

01/11/17

Berta - Gaipe; Reelection; (Re)Elections; ZEDEs; Corruption; Journalists; HRDs; National Police; Drinking Water; and Fearing the Next Generation

As announced, GAIPE presented yesterday its in-depth investigation into the murder of Bert Cáceres.

The international media coverage started already on Saturday with a piece in the New York Times. Now everybody is taking it up, from the Washington Post, to Al Jazeera, CNN and El País. All the articles highlight the fact that high-level business executives and state agents are implicated in the murder as well as the serious flaws in the government's investigation.

In Honduras, the alternative medias also picked up the report, but the main press has so far tried to silence it. Only El Tiempo, which has started covering human rights issues some time back now, dedicated a long article to it.

A very strong reaction came from US Senator Patrick Leahy, which is worth quoting at length: "This damning report corroborates what many have suspected -- that the investigation of Berta Cáceres' murder has been plagued by incompetence, attempts to stonewall and deflect blame to protect those who conceived of and paid for this plot, and a glaring lack of political will. (...) Any hope that the Honduran Government may have of continued U.S. assistance under the Alliance for Prosperity Plan will hinge, in part, on the outcome of the Cáceres case, acceptance of the legitimate role of civil society and the independent press, and top-to-bottom reform of the judicial system."

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2017/10/boletin-especial-31-de-octubre-2017.html>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/report-coordinated-plot-to-murder-honduran-activist-caceres/2017/10/31/3b7611a0-be5e-11e7-9294-705f80164f6e_story.html

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/murder-berta-caceres-part-calculated-plot-report-171031175751919.html>

<http://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2017/10/30/agentes-del-estado-habrian-planeado-ejecutado-y-encubierto-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-dice-informe/>

<http://www.elpais.hn/2017/10/31/agentes-estatales-presuntamente-implicados-asesinato-berta-caceres/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/31/copinh-ahora-va-tras-la-captura-los-autores-intelectuales-asesinato-berta-caceres-flores/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/31/esferas-criminales-operan-desde-la-institucionalidad-asesinato-berta-caceres-queda-impune-olivia-zuniga/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/10/31/violencia-sigue-comunidades-despues-asesinato-berta-caceres/>

<http://elpulso.hn/claves-para-entender-al-informe-del-gaipe/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/31/hay-datos-explicitos-que-vinculan-a-desa-en-crimen-contra-berta-caceres/>

<http://tiempo.hn/gaipe-estado-asesinato-berta-caceres/>

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/reaction-of-senator-patrick-leahy-to-the-report-of-the-independent-team-of-experts-investigating-the-assassination-of-berta-caceres-in-honduras>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/31/fondos-la-alianza-la-prosperidad-dependen-del-resultado-del-caso-berta-caceres-senador-patrick-leahy/>

Radio Progreso explains how the reelection bid by JOH is his third coup d'état against the constitutional order in Honduras, the first being voting in favor of calling the coup in 2009 a "constitutional succession". In 2012, as the president of Congress, JOH orchestrated a

coup at the Supreme Court illegally replacing four judge at the Constitutional Chamber with new ones close to the National Party.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3980-triplemente-golpista-31-de-octubre-2017>

Radio Progreso presents that the ZEDEs are something that has been implemented already in other places ignoring the scope of the endeavor which would create state-independent, company-run enclaves inside Honduras.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/honduras-quinto-pa%C3%ADs-en-el-mundo-y-primero-en-centroam%C3%A9rica-en-dar-paso-zonas-de-empleo>

ConfidencialHN denounces the use of a public resources by a Nationalist mayor for his reelection campaign.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/31/honduras-abusivo-alcalde-nacionalista-pide-el-voto-en-carros-publicos/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) announced that they filed a complaint against a former Nationalist public official for the embezzlement of 12 million Lempiras. The name of the official has not been revealed yet, but it concerns someone having worked for the government between 2010-2014. According to the CNA, the evidence is indisputable and they demand an immediate release of an arrest warrant. ConexiHon follows up with a third article on the shady deals taking place in the Honduran Congress (see yesterday's e-mail for part 1 and 2). ConfidencialHN detects new irregularities surrounding Alberto Solórzano, member of the Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras as well as of the purging committee. In March the same newspaper revealed that Solórzano had received 1 million Lempiras for unspecified social projects. Now they found documents showing that he got another million Lempiras by the president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva to produce a report.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/31/acusan-a-exfuncionaria-nacionalista-por-robarse-12-millones-de-lempiras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/negocios-en-secretividad-oscuras-contratos-aprobados-por-el-congreso-nacional-iii>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/31/negocios-religiosos-asi-consigue-dinero-para-su-causa-pastor-y-depurador/>

C-Libre denounces that the Corporación Televicentro fired a cameraman returning to work after having recuperated from being assaulted on May 30, 2017.

Criterio reports on the ongoing irregularities at the Social Security Institute for Journalists (IPP).

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/televicentro-despide-camar%C3%B3grafo-que-se-recupera-de-atentado>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/31/38018/>

The organization Ecumenic Women for the Right to Chose held a protest rally in front of the Casa Presidencial on September 28 this year. Later that day they saw their Facebook account closed. When inquiring why, they were told that it was on religious grounds.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/facebook-cierra-p%C3%A1gina-defensoras-de-las-mujeres-por-%E2%80%9Cdenuncias-religiosas%E2%80%9D>

Former police agents filed a complaint for slander and defamation against Omar Rivera, a member of the purging committee. According to the human rights defender Reina Rivera, the Honduran state is obliged to investigate complaints against ATIC agents for abuse of authority.

The complaint was filed last December and the Supreme Court accepted it yesterday.

The Economist published an article on police violence in Latin America with a focus on the Northern Triangle.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/31/querellan-al-depurador-omar-rivera-por-proferir-calumnias-contrapolicias-separados/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/csj-admite-querella-contr-omar-rivera.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/10/31/piden-a-actuar-de-oficio-contr-agentes-abusivos-de-la-atic/>

<https://www.economist.com/news/americas/21730744-cops-unable-quell-violence-may-lose-their-inhibitions-about-taking-part-it-murderous-latin>

El Pulso reports on the lack of access to drinking water by 2 million Hondurans.

<http://elpulso.hn/casi-2-millones-de-hondurenos-no-tienen-acceso-al-agua-potable/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/10/31/joh-le-miedo-la-juventud-doris-gutierrez-video/>

02/11/17

Berta - Investigation, Global Day; UNAH; Journalists; National Police; (Re)Elections; National Party; MACCIH; Economy; and With the Voice of the Dead

There is continuous international coverage of the GAIPE report. US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky emitted a press release finding unequivocal words: "The report released this week gives us clear and unequivocal evidence of how carefully orchestrated the assassination plot was and how rampant the impunity has been. It is unacceptable that, despite the mounting international and domestic pressure, the Honduran Public Ministry has dragged its feet and refused to conduct a thorough and fair investigation."

Democracy Now! aired an interview with New York Times reporter Elisabeth Malkin, who covered the GAIPE report.

InSight Crime cites two sources in Washington wondering about its impact on US funding for Honduras, but it concludes that "past experience suggests these concerns are unlikely to translate into actual changes in policy or cuts in aid funding."

Criterio concentrates on the use of PR companies paid by DESA to attack Berta and COPINH.

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/press-releases/schakowsky-reacts-to-expert-investigation-on-the-assassination-of-honduran-activist-bertha-caceres/>

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/press-releases/schakowsky-reacciona-a-la-investigacion-sobre-el-asesinato-de-la-activista-hondurena-bertha-caceres/>

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/11/1/shocking_new_investigation_links_bertha_caceress

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/bertha-caceres-murder-coordinated-plot-made-months-prior-report>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/01/desa-pago-empresas-comunicacion-crear-campanas-desprestigio-bertha-caceres-copinh-gaipe/>

COPINH launched a global day of justice for Berta.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/1936-accion-global-para-que-estado-hondureno-capture-a-autores-intelectuales-del-asesinato-de-bertha-caceres>

Protesting students at the UNAH occupied an administration building demanding answers regarding the criminalized students.

<http://tiempo.hn/encapuchados-se-toman-unah/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/01/universitarios-exigen-reintegro-de-estudiantes-expulsados-por-el-julietismo/>

C-Libre published some more details on the canceled TV program of Gabriela Bonilla. She reported critically on the JOH government and her contract with Channel 13 was canceled without any warning just one day after she presented on air a poll which had Salvador Nasralla winning the presidential election.

The Inter-American Press Society (SIP) denounces a culture of persecution and harassment against journalists in Latin America.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/por-presiones-pol%C3%ADticas-del-actual-gobierno-cierran-espacio-informativo>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/01/sip-denuncia-la-persecucion-la-prensa-se-ha-consolidado-america/>

ConfidencialHN reports on a police beating against a young Honduran man. COFADEH requested in a court in Gracias, Lempira, the maximum penalty for three members of the National Police Force and two members of the Armed Forces who had been found guilty of forced entry and ill treatment of the Honduran citizen Máximo Ramos in August 2016.

Omar Rivera, member of the purging committee, states that he is not worried about the legal complaints by former police agents against him.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/01/abuso-joven-a-punto-de-perder-la-vista-por-punetazo-que-le-dio-agente-policial/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofاده-exige-pena-maxima-a-policias-y-militares-culpables-de-vejamenes-contra-un-ciudadano-de-lempira/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/no-me-van-a-intimidar-con-querellas-y-amenazas-omar-rivera.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/agentes-depurados-querellan-a-omar-rivera/>

El Tiempo reports on a possible criminal network inside the RNP which deals in identity cards.

At the same time, the RNP started yesterday to hand out the missing identity cards for the general elections.

