impunity fosters even more violence against women.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/30/incapacidad-judicial-ante-figura-del-femicidio-promueve-mas-impunidad/>

Criterio fears that the Astropharma corruption case could remain unpunished after postponing the trial once more. The case involves Congress' former Nationalist vice-president Lena Karim Gutiérrez whose company Astropharma sold fake pharmaceuticals together with Laboratorios Lain.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/30/la-estafa-las-pastillas-harina-podria-quedar-la-impunidad/>

El Pulso reports on a "network of corruption" around the residential area Los Olivos. It was inaugurated by the then presidential candidate JOH in October 2013 as a residential area for police agents and administrative staff at the National Police Force.

<http://elpulso.hn/los-olivos-corrupcion-en-la-colonia-de-la-policia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/suspenden-juicio-para-laboratorios-lain-y-lo-reprograman-hasta-el-27-de-noviembre.html>

ConexiHon reveals shady deals approved by Congress worth over \$1.5 billion between March and December 2015.

ConexiHon thoroughly analyzed five of the 47 deals, concluding that non of them complied with even a minimum standard of transparency and access to public information.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/negocios-en-secretividad-oscuras-contratos-aprobados-por-el-congreso-nacional-i>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/negocios-en-secretividad-oscuras-contratos-aprobados-por-el-congreso-nacional-ii>

The former Cohep president Juliette Handal calls out to all Hondurans join a nation-wide protest against the illegal reelection campaign of JOH. The political analyst Gustavo Irias believes that this mobilization will be decisive for what happens around the "disputed" electoral process.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/30/expresidenta-del-cohep-pide-a-hondurenos-movilizarse-contrala-reeleccion/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/30/movilizacion-de-opositores-podria-definir-que-pasara-antes-y-despues-de-las-elecciones/>

An investigation by ConfidencialHN brings to light connections between the government officials and the company Asica - the company that was chosen to replace Mapa Soluciones for having links to the Honduran government...

The first batch of the OAS electoral observation mission officially has arrived in Honduras.

The TSE announces that everything is on track for the general elections.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/30/empresas-que-sustituiran-a-mapa-soluciones-colaboraron-en-el-fraude-electoral-de-2013/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/30/llega-honduras-avanzada-tecnica-la-oea-observara-elecciones/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/30/tse-garantiza-estar-cumpliendo-con-el-cronograma-electoral/>

The lawyer Mauricio Velasco Laínez describes the way of JOH from a recently elected congressman in 1998 to a presidential candidate for reelection in 2017 highlighting the laws he broke on the way and the irregularities surrounding his career.

In the presence, JOH once more denied to appear on the same stage as the presidential candidates of the Liberal Party and the Opposition Alliance.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/30/presidente-hernandez-tortuosa-carrera-politica/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/30/joh-se-niega-comparecer-ante-estudiantes-unitec/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/30/hernandez-no-llega-a-mostrar-propuesta-y-le-gritan-fuera-joh-en-debate/>

Congress wasn't persuaded by a joint campaign of the MACCIH and civil society organization to approve the Efficient Collaboration Bill now and not just in 2018.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz-se-aprobara-despues-de-elecciones-generales-edwin-pavon.html>

Radio Progreso holds the Honduran government responsible for the damages to the poorest areas of Honduras by the recent floods.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3979-negligencia-gubernamental-y-las-inundaciones-destruyeron-lo-poco-que-ten%C3%ADan-miles-de-familias-en-la-zona-norte-de-honduras>

According to the British consulting firm MoveHub, Honduras has the highest price for a basket of basic goods in all Latin America and it ranks 112 out of 122 countries globally.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/30/canasta-basica-honduras-la-mas-alta-latinoamerica/>

The newest report by the National Statistics Institute (INE) informs that 63% of Hondurans live in poverty, 38.4% even in extreme poverty.

<http://tiempo.hn/60-por-ciento-la-pobreza-ine/>

Coordinator of Vía Campesina, Rafael Alegría, believes 2017 to be a bad year for Honduran campesinxs and the agriculture sector in general.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/30/el-sector-agricola-cerrara-el-2017-con-un-balance-extremadamente-negativo/>

According to the Natural Resources Secretariat, Honduras will gain more than 1 billion Lempiras with the export of gold this year.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/las-exportaciones-de-oro-dejaran-al-pa%C3%ADs-m%C3%A1s-de-mil-millones-de-lempiras-este-%C3%B1o>

The Armed Forces announced to elect their new chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff this December.

<http://tiempo.hn/nuevo-jefe-del-estado-mayor-conjunto/>