El Pulso shows how little interest political parties in Honduras still have for transparency. The civil society initiative "Three for Three", which asks candidates among other things to publish their tax returns, has only been taken up by a minority of candidates, most of them coming from Pinu and Libre, i.e. the Oppositional Alliance.

The TSE handed out the credentials for the ballots to the political party. Every party gets 36'000 - a fact that is heavily criticized by the political opposition. Parties which only got some 4000 votes in the last elections get nine times the amount of credentials...no wizardry needed to find out what happens with the remaining ones.

Carolina Bardales Salazar explains how the coup d'état in 2009 led to the illegal reelection bid by JOH this November and what happened in between. She also emphasizes the important role of the EU in putting pressure on the Honduran state to return to the rule of law, a role the EU so far has failed to take up.

Nevertheless, the EU electoral observation mission met with Radio Globo director David Romero yesterday and was informed about the Honduran government's persecution of alternative media outlets as well as irregularities of the JOH administration.

Proceso Digital published some statistics on the candidates for Congress.

<http://tiempo.hn/traficantes-identidad-en-rnp/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/rnp-arranca-proceso-de-entrega-de-identidades-a-nivel-nacional.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/los-reprobados-de-la-transparencia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/01/advierten-que-si-el-tse-no-reconoce-acuerdo-de-opositores-podria-armarse-un-relajo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/01/romeo-pide-a-medios-dirigir-ataques-contralos-que-compran-credenciales/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/01/observadores-electorales-de-la-union-europea-se-reunen-con-director-de-radio-globo/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/188983>

Criterio published more details on the misuse of public funds for his electoral campaign of the Nationalist mayor Nery Méndez.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/01/alcalde-nacionalista-la-campa-lempira-utiliza-vehiculo-del-estado-politica/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/cn-702-hombres-y-571-mujeres-buscan-uno-de-los-128-escaños.html>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez laments than once more the approval of the Efficient Collaboration Bill failed due to the political lack of the National Party.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/01/reiteran-que-no-hay-voluntad-politica-para-aprobar-ley-de-colaboracion/>

Honduras dropped 10 places in the World Bank's Doing Business ranking. Let's see if JOH's newest recommendation helps to improve the situation: he told businesswo/men to drink tea and not worry about new taxes...

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/01/condiciones-inversion-honduras-empeoran-segun-informe-del-banco-mundial/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2497-joh-receta-te-para-nervios-a-empresarios-del-cohep>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/01/la-voz-los-muertos/>

03/11/17

HRDs; Bajo Aguán; Corruption; Extortion; (Re)Elections; Congress; Migration; Extradition; Human Rights; National Police; Abortion; and Waking up in the Wrong Party

Human rights organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean published a joint statement denouncing a neoliberal development model which costs the life of hundreds of environmental human right defender and leads to the destruction of the environment. They demand among other things more inclusive environmental impact studies, FPIC regulations and better protection of HRDs.

<http://www.dar.org.pe/noticias/sociedad-civil-de-latinoamerica-y-el-caribe-exige-se-aseguren-derechos-de-defensores-y-defensoras-y-no-se-repita-la-corrupcion-en-licitaciones-de-megaproyectos/>

The Agrarian Platform denounces the strategy by the JOH administration and Dinant to create violent groups (grupos de choque) to help evict campesino families from their land.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/11/honduras-gobierno-y-teratenientes.html>

Honduras once more failed to live up to the standards of the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and, therefore, denying it access to its funds. Government representatives try to spin the story, saying that they have complied with 11 out of the 20 indicators. Nevertheless, in the last eight years with a Nationalist government Honduras never got access to the funds due to impunity and corruption.

Addressing Honduras' review, John Wingle, country director for Honduras and Guatemala at the MCC, concentrates mostly on economic indicators. But even those are contested by civil society actors such as FOSDEH or even the former director of the Central Bank of Honduras, Hugo Noé Pino. The head investigator at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) once more felt obliged to denounce that their investigations get backlogged at the MP.

Meanwhile, the former president Pepe Lobo dares the CNA to publish the name of the public officials from his administration who is thought to have embezzled 12 million Lempiras.

Spanish authorities announced the arrest of José Santos Arias Chicas the former director of the Ciudad de Ángel housing project. He was arrested for fraud in 2014 but was able to flee from house arrest.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/02/gobierno-joh-nuevamente-aplazado-la-cuenta-del-milenio/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-mejora-para-acceder-a-cuenta-del-milenio-y-en-combatir-la-corrupcion.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/02/director-la-cuenta-del-milenio-mejor-patron-control-corrupcion/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/02/comunidad-internacional-desmiente-logros-de-joh/>

<http://elpulso.hn/mp-no-puede-dar-prioridad-a-los-casos-del-cna/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/02/expresidente-porfirio-lobo-sosa-reta-al-cna-nombre-funcionaria-corrupta/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/02/piden-a-medios-que-dejen-trabajar-al-cna-en-nuevo-caso-de-supuesta-corrupcion/>

<http://elpulso.hn/capturado-en-espana-gerente-del-proyecto-ciudad-del-angel/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/02/espana-arresta-a-responsable-de-fallido-proyecto-ciudad-del-angel/>

According to the director of Casa Alianza, José Guadalupe Ruela, Hondurans paid some \$200 million for extortion in 2014 and the amount has grown since then. What is more, the amount paid as tax for the 'tasa de seguridad' was higher in 2014 than the amount paid for extortion.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/en-el-2014-se-pag%C3%B3-m%C3%A1s-por-tasa-de-seguridad-que-por-el-cobro-de-extorsi%C3%B3n-casa-alianza>

Negative headlines about the RNP continue to appear. Its offices in La Ceiba were broken into and rumors are spreading that identity cards were stolen.

At the same time, Nationalist congressman Fernando Anduray confirmed that more than 70 complaints regarding the RNP are being investigated. JOH stayed away from another presidential debate; this time organized by an evangelical church.

Victor Meza dedicates a new article to this year's electoral propaganda.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/02/saquean-oficina-del-registro-de-las-personas-en-la-ceiba-se-llevaron-identidades/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/02/afirman-investigacion-por-identidades-alteradas-en-registro-de-las-personas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/02/foro-presidencial-evangelicos-gritan-joh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/01/propaganda-electoral/>

A new report by FOSDEH and the Democratic Foundation without Borders finds that only 23 of the 128 congresswo/men regularly present draft bills (more than 15 in four years) and that just 42 assist at least 80% of all legislative sessions at Congress. The report also highlights that most draft bill belong to the category Economy, Infrastructure and Budget.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/02/produccion-legislativa-hondurena-esta-orientada-exoneraciones-del-pago-impuestos-no-combatir-la-pobreza-desempleo/>

<http://tiempo.hn/diputdos-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

With Trump's decision on TPS looming next Monday, voices are heard in Honduras demanding a backup plan if TPS will be canceled.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/02/gobierno-de-honduras-deberia-tener-un-plan-b-para-los-migrantes-que-queden-sin-tps/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/02/honduras-debe-prepararse-en-caso-de-masivas-deportaciones1/>

The president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta, announced that they received a new request for an extradition. They will discuss it next Wednesday.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nueva-solicitud-de-extradicion-en-poder-de-la-csj.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/02/anuncian-solicitud-de-extradicion-contra-un-hondureno-quien-sera/>

A transition committee was nominated which is responsible to follow up on Honduras' promise to (re-)create a Human Rights Secretariat.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/juramentada-comision-de-transicion-que-dara-paso-a-nueva-secretaria-de-ddhh.html>

The purging committee participated yesterday in a forum organized by the Wilson Center in Washington about the "construction of a new police in Honduras".

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/02/depuradora-policial-hondurena-expone-trabajo-washington/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/02/depuradores-policiales-continuan-en-ee-uu-rindiendo-cuentas-sobre-limpieza-en-la-fuerza-publica/>

A Honduran doctor was sentenced to three years in prison for conducting abortions in a clandestine clinic.

<http://tiempo.hn/condenan-medico-ginecologo-abortos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/02/tse-inscribe-activista-del-partido-liberal-planillas-la-democracia-cristian/>

04/11/17

Berta - Assassination; ZEDE; National Party; Corruption; UNAH; Journalists; FoE; Reelection; (Re)Elections; LGBTI; RNP; MACCIH; National Police; Migration; Penitentiary System; and Diabetic Democracy

COPINH published its first press release after the publication of the GAPE report. They feel vindicated by the report as it presents the link between the murder of Berta Cáceres and the hydroelectric company DESA, which COPINH has been denouncing for the last 20 months. Meanwhile, the report causes more reaction from the US senate with both

Senator Tim Kaine and Senator Ben Cardin reacting.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/desa-asesino-berta-captura-de-los.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/SenatorKaine/posts/1451303538252068>

See Attachment

OFRANEH reports on the visit of a "self-proclaimed Libertarian" US judge to Honduras, Loren A Smith, who according to their investigations is part of the Committee for the Adoption of Best Practices (CAMP) which should give support to the Honduran government in implementing the ZEDEs.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/11/03/juez-y-mago-libertario-asesora-a-honduras-sobre-sistema-juridico-de-las-ciudades-modelo/>

An investigation by Reporteros de Investigación and UNETV found that in just eight months, the National Party received 8 million Lempiras through the Financial Management System (SIAFI) belonging to the Finance Secretariat. The money is presented as voluntary support by public employees for the National Party. The former director of the Alliance for Peace and Justice (APJ), Josué Murillo, speaks of corruption.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/11/03/partido-nacional-uso-siafi-para-captar-millonarias-sumas-de-empleados-publicos/>

Now it is the turn of the TSC to demand from the CNA the name of the public official accused of having embezzled 12 million Lempiras during the Lobo administration.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/03/tsc-le-pide-al-cna-nombre-funcionaria-denunciada/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/03/piden-a-oficina-anticorrupcion-que-de-el-nombre-de-la-funcionaria-que-se-apropio-varios-millones/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/03/juan-orlando-porfirio-lobo-estelarizan-nueva-telenovela-la-despechada/>

The demands to stop the criminalization of UNAH students and to reintegrate expelled students continue to be addresses to the ad-interim UNAH dean Francisco Herrera.

<http://tiempo.hn/volvimos-estudiantes-universitarios-podrian-revivir-crisis-unah/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1937-mujeres-estudiantes-toman-la-batuta-de-la-lucha-en-la-unah>

After its annual meeting, the Inter-American Press Society (SIP) especially highlighted the "adverse panorama" for journalists in Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/panorama-adverso-para-la-prensa-hondurena-asegura-la-sip>

The Honduran human rights organization C-Libre will be awarded the Freedom of Expression Award 2017 from the Málaga University.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/universidad-de-malaga-y-catedra-unesco-otorgan-premio-libertad-de-prensa-c-libre>

The Alignment against Continuity calls for a big mobilization against the presidential reelection this coming Tuesday.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2500-este-martes-hondurenos-volveran-a-las-calles-contrala-reeleccion>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/que-quede-constancia/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-escenarios/>

Sociologist Eugenio Sosa proposes a new democratic model for Honduras. Héctor Maradiaga Cibrian analyses the statements made by the presidential candidates during the forum organized by an evangelical church. Criterio spoke with various journalists to ask them about their view of the electoral process.

The US National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Dutch Institute for Multi-party Democracy (NIMD) and the UNAH co-organize two forums on the government proposals of the political parties in Honduras. They chose the forum-format because JOH refuses to participate in debates among presidential candidates.

El Libertador presents three former organizers of the Indignados protest who now run for public office on a promise of transparency.

And Proceso Digital takes a closer look at the 29 journalists running for Congress.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3989-honduras-debe-buscar-un-nuevo-modelo-democr%C3%A1tico-recomienda-soci%C3%B3logo-eugenio-sosa>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/03/dios-discurso-politico/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/03/38268/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/03/conozca-ven-actual-proceso-electoral-los-periodistas-hondurenos-2/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/03/realizaran-foros-conocer-las-propuestas-gobierno-sin-la-participacion-los-presidenciables/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2499-indignados-hacen-campana-politica-a-traves-de-la-transparencia-del-3de3hn>

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/38-politica-nacional/periodistas-le-ponen-pausa-a-grabadoras-y-microfonos-para-buscar-diputacion.html>

Rihanna Ferrera, who is running for Congress for Pinu, filed a complaint at the Supreme Court demanding that the TSE inscribe her with her chosen name and not with her birth name Pedro Ernesto Ferrera.

<http://tiempo.hn/rihanna-ferrera-presenta-amparo/>

El Tiempo reports that the recently detected corrupt network inside the RNP sold the identities of dead Hondurans to foreigners.

<http://tiempo.hn/rnp-personas-muertas/>

Radio Progreso summarizes the discussion about the Efficient Collaboration Bill and how its approval is blocked by the National Party.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3986-ley-de-colaboraci%C3%B3n-eficaz-genera-peligros-para-clase-pol%C3%ADtica-se%C3%B1alan-diputados-de-oposici%C3%B3n>

The spokesperson of the National Police announces that there is currently an investigation taking place into purged police agents and officials suspected of heading a criminal gang in Olancho. Some days ago, Radio Globo and ConfidencialHN reported that the head of the National Police Force, Félix Villanueva, is protecting them.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/03/policia-asegura-que-investiga-banda-jefeada-por-ex-inspector/>

A Washington Post article causes fear in Honduras and in the Honduran community in the US as it cites State Department officials saying that the TPS is no longer justified for Central American and Haiti.

The Honduran foreign minister María Dolores Agüero told the press that they haven't been notified officially and she calls out against any speculation.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/central-americans-and-haitians-no-longer-need-protected-status-state-dept-says/2017/11/03/647cbd5c-c0ba-11e7-959c-fe2b598d8c00_story.html

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/03/centroamerica-haiti-ya-no-necesitan-tps/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/canciller-agueero-pide-no-especular-sobre-tps-y-a-esperar-comunicacion-oficial.html>

An inmate died "in a mysterious way" when being transferred from El Pozo to the tribunal in San Pedro Sula.

At the same time, 320 inmates were transferred from the prison in Santa Barbara to El Porvenir in Francisco Morazán.

<http://tiempo.hn/reo-fallece-autobus-cuando-trasladado-juzgados-sampedranos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/03/fallece-reo-encarcelado-en-el-pozo-mientras-acudia-a-los-juzgados/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/03/trasladan-320-reos-de-santa-barbara-hasta-carcel-de-el-porvenir/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3985-democracia-diab%C3%A9tica-03-noviembre-2017>

United States Senate Committee on
FOREIGN RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 3, 2017

CONTACT
Cardin: Sean Bartlett/Sue Walltsky, 202.224.4651

Cardin Statement on New Investigative Report into Assassination of Honduran Environmentalist Berta Cáceres

U.S. Senator has repeatedly called for justice in murder of Cáceres, end to impunity in Honduras

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, released the following statement Friday on the inefficiencies and negligence of the investigation into the assassination of Honduran Environmentalist Berta Cáceres:

"The deeply troubling findings of the Independent Advisory Group of Experts (GAIPE) indicate that the investigation into the assassination of Honduran environmentalist Berta Cáceres is a political will.

"More than a year and a half since Ms. Cáceres' murder, I remain disappointed about the pace of and deficiencies in the investigation. While eight individuals have failed to hold accountable any of the intellectual authors behind Berta's murder. The report by the Team of Experts suggests that there are investigations underway, but it is unclear if its efforts to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation and provide the information required by law to the Cáceres family's legal representatives.

"I continue to stand in solidarity with the Cáceres family and with the hundreds of Honduran environmentalists and human rights activists who have been

###

05/11/17

Reproductive Rights; (Re)Elections; Floods; Corruption; Penitentiary System; and Smiling Silence

Pasos de Animal Grande reports that the criminalization of the use of emergency contraceptive pills (PAE) leads to 900 young girls under 14 giving birth after having been raped every year in Honduras. Just two weeks ago, the IACHR demanded from its member states to guarantee the sexual and reproductive rights of girls and women.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1938-oidos-sordos-a-la-legislacion-internacional-estado-de-honduras-facilita-un-ambiente-de-violencia-contra-las-mujeres>

Criterio published four more views of Honduran journalists on the current electoral process.

El Pulso spoke with union leader Roger González about the elections.

An analysis by Proceso Digital shows that predominantly men are in the first positions on the party ballots, 141 out of 180.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/04/periodistas-hondurenos-nos-dicen-ven-proceso-electoral/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/04/joh-control-todos-los-sectores-incluyendo-los-periodistas-marvin-zuchini/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/04/reeleccion-puede-causarle-muchos-conflictos-honduras-german-reyes/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/04/periodistas-hondurenos-opinan-actual-proceso-electoral/>

<http://elpulso.hn/cgt-elecciones2017/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/38-politica-nacional/hombres-dominan-primera-posicion-en-planillas-a-diputados.html>

ContraCorriente reports from La Playita in Chamelecón, San Pedro Sula, which was heavily affected by the recent rainfalls and where a lot of families had to leave in a rush. At the same time, Chamelecón is known for its violence. The article shows how even in a case of emergency, the safest place for families to flee to is objectively not the safest one, because they can't move to the territory controlled by a different Mara.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/04/agua-las-fronteras-delictivas/>

Wendy Funes published an investigation of white-collar crime in Honduras.

<https://crimendatainv.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/los-mass-media-los-delincuentes-de.html>

Inmates at the Támara prison protested against the continuous prohibition of family visits.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reclusos-se-amotinan-para-exigir-reanudacion-de-visitas-en-la-penitenciaria-nacional.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/04/la-sonrisa-del-silencio-la-imposicion-joh-la-suerte-aire/>

06/11/17

(Re)Elections; Military Police; National Police; Migration; and an Expensive Baptism

Criterio reports on a legal complaint against Roy Dagoberto Cruz Pérez. He is running for Congress for the National Party, which is illegal, because he is the cousin of Supreme Court president Rolando Argueta Pérez.

Omar Rivera denounces that there is still a significant number of candidates for public office with ties to criminal organizations. According to him, it is now up to the electorate to make the right choice. Political analyst calls for stricter control of the use of credentials by the so-called bonsai-parties. Criterio continues with its series of short interview with Honduran journalists about their view on the electoral process.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/05/denuncian-inscripcion-ilegal-primo-rolando-argueta-aspirante-diputado/>

<http://tiempo.hn/omar-rivera-le-toca-al-pueblo-depurar/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/los-partidos-no-depuraron-sus-planillas-le-toca-al-pueblo-hacerlo-en-las-urnas-omar-rivera.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/05/honduras-piden-controlar-entrega-de-credenciales-a-partidos-bonsais/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/05/denuncian-que-el-orlandismo-esta-comprando-a-miembros-de-mesas-electorales/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/05/conozca-ven-actual-proceso-electoral-los-periodistas-hondurenos-3/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/05/etnia-tolupan-no-se-da-color-ningun-partido-politico/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/05/proceso-electoral-esta-bastante-normal-poca-publicidad-carlos-lopez/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/05/elecciones-seran-tranquilas-sin-escenarios-violentos-oscar-estrada/>

The Military Police becomes a main topic of the electoral campaign again.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/05/joh-arremete-nasralla-utilizando-nuevamente-tema-la-policia-militar/>

The purging committee spent a whole week with meetings in the US to talk about their work. The last meeting on Friday was with the State Department.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/depuradora-finaliza-visita-en-washington-con-reunion-en-el-departamento-de-estado.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/05/depuradores-finalizan-intensa-gira-de-trabajo-en-estados-unidos/>

The former US ambassador to Honduras, James D. Nealon, publicly asked for the prolongation of the TPS status for Hondurans.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/05/exembajador-de-ee-uu-en-honduras-pide-a-su-gobierno-extender-el-tps/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/04/joh-bautiza-el-flamante-buque-gracias-a-dios1/>

07/11/17

UNAH; Berta - Solidarity, Book; Bajo Aguán; MACCIH; (Re)Elections; LGBT; Social Policy; Migration; National Party; Homicide Rate; and Honduran Pinocchios

The police detained a UNAH student during a protest against the continuous criminalization of students even under the new, ad-interim UNAH administration.

<http://tiempo.hn/regresan-los-zafarranchos-a-la-unah-por-estudiantes-y-policias/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/06/estudiantes-y-policias-intercambian-piedras-y-gases-en-la-unah/>

More than two hundred international organizations and individuals signed an open letter to demand the arrest and prosecution of the intellectual authors behind Berta's assassination.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/boletin-especial-20-meses-del-asesinato.html>

A short story on Berta by Gloria Jimenez will be published as part of the book project "Alone Together: Tales of Sisterhood and Solitude in Latin America".

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B076YZMNZ8>

ConfidencialHN reports of a violent eviction of campesino families in El Tumbador, close to Trujillo.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/06/honduras-realizan-brutal-desalojo-contr-campesinos-de-el-tumbador/>

The group of international NGOs in Honduras ACI supports the initiative of Honduran NGOs and the MACCIH to request from Congress an immediate approval of the Efficient Collaboration Bill.

Oscar Miguel Marroquín wonders where the third report of the MACCIH is hiding. Normally published twice a year, Marroquín fears that the third report is being postponed not to intervene in the electoral process as it could harm JOH.

See Attachment

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/06/misterioso-tercer-informe-semestral-la-maccih/>

The Alignment against Continuity has called for a protest march against the presidential reelection today. It will start at 11am in Comayagüela and end in front of the TSE.

Criterio continues to publish short statements from journalists with different backgrounds commenting on the current electoral process.

C-Libre's director Edy Tabora denounces that the situation for journalists around the elections has even become worse. He speaks of lack of access to information, as well as harassment and intimidation.

The Carter Center met with the TSE.

The Armed Forces promised "to do whatever it takes" and even "to use force when necessary" to guarantee the coming elections.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/06/convergencia-continuismo-la-alianza-convocan-protesta-este-martes-la-capital/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/06/proceso-electoral-ilegal-vestido-legalidad-andres-molina/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/06/este-proceso-electoral-persecucion-los-medios-garifunas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/06/este-proceso-elecciones-una-guerra-baja-intensidad/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/06/escenario-intimidacion-violencia-asesinatos-los-periodistas-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/06/centro-carter-confirma-observacion-de-las-elecciones-generales/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/06/militares-prometen-hacer-lo-que-tengan-que-hacer-que-se-desarrollen-las-elecciones1/>

The civil society coalition SOMOS MUCHAS denounces that candidates running in the general elections as well as current state authorities foment a climate of hate against the LGBT community.

<https://somosmuchashn.wordpress.com/porque-el-amor-es-amor/>

FOSDEH published a critical analysis of the social program Vida Mejor (Better Life) by the JOH administration.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/06/reducir-isv-factible-incremento-ha-servido-exclusivamente-financiar-la-bolsa-solidaria-fosdeh/>

The Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Hondurans in the US has been prolonged for six months. Honduras Culture and Politics offers some background information on the TPS and its application to Honduras. Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle offers an interpretation what the discussions about the TPS say about the relationship between the US and Honduras.

<http://tiempo.hn/amplian-por-seis-meses-tps/>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/sending-hondurans-home.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/06/fin-del-tps-la-nueva-negativa-del-fondo-del-milenio-spin-sentido-comun/>

For weeks the Carlos Collier case has been in the headlines of Honduran newspapers. The case was presented as a suicide by Carlos Collier, but many things didn't add up and a group of former friends has been arrested. Reporteros de Investigación now also highlights a link to a National Party activist. At the same time, the MP announced that the further trial will be held in selectivity.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/11/06/influencia-politica-en-el-caso-collier-denuncian-en-redes-sociales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mp-elevo-al-grado-de-secretividad-los-medios-de-prueba-en-caso-carlos-collier.html>

UNAH's Violence Observatory estimates, based on official statistics, that the homicide rate will reach 46 per 100'000 inhabitant at the end of the year, which would mean a 21% decrease.

<http://tiempo.hn/ov-unah-cerraremos-2017-una-tasa-homicidios-46-muertes-cien-mil-habitantes/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/06/febrero-fue-el-mes-mas-violento-en-honduras-afirma-observatorio-de-la-violencia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/baja-21-2-por-ciento-los-homicidios-en-honduras-segun-el-ov-unah.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3991-pinocho-presidente-06-noviembre-2017>

08/11/17

Berta - Investigation; (Re)Elections; UNAH; National Party; LGBTI; Women's Rights; Migration; Corruption; National Police; Public Health; and the Market of Stolen Goods

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras and the IACHR reacted to the GAIPE report with a joint press release. They urge Honduras to investigate the crimes against human rights defenders. Furthermore, they express preoccupation about the secrecy of the state investigation and emphasize the right of Berta's family to be informed. Finally, they also demand the adoption of all necessary actions to guarantee the security of Berta's family, COPINH and the legal team.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2017/176.asp>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/07/onu-la-cidh-urgen-honduras-investigar-crimes-defensores-derechos-humanos/>

The Alignment against Continuity and the Opposition Alliance against the Dictatorship took to the streets yesterday to protest against the illegal reelection bid by JOH. The Alignment also presented twelve demands for the Opposition Alliance if they come into power.

Criterio published a video of the protests and interviewed Padre Melo about the protests.

Both the Opposition Alliance and the Liberal Party emphasized once more that they will only recognize the electoral results based on the physical ballots and not the one being transmitted electronically by the TSE.

Luis Zelaya denounces the strategy of the National Party to present the opposition parties as a source of chaos, when according to him, it is the other way around.

The OAS's head of the Department of Cooperation and Electoral Observations (DECO), Gerardo de Icaza, writes that those speaking of electoral fraud weaken democracy.

The TSE and the National Party which failed to implement electoral reforms, such as digital fingerprints or a two-round presidential elections, while at the same time also failing to purge the electoral census, will happily take up de Icaza's words.

Or in the words of TSE magistrate Erick Rodríguez: They have the right to protest, but we won't change anything.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nutrida-movilizacion-contra-la-reeleccion/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3993-movimiento-popular-sale-a-las-calles-a-rechazar-reelecci%C3%B3n-presidencial>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rS7zPrx6dsY&feature=youtu.be>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/07/la-ciudadania-se-ha-estructurado-la-dictadura-padre-melo-video/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/4605-2/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/07/alianza-partido-liberal-reafirmen-no-reconoceran-resultados-del-sistema-tse/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/07/alianza-instalara-propio-centro-computo/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/07/luis-zelaya-denuncia-gobierno-ha-importado-granadas-humo-reprimir-las-protestas-ante-eminente-fraude/>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-narrativa-del-fraude-en-los-procesos-electorales/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2504-tse-ya-instalo-crisis-politica-en-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/hay-derecho-a-protestar-contra-la-reeleccion-pero-la-decision-esta-tomada-dice-magistrado-rodriguez.html>

Both Defensores en Línea and C-Libre denounce the repression of Monday's student protests and the arrest of the student Erick Josue García.

UNAH authorities, meanwhile, announced that they won't come back to the decisions made by the previous leadership, i.e. expelled students cannot return to classes.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-unah-vuelve-a-ser-escenario-de-represion-estudiantil/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/decenas-de-bombas-lacrim%C3%B3genas-y-un-estudiante-detenido-en-protesta-estudiantil>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1123879-466/alumnos-expulsados-no-volver%C3%A1n-a-la-unah>

ContraCorriente portrays a National Party dynasty in Quimistán, Santa Bárbara, the Guevara family. They have their own security forces and the sway poor voters with direct handouts.

Mario Reiniery González, a National Party activist was murdered in Tegucigalpa.
The police announced that they have already arrested 11 alleged gang members for his murder.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/07/la-dinastia-la-miseria/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/asesinato-de-activista-del-partido-nacional-es-un-acto-de-terrorismo-evelio-reyes.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/07/ultiman-activista-del-partido-nacional-tegucigalpa/>

<http://tiempo.hn/caen-11-pandilleros-la-18-implicados-la-muerte-activista-del-pn/>

The Observation N-26 denounces hate speech against member of the LGBTI community surrounding the electoral campaign.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/07/observacion-n-26-preocupada-discurso-odio-discriminacion-preferencias-sexuales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/n-26-senala-su-preocupacion-discurso-de-odio-contra-las-lgtbi-en-el-actual-proceso-electoral.html>

Central American women's rights organization denounce the region's ongoing lack of guaranteeing the rights of women and girls.

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/comunicado-centroamerica-no-garantiza-los-derechos-de-mujeres-y-ninas/>

Héctor Maradiaga Cibrian reports on the ongoing uncertainty after the prolongation of the TPS for just six months.
InSight Crime lists five ways the end of TPS could impact Central America's security: i) Increased human smuggling and human trafficking ii) Boon for US-based document forgery networks iii) Increased gang activity in both the United States and El Salvador iv) Increased extortion v) General deterioration of security conditions in Honduras and El Salvador.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/07/las-puertas-retorno-forzado/>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/5-ways-ending-tps-central-america-impact-security>

Honduras is still awaiting the revelation of name of the public official accused of embezzling 12 million Lempiras during the Lobo administration.

<http://tiempo.hn/ex-funcionaria-de-pepe-mp/>

A former police agent was sent to prison after having been found guilty for taking part in the murder of three men in May 2016.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/07/encarcelan-a-expolicia-que-participo-en-masacre-de-guatemaltecos/>

<http://tiempo.hn/prision-ex-policia-acusado-matar-guatemaltecos/>

Nurses laid down their work for two hours in the main medical centers to protest against the failure of the JOH administration to comply with the payment of salaries as well as salary improvements.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/07/paralizan-por-dos-horas-atenciones-en-red-hospitalaria-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/el-mercado-de-lo-robado/>

09/11/17

UNAH; Journalists; FoE; Femicide; National Police; Reelection; National Party; Liberal Party; (Re)Elections; Transparency; Public Debt; Basic Goods; and Honduran Links to the Dakota Pipelines

Juan Almendares, a former dean of the UNAH, denounces the ongoing criminalization of the students and the harassment of teachers supporting team. The psychology professor René Centeno was fired without due process after speaking out against the violations of human rights of the students. The university authorities, meanwhile, boast that they have a high ranking in Latin America...
The recently arrested student Erick Josué García was released with alternative measures to imprisonment. His trial is planned to continue on November 20 at 8:30am.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189097>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/medidas-sustitutivas-para-universitario-agredido-por-policias/>

<http://tiempo.hn/universitario-detenido-ayer-protesta-tenia-libertad-condicional/>

REDEHSUR denounces the military vigilance of the community radio "La Voz de Zacate Grande" on the peninsula Zacate Grande in the south of Honduras. They perceive the military presence as a threat to the social communicators working at the radio.
Community media outlets met recently in Managua for the Third Central-American Meeting of Community, Alternative and Popular Media and Movements.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/los-tenemos-encima-denuncian-vigilancia-militar-radio-la-voz-de-zacate-grande>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3994-medios-comunitarios-en-centroam%C3%A9rica-se-articulan-en-busca-de-nuevas-frecuencias>

Defensores en Línea reports on a recent forum by the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras, the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR and C-Libre on recent legislation in Honduras and its detrimental effects on freedom of expression.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/reformas-y-proyectos-que-se-debate-en-el-cn-afectan-el-derecho-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-materia-penal/>

Various women's organizations took to the streets yesterday protesting against the ongoing wave of violence against women and the lack of an institutional answer by the Honduran government.
Police and special forces hindered the peacefully protesting women to reach the Supreme Court behind which they intended to plant a tree and call it Women's Square.

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/quinto-manifiesto-del-movimiento-de-mujeres-feminista/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/08/mujeres-hondurenas-se-articulan-para-defender-y-reclamar-por-sus-derechos-video/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/08/feministas-honduras-exigen-justicia-berta-caceres-las-calles-tegucigalpa/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cerco-policial-no-fue-obstaculo-en-la-exigencia-de-justicia-por-femicidios/>

Proceso Digital reports that the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights emitted three arrest warrants for high-ranking police officials for abuse of authority, illegal detention and ill treatment against two agents of the Anti-Drug Trafficking Bureau (DLCN).

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/fiscalia-de-ddhh-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-a-tres-policias-en-la-ceiba.html>

COPINH speaks out against the presidential reelection in a press statement.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/no-al-continuismo-la-reeleccion-es.html>

ContraCorriente continues to portray powerful and shady National Party congresswo/men. In their newest article they look at the track record of Rodolfo Irías Navas from La Ceiba, who is one of the main promoters of the neoliberal development model of Honduras.

Furthermore, ContraCorriente published a portrait of the Urbina family in Yoro, where the mayor Arnaldo Urbina was arrested in 2014. They appeared in the area in the 1990s and made links with powerful local former army leaders. A legacy of these connections is an ongoing seizure of land and natural resources in detriment of the indigenous Tolupán community. According to MADJ, some 100 indigenous activists have been murdered in the area.

The recent murder of National Party activist Mario Reinieri González Sánchez raises questions. This is mainly due to contradictions regarding the case coming from state authorities.

CofidencialHN even speaks of a conspiracy by the National Party itself.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/08/un-caudillo-de-temer/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/08/la-finca-familiar/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/08/se-esconde-tras-crimen-del-activista-del-partido-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/08/al-descubierto-complot-del-gobierno-de-honduras-ante-crimen-de-dirigente-nacionalista/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/08/nosotros-nos-apegamos-a-las-comunicaciones-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/08/ante-misteriosa-libertad-de-pandillero-poder-judicial-prefiere-no-opinar/>

ContraCorriente looks also at a Liberal Party figure, three times mayor of San Pedro Sula and now congressman Marlon Lara. He is currently running for mayor again.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/08/la-maquinaría-política-se-reestructura-san-pedro-sula/>

Various presidential candidates have so far signed the Morazanico Manifest by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), which asks the candidates to keep up some standards regarding transparency and accountability once in power. JOH hasn't signed yet.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/luis-zelaya-firma-manifiesto-morazanico-del-cna-y-se-compromete-a-luchar-contrala-corrupcion.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/08/nasralla-firma-acuerdo-morazanico-y-alaba-iniciativa-del-cna/>

Sociologist Víctor Meza explains how the market for party credentials works.

Jorge Burgos reports on a recent controversial change made by the TSE.

The Electoral Law proscribes the nullification of ballots with obscenities. The TSE just changed that, which is believed to help JOH.

Political analyst Raúl Alvarado says that National Party activist opposing the illegal reelection may want to make their opposition heard with nullified votes which now becomes more difficult.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/08/credenciales/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/08/honduras-los-insultos-votos-no-les-digo/>

Honduras' public debt almost rose by \$1 billion between December 2016 and September 2017.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1124185-466/la-deuda-p%C3%BAblica-de-honduras-alcanza-106268-millones-de-d%C3%B3lares>

The president of the Honduran Economists College Julio Raudales criticizes the Central Bank for the way it measures the price of basic goods.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/08/banco-central-vende-ilusiones-en-precios-de-canasta-basica-presidente-de-economistas/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/11/08/alerta-complejo-energetico-en-la-bahia-de-trujillo-impulsado-por-empresa-propietaria-del-gasoducto-dakota/>

10/11/17

UNAH; Journalists; Reelection; (Re)Elections; National Party; TSE; Migration; ZEDEs; IDAMHO; Corruption; Economy; Penitentiary System; Extradition; and the Invisible Team

The National Human Rights Board denounces the lack of political will by the new ad-interim authorities at the UNAH to break with the human rights violating past of their predecessors and demands a stop to the criminalization of students and as well as a reintegration of expelled students.

The parents of criminalized students address the ad-interim dean Francisco Herrera with the same demand.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/unah-paradigma-de-la-violacion-de-los-derechos-humanos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/09/padres-familia-la-unah-piden-al-rector-retirar-procesos-judiciales-estudiantes/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/09/38529/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/09/unah-paradigma-de-la-violacion-de-los-derechos-humanos1/>

Journalist Emy Padilla, who heads the online newspaper Criterio, denounces intimidating messages by the Honduras Association of Journalist (CPH) due to the coverage by Criterio of irregularities at the Pension Institute for Journalists (IPP).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1941-directora-de-criterio-hn-denuncia-que-directivos-de-cph-amenazan-con-querellar-al-medio-por-denunciar-malos-manejos-en-los-fondos-pensiones-de-periodistas>

Giorgio Trucchi reports on this week's "show of force" of the Alignment against Continuity and its protest against the illegal presidential reelection bid by JOH.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189129>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3996-convergencia-contra-el-continuisimo-09-noviembre-2017>

After having criticized for weeks that the Political Opposition creates instability by highlighting the various irregularities in the electoral process, El Heraldito now accuses in the headlines the Opposition Alliance of planning electoral fraud...an accusation which crumbles like a house of cards when you read the whole article.

According to the commissioner of the Clean Politics Unit, Kelvin Aguirre, they have cited so far five candidates to their offices for not complying with the Electoral Law and another five will be cited shortly.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/partidoalianza/1124512-508/trasciende-supuesto-plan-de-la-alianza-para-manipular-las-encuestas-a-boca>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/alrededor-de-10-candidatos-han-sido-citados-por-unidad-de-politica-limpia.html>

ConfidencialHN investigates irregularities at the Finance Secretariat which it summarizes as "nepotism, corruption and influence peddling" benefiting the National Party.

There are more accusations that the National Party uses the murder of one of its activists to scare the public and denigrate the political opposition.

CIPRODEH director Wilfredo Méndez speaks of a terror campaign to generate votes out of fear.

And ConfidencialHN reports on further irregularities with the case.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/09/nepotismo-corrupcion-y-trafico-de-influencias-primera-en-la-secretaria-de-finanzas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/09/38551/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/09/38525/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/09/joh-busca-aterrozar-hondurenos-por-miedo-a-perder-elecciones/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/09/honduras-se-esta-instalando-una-campana-terror-generar-voto-miedo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/09/mentiras-patologicas-little-serio-si-tenia-varios-juicios-por-los-crmenes-que-cometio/>

The former Liberal TSE magistrate Enrique Ortez Sequeira criticizes the current Liberal TSE magistrate Erick Rodríguez for his perceived closeness to the National Party. One case in point is the lack of rotation in the leadership at the TSE. According to Ortez Sequeira Rodríguez should be the current president of the TSE but he let stay the Nationalist David Matamoros Batson.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/09/38548/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/09/nuestro-magistrado-en-el-tse-no-quiso-respaldar-el-conteo-rapido-de-votos/>

The Washington Post exposes that the self-declared friend of Honduras, former SOUTHCOM general and now Trumps Chief of Staff John F. Kelly tried to pressure acting secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Elaine Duke to revoke the TPS.

The Honduran press shows signs of shock.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/white-house-chief-of-staff-tried-to-pressure-acting-dhs-secretary-to-expel-thousands-of-hondurans-officials-say/2017/11/09/914d3700-c54a-11e7-a441-3a768c8586f1_story.html?utm_term=.dcab510ead87

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2509-john-kelly-el-amigo-de-joh-exigio-expulsar-hondurenos-de-ee-uu>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/09/no-me-ayudes-compadre-el-mejor-amigo-de-honduras-pidio-no-extender-tps/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/09/john-kelly-presiono-expulsar-hondurenos-segun-the-washington-post/>

I was just made aware of an interesting article from September by the Honduran presidency giving some details about their ideas for the planned ZEDEs.

<http://www.presidencia.gob.hn/index.php/sala-de-prensa/161-estados-unidos/2954-contundente-mensaje-a-inversionistas-zonas-de-empleo-seguridad-y-pujananza-economica-las-cartas-de-honduras>

The Environmental Law Institute Honduras (IDAMHO) published its newest edition of the Green Gazette.

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/d02dd2498a2fb3cd56bd850c3/files/e47b687d-b18d-491a-9caa-3c9f39b15c43/GACETA_JULIO_AGOSTO.pdf

The political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado, who is not now for criticizing the National Party too much, denounced the governments attempt to present the renewed failure to qualify for the Millennium Challenge Funds as a success.

The Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) announced that it would present new lines of investigation to the MP in the coming weeks.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/09/perdemos-400-millones-de-dolares-y-algunos-tontos-del-gobierno-lo-presentan-como-logro/>

<http://tiempo.hn/cna-informo-dara-conocer-nuevo-informe-al-ministerio-publico/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-presentara-en-proximas-semanas-nuevas-lineas-de-investigacion-sobre-casos-de-corrupcion.html>

Javier Suazo criticizes the lack of critical analysis when looking at job numbers in Honduras. According to him, most of the newly created jobs are a form of "spurious employment", i.e. with wages below the minimal wage, no social protection, on demand and on the border of legality.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189136>

In May, 23 inmates were able to escape from the Támara prison, i.e. it was later found out that it was only 18, as five of them were found to be held in other prisons. Of the 18, ten have been rearrested, but eight still remain on the run.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/seis-meses-despues-de-masiva-fuga-de-tamara-aun-hay-ocho-profugos.html>

A Libre mayoral candidate was arrested after being requested by the US for extradition.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/09/arrestan-a-otro-extraditible-en-la-zona-occidental-de-honduras1/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/09/la-seleccion-los-invisibles/>

11/11/17

Mining; LGBTI; (Re)Elections; National Party; Women's Rights; Penitentiary System; Migration; MACCIH; Extradition; and the True Electoral Violence

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on a mining projects in La Paz linked to both the daughter of former de facto president Roberto Michelletti (Ana Paola Micheletti Banegas) and the son of the former Liberal presidential candidate Mauricio Villeda (Mauricio Villeda Zuniga). They work with the US investing company Sociedad Mercantil Minas Estrellas Doradas, S.de R.L.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1942-vuelve-el-uso-de-las-influencias-hijos-de-politicos-hondurenos-tras-el-oro-y-el-cobre-en-la-paz>

La Prensa reports on the murder of three men, which the article identifies as homosexual. They were reported missing last Sunday and yesterday they were found dead in Puerto Cortés.

http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1124822-410/honduras-homosexuales-muertos-puerto_cortes-asesinatos-travestis-

Ava Gómez and Oscar Navarro published a pre-electoral report two weeks before the general elections are expected to take place in Honduras. Icefi criticizes in a newly published study the lack of clarity in fiscal policy in all the presented government plans.

The TSE announced that media outlets reporting electoral results before the official results are out could be fined with up to 20 million Lempiras. TSE president David Matamoros Batson even speaks of the possibility to cap the signal of media outlets ignoring the prohibition.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189155>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/10/ninguna-las-propuestas-electorales-los-partidos-aborde-se-financiaran-icefi/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-sancionara-medios-divulguen-resultados-electorales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sanciones-millonarias-y-suspension-de-medios-por-divulgar-resultados-antes-de-lo-autorizado-advierte-tse.html>

In its newest installment on the National Party, ContraCorriente looks at "the old guard of the National Party, the two current congressman Oswaldo Ramos Soto and Antonio "Toño" Rivera Callejas.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/09/la-vieja-guardia-del-partido-nacional/>

El Pulso published recent reflections by Jessica Sánchez on women's voices in Honduras and the attacks that try to shut them down. In a second article, Nincy Perdomo writes about the political violence against women.

<http://elpulso.hn/palabra-en-sospecha/>

<http://elpulso.hn/violencia-politica/>

Radio Progreso reports on the new prison policy and how it negatively affects the rights of inmates' families. CPTRT, meanwhile, criticizes the use of the concept of 'dangerous' when addressing the topic of inmates. During the last weeks, with dozens of transfers from inmates to other prisons, the Honduran media was full of articles reporting on "dangerous inmates". CPTRT proposes the use of 'risk of violence' instead.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4001-nueva-pol%C3%ADtica-penitenciaria-afecta-a-las-familias-de-privados-de-libertad>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/COMUNICADO-ALTA-PELIGROSIDAD-1-1.pdf>

FOSDEH economist Rodulio Perdomo sees part of the blame for the possible cancellation of TPS in the JOH administration's effort to paint a rosy (and wrong) picture of the situation in Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/10/honduras-las-puertas-quedarse-sin-tps-gobierno-pregona-toda-esta-bien-economista-del-fosdeh/>

The MACCIH informed that it received the continuous support by the cooperation agencies for the coming year. They also announced that the third report had been handed over already on October 19 to the OAS' General Secretary.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/10/paises-donantes-ratifican-apoyo-la-maccih-lucha-la-corrupcion/>

The Supreme Court approved the extradition of Arnulfo Fagot Máximo "El Tío" to the US for drug trafficking.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/csj-autoriza-extradicion-de-el-tio-hacia-estados-unidos.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/10/violencia-electoral/>

12/11/17

Campesinxs; Security; (Re)Elections; Human Trafficking; US; Migration ; Organized Crime; Corruption; and the Terrorist Scare

After more than 100 days in prison, two indigenous Lenca campesinos were released with alternative measures to imprisonment. Carlos Jeovani López and Samuel Edgardo Martínez represent two of some 700 criminalized campesinxs in the La Paz department alone.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/campesinos-presos-vuelven-a-casa/>

Women from thirteen neighborhoods in Tegucigalpa presented a bottom-up concept of human security.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/mujeres-de-barrios-con-riesgo-y-peligrosidad-presentan-agenda-de-seguridad-humana.html>

Alexandra Suazo from the Women's Rights Center (CDM) condemns the denigrating attacks against the young candidate for Congress, Gabriela Blen. El Pulso spoke with CIPRODEH's director Wilfredo Méndez about the possible outcomes of the general elections and its impact. In the same interview, Méndez also criticizes the recent expenses by the JOH administration on a new war ship and upgrades on war planes. After having been postponed, the TSE announced to hold a simulation of the general election today.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/11/vez-juzgar-gabriela-blen-condenar-hecho-quererle-afectar-imagen-publica/>

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

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-tse-realizara-este-domingo-simulacro-electoral/>

Denia Suyapa Ochoa, an employee of the Health Ministry in San Pedro Sula was arrested. She is accused of leading a human trafficking ring for young women.

<http://elpulso.hn/mas-de-30-mujeres-arrestadas-en-el-anillo-de-la-trata-de-personas-en-san-pedro/>

The Honduras press reports that the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) granted a \$1 billion credit for El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras for the coming 24 months.

<http://tiempo.hn/usd-mil-millones-prestara-eua-al-triangulo-norte/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/11/ee-uu-prestara-mil-millones-dolares-triangulo-norte/>

According to the newest report by Conmigho, the number of deported Hondurans has almost reached 40'000 by then end of October.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hondurenos-deportados-en-2017-rozan-los-40-mil.html>

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana believes the current Money Laundering Bill to be unconstitutional when it comes to the confiscation of goods.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ley-de-lavado-de-activos-debe-declararse-inconstitucional-porque-lesiona-derechos-dice-exfiscal-orellana.html>

ATIC becomes the newest member in a list of Honduran organizations announcing the arrest of high officials for later this year.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1125091-466/atic-este-a%C3%B1o-habr%C3%A1-capturas-importantes>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hay-indicios-que-a-central-es-zona-de-paso-de-personas-con-nexos-terroristas.html>

13/11/17

UNAH; Workers' Rights; LGBTI; Femicide; Tasa de Seguridad; (Re)Elections; Public Debt; National Police; and Municipalities of Supportive Well-Being

El Pulso spoke with C-Libre's director Edy Tábora about the ongoing criminalization of students at the UNAH and the lack of political will of both the new ad-interim UNAH authorities as well as the MP to change this situation.

<http://elpulso.hn/edy-tabora/>

The Guardian reports on the garment industry in Honduras concentrating on the situation of workers at the factories belonging to Gildan Activewear, an American Canadian manufacturer.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/nov/12/the-new-american-apparel-claims-of-ethically-made-abroad-clash-with-reality>

El Tiempo reports on another murder of a member of the LGBT community, this time in San Manuel, Cortés.

<http://tiempo.hn/homosexual-apunalado-en-san-manuel-cortes/>

26 women violently lost their lives every month in Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/12/honduras-asesinado-26-mujeres-mes-este-2017/>

The criminologist Arabeska Sánchez criticizes the debt burden of the tasa de seguridad and the absolute lack of transparency regarding its use.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/12/honduras-cuestionan-elevado-endeudamiento-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad/>

According to La Prensa, the officially recognized amount for electoral campaigning has dropped by more than 60% in comparison to 2013. The RNP announces that it has distributed 600'000 of the remaining 1.2 million identity cards.

The TSE has simulated the general elections yesterday, i.e. the processing and transmission of ballots.

ConfidencialHN cites the EU electoral observation mission as satisfied with the results.

The UNAH also simulated the electoral process.

The main press, meanwhile, continues with the narrative of the "most-observed electoral process" in Honduras implying that the amount of observers somehow is positively correlated with the elections legitimacy.

http://www.laprensa.hn/inicio/1125378-417/gasto_propaganda_pol%C3%ADtica_honduras_elecciones_generales

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/m%C3%A1s-de-medio-mill%C3%B3n-de-c%C3%A9dulas-de-identidad-han-sido-entregadas-en-brigadas-m%C3%B3viles>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/12/con-proveedores-que-participaron-en-el-fraude-de-2013-tse-realizo-exitoso-simulacro/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/12/observador-europeo-satisfecho-con-simulacro-electoral-realizado-por-el-tse1/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/12/unah-realiza-simulacro-observacion-electoral/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1125350-508/hist%C3%B3rica-veedur%C3%ADa-en-el-proceso-electoral-de-honduras>

According to El Heraldo, 27.2% of the Honduran external public debt is owed to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1125315-466/bid-principal-acreador-externo-del-pa%C3%ADs-con-el-27-de-los-pr%C3%A9stamos>

The purging committee announced the separation of another 200 members of the police in the coming days. All in all, the committee will have purged some 4700 members of the police force. The committee also emphasized that their work must continue regardless of who wins the elections.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/12/separo-200-policias-se-despediran-depuradores/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reforma-policial-debe-continuar-gane-quien-gane-las-elecciones-afirma-depurador.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/salud-y-sociedad/5-salud-y-sociedad/municipios-instalan-sus-propios-sistemas-de-proteccion-y-promocion-de-los-ddhh.html>

14/11/17

Berta - US, Defamation; LGBTI; Renewable Energy; JOH; (Re)Elections; Opposition Alliance; Liberal Party; Penitentiary System; EU; Employment; and a Second Panama

US Senator Leahy addressed his colleagues in the senate regarding the murder of Berta Cáceres and the failure of the Honduran government to investigate it properly. He ended his statement with the following words: "Today any hope that the Honduran Government may have of continued U.S. assistance under the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity will hinge in part on the outcome of the Cáceres case, concrete actions that demonstrate support for the legitimate role of civil society and the independent media, and real reform of the justice system."

<https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2017/11/9/senate-section/article/s7152-1?r=63>

Erin Gallagher investigated the online smear campaign against COPINH and Berta previous to her murder. The campaign took place on December 11, 2015, "one day after a Honduran court convicted a military officer for the murder of another COPINH member and Lenca indigenous leader, Tomas García."

https://medium.com/@erin_gallagher/fake-honduran-twitter-the-digital-campaign-against-bera-c%C3%A1ceres-and-copin-h-3d1ea62e61ab

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the four recent murders of members of the LGBTI community in Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1943-anos-electorales-son-propicios-para-crime-nes-contra-integrantes-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi-en-honduras>

ConexiHon reports on the election of the municipal board (patronato) in Namasigue, Choluteca in the midst of a month-long protest campaign against a solar energy project. With eight votes difference the board supporting the protest was elected. This victory was of great importance to the inhabitants because two years back they already wanted to vote for them back the mayor had his own people put in place after some back room dealings.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/comunidad-de-los-prados-recobra-voceria-con-seleccion-de-patronato>

FOSDEH denounces that based on their investigations the budget for the Casa Presidencial rose by 60% in 2017 with the sole purpose to promote the image of JOH.

Yesterday's announcement by JOH to freeze petrol prices for one month goes in the same direction.

And while he was at it, he also offered cheap housing for the poor.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/13/presupuesto-casa-presidencial-aumento-60-este-ano-2017-promocionar-la-imagen-joh-fosdeh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/13/acto-demagogico-gobierno-honduras-congela-mes-precio-los-combustibles/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/13/presidente-hernandez-se-incrementara-apoyo-la-construccion-vivienda/>

Pinu Congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez continues to denounce that the National Party is buying up representatives for the ballot tables.

ConfidencialHN published a video of a vote-buying campaign by the National Party.

Lester Ramírez Irías goes back to Tocqueville's "tyranny of the majority" to explain why voting in one line (recently approved by the TSE) will mostly help the National Party.

ContraCorriente analyses and juxtaposes the electoral campaign of the National Party and the Opposition Alliance.

El Pulso portrays the Colombian company Audisis Ltda which was chosen by the TSE to audit the electoral process.

The Inter-Party Women's Network and the Political Observatory for Women held a press conference in Tegucigalpa. According to their calculations, almost double the amount of women were selected in the primaries of the three big parties for the municipal level. Nevertheless, women still face harsher conditions than men, be it financially or through discriminatory campaigns.

One case in point for the latter, is the case against Gaby Blen. She now decided to take legal actions.

According to Doris Gutiérrez, one of the culprits for the situation of women running for office is the TSE itself for not upholding the law.

The MP received in the current electoral period 140 legal complaints, only three of those have been prosecuted and they all date back to the primaries in March.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/13/partido-nacional-esta-pagando-mil-dos-mil-lempiras-la-gente-va-las-mesas-electorales/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/guti%C3%A9rrez-denunci%C3%B3-que-se-est%C3%A1-volviendo-al-mercado-persa-con-la-compra-y-venta-de>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/13/nacionalistas-siguen-pagando-50-lempiras-a-devotos-del-continuisimo/>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-reforma-inconclusa/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/13/la-recta-final-al-26-noviembre/>

<http://elpulso.hn/audisis-ltda-auditara-los-resultados-de-las-elecciones-generales/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-empresa-colombiana-auditara-resultados-elecciones-generales/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/13/893-mujeres-buscan-cargos-eleccion-popular-congreso-alcaldias-designaciones-presidenciales/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/13/gaby-blen-procedera-legalmente-rodolfo-wong-eduardo-maldonado/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/13/tse-ha-violentado-los-derechos-las-mujeres-doris-gutierrez/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/hasta-la-fecha-el-mp-contabilizan-140-denuncias-electorales-nivel-nacional>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle dissects the political campaign against the Opposition Alliance which prominently uses the 'enemy-within' narrative.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/13/enemigo-adentro-la-quinta-columna-sos-vos-la-necesidad-depurar/>

In its article series on dominant party structures around Honduras, ContraCorriente takes a closer look at Yoro, where the former de facto president Roberto Micheletti reigns. The article highlights a "mutual dependence" with the for the fourth-time running mayor Alexander López.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/13/caudillos-se-necesitan/>

Another inmate fled from the El Porvenir prison in Atlántida. And in the youth detention center Renaciendo mattresses were burnt by the young inmates. Omar Rivera uses the occasion to once more demand a privatization of the prison system.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/se-fuga-privado-de-libertad-de-la-carcel-de-el-porvenir-atlantida.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/menores-infractores-queman-colchones-dentro-de-centro-correcional-renaciendo.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/13/jefe-de-carcel-de-menores-justifica-amotinamiento-tomas-y-quemas-son-normales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-debe-buscar-apoyo-internacional-para-solucionar-problematika-de-centros-de-menores-recomienda-omar-rivera.html>

EU ambassador Alessandro Palmero met with JOH's cabinet minister Ricardo Cardona.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/uni%C3%B3n-europea-ratifica-apoyo-gobierno-de-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/union-europea-ratifica-apoyo-a-gobierno-de-honduras.html>

According to a new Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) report, Honduras together with Guatemala and El Salvador offer the worst conditions for employment (measured in quantity and quality) in Latin America.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/economia/1125563-410/en-qu%C3%A9-pa%C3%ADses-de-al-est%C3%A1n-los-mejores-trabajos>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/12/joh-busca-convertir-honduras-una-segunda-panama/>

15/11/17

UNAH; OFRANEH; Berta - GAUPE; LGBTI; National Police; ZEDES; Economy; JOH; Liberal Party; Armed Forces; (Re)Elections; Corruption; Penitentiary System; and the Honduran Electoral Context

C-Libre denounces new acts of intimidation by a private security guard against the student leader Felipe Ávila. The guard was identified as Dagoberto Gonzales and he belongs to the Aguán Private Security Company (ESPA).

Lorena Suazo Matute, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the UNAH, declares that the 19 expelled students won't be reintegrated and she claims that it is all the doing of the previous administration and there is nothing she can do about it...

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/dirigente-estudiantil-es-intimidado-por-guardia-de-seguridad>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1945-decana-de-la-unah-no-hay-vuelta-atras-con-los-expulsiones-de-estudiantes>

Once more the court in Trujillo supports the criminalization attempts by the Canadian businessman Patrick Foreseth. The court cited four Garífuna leaders, among them the general coordinator of OFRANEH, for November 24.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/11/14/persiste-criminalizacion-a-liderezas-garifunas-por-parte-de-inversionista-canadiense/>

Lauren Carasik has a great article in the Nation about the GAUPE report with a focus on the US.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/new-report-sheds-light-on-the-plot-to-murder-honduran-activist-berta-caceres/>

Oscar Estrada denounces how hate speech continues to raise the threat level against the LGBTI community in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/discursos-de-odio-aumenta-crimes-contra-comunidad-lgtbi/>

Defensores en Línea accuses the MP of fomenting impunity by letting police agents accused of murder walk free. The article looks at the case of Santos Joel Torres, who together with friends was attacked at a pool bar (billar) in Gualaco, Olancho by two police agents shooting at them. He survived with five gun wounds, but his uncle died.

A controversy has broken out about the future of the purging committee and the fate of the purged members of the police force.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mp-promueve-la-impunidad-al-permitir-que-agentes-del-estado-acusados-de-asesinato-queden-en-libertad/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/policias-depurados-tienen-posibilidades-de-ser-reintegrados-en-su-gobierno-promete-nasralla.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/14/depuradores-policiales-arremeten-la-alianza-oposicion/>

Radio HRN reports that the first places for companies in ZEDES will be auctioned off this Thursday. The event will take place at 7pm at the headquarters of the Honduran Central Bank...10 days before a general election, in which the main opposition parties oppose the idea of ZEDES completely.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/este-jueves-se-desarrollara-la-primera-subasta-de-plazas-en-las-zonas-de-empleo>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/14/zonas-empleo-crean-expectativa-los-jovenes/>

At the same time, FOSDEH accuses the government of hiding the real

situation of the economy in Honduras.

<http://tiempo.hn/actividades-economia-en-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/14/deudas-desplazan-al-sector-salud-y-educacion-en-presupuesto-del-2018/>

ContraCorriente dedicates the newest article in its electoral series on JOH himself. The article deconstructs the image of "the current president, who caused popular rejection in 2015 for the National Party's involvement in the IHSS corruption scandal (stealing some \$300'000) and who now presents himself to the world as the transparent president, promoter of change, worthy of staying in power to continue 'fighting against violence and impunity'."

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/14/la-estrella-se-muestra-solitaria/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/avance/2511-analisis-honduras-esta-angustiado-el-presidente-candidato>

In the second article of the day, ContraCorriente looks at the former Liberal president Carlos Flores Facussé.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/13/medios-iglesia-dinero-pilares-gobierno/>

A group of constitutional lawyers reminded the Armed Forces that Article 272 (2) obliges them to guarantee social peace and the rotation of the Presidents of the Republic.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/14/38776/>

ConfidencialHN reports that the TSE has problems importing permanent ink needed for the elections.

Radio Progreso held an interview with three women running for Congress for Libre, PINU and the Liberal Party.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4005-candidatas-a-diputadas-llaman-a-defender-voluntad-popular-expresada-en-las-urnas-el-26-de-noviembre>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/14/autoridad-electoral-esta-preocupada-porque-no-pueden-desaduanar-la-tinta-indeleble/>

The Latin American members of the International Human Rights Federation (FIDH) analyzed the link between human rights and corruption, concluding among other things that corruption violates fundamental rights such as the right to education, health and a functioning justice system.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/fidh-la-corrupcion-socava-la-democracia-y-el-acceso-a-los-derechos-fundamentales/>

ConfidencialHN reports on the precarious health situation in Honduras' prison which had led to a tuberculosis outbreak in El Pozo.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/14/autoridades-sanitarias-evaden-responsabilidad-por-pacientes-encarcelados-con-tuberculosis/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4004-el-macabro-contexto-electoral-14-noviembre-2017>

16/11/17

Bajo Aguán; UNAH; Militarization; LGBTI; Corruption; (Re)Elections; National Party; Public Health; Budget; and A Land Loosing its Forests

Vía Campesina denounces that the 13-year old Leodan Andrés Mancillas Arguello died at the hand of police agent and private security guards in the Bajo Aguán.

In a separate press release, the Agrarian Platform accuses the Honduran government of fomenting impunity in the region for its lack of political will to resolve the agrarian conflict.

Furthermore, Defensores en Línea reports that the house of Haydeé Saravia, the coordinator of COPA, was broken into and among other things her work laptop was stolen.

www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/11/honduras-menor-de-edad-asesinado-en-el.html

<http://www.conexihon.hn/terror-instaurado-en-el-aguan-cobra-la-vida-de-menor>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/preocupacion-y-enojo-por-ataques-contra-menores-en-el-aguan/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/aparece-sin-vida-a-nino-dentro-de-una-finca-en-el-bajo-aguan.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/15/campesinos-del-aguan-denuncian-falta-voluntad-politica-resolver-conflicto-agrario/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/15/acusan-a-terratenientes-del-aguan-por-represion-contra-el-campesinado/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensora-del-aguan-denuncia-robo-de-informacion/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that two men and a woman entered without a warrant the house of the criminalized and expelled student leader Nancy Paola Cruz. They pretended to be police agents, but they didn't wear a uniform.

El Pulso reports on another front in the the confrontation between the UNAH and its students. Next to criminalization and expulsion, the UNAH authorities also try by use of coercion and threats to force some students to pay back scholarships.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/1946-operacion-terror-tres-hombres-armados-y-una-mujer-allanaron-casa-de-nancy-garcia-estudiante-criminalizada-de-la-unah>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sin-orden-allanan-vivienda-de-lider-estudiantil-de-la-unah/>

<http://elpulso.hn/millonario-conflicto-enfrenta-a-becarios-y-autoridades-de-la-unah/>

LGBTI organizations demand justice in the four recent murder cases in the north of Honduras.

<http://tiempo.hn/comunidad-lgbti-exige-justicia/>

COIPRODEN denounces that the Armed Forces continue with the militarization program for children, the Guards of the Fatherland, even though it violates children's rights as well as national laws.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1947-28-mil-500-ninos-y-ninas-fueron-adiestrados-en-estrategias-de-guerra-por-las-fuerzas-armadas-de-honduras-en-ano-2017>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/15/aunque-viola-derechos-los-ninos-ff-aa-persisten-continuar-programa-guardianes-la-patria/>

A new investigation by ConfidencialHN finds further proof of irregularities in the work of Deputy Attorney General Rigoberto Cuéllar. In a second article, ConfidencialHN also reveals some new information regarding the IHSS corruption case.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/15/fiscal-adjunto-supo-de-los-negocios-de-coalianza-e-incurrio-en-irregularidades/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/15/investigacion-saqueadores-del-ihss-crearon-empresas-en-panama-y-siguieron-accediendo-a-licitaciones/>

CESPAD release as new report on the "Electoral Farce and the Unending Political Crisis". The report highlights among other things the lack of clear and widely accepted rules for conducting the elections as well as the fearful and violent environment in which the elections take place. Radio Progreso explains why just voting in big masses won't guarantee for a change in political leadership. The more important, and much more difficult, task is to guarantee that one's vote counts, i.e. that it is the same on the ballot and afterwards processed on the computer system. Recent threatening statements by Congress' president Mauricio Oliva show how difficult the defense of one's vote could become. After having pretended everything is fine, TSE president David Matamoros now blames the Hondurans citizens for the erroneous electoral census. According to him, they don't properly report the deaths of relatives and this is why they show up in the census. El Libertador questions this why bringing forward cases where death certificates have been presented but nothing happened. And regarding the sale of party credentials, the TSE shifts the responsibility to the MP to investigate it. El Herald reports that there are almost 900'000 young Hondurans with the chance to vote for the first time.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/15/la-farsa-electoral-la-crisis-politica-sin-fin/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4006-no-basta-con-llamar-masivamente-a-votar-15-noviembre-2017>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2516-mauricio-oliva-amenaza-con-represion-despues-de-las-elecciones>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/15/mauricio-oliva-advierte-que-le-van-a-quitarse-la-tosa-a-los-hondurenos-que-protesten-por-resultados-de-elecciones-el-presidente-del-congreso-nacional-por-redaccion-criterio-redaccion/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2514-honduras-censo-electoral-incluye-muertos-aun-con-acta-de-defuncion>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-trafico-credenciales/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1126466-508/el-voto-joven-clave-para-ganar-en-las-elecciones-generales-del-26>

The house of the National Party congresswoman Teresa Càlix was shot at by unknown assailants.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/15/diputada-denuncia-que-atentaron-tres-veces-contrasu-casa/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/15/diputada-teresa-calix-tendra-vigilancia-policia-atentado-honduras/>

The Honduran Medical Chamber announces a general strike if the government doesn't comply with the demanded salary adjustment. It seems that the government won't comply with it.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/15/collegio-medico-hondureno-anuncia-paro-general-los-servicios-publicos-salud/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/15/incumplimiento-de-reajuste-salarial-provocara-un-paro-general-de-medicos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/economia/6-economia/de-4-5-es-el-ajuste-salarial-que-ofrece-el-gobierno-a-los-medicos.html>

FOSDEH criticizes Honduras' budget for 2018 as it is built up on wrong assumptions.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/15/el-presupuesto-general-de-honduras-para-2018-esta-maquillado-fosdeh/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/premisas-falsas-presenta-el-gobierno-en-el-presupuesto-general>

<http://elpulso.hn/honduras-un-pais-desforestado/>

17/11/17

Bajo Aguán; LGBTI; ZEDEs; Opposition Alliance; (Re)Elections; Public Health; National Police; Berta - Impunity; COPINH; Extortion; Remittances; and the Long Way Out

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras expressed its consternation about the recent murder of four members of the LGBTI community. The Honduran government reacts by advising threatened persons to seek out the Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/16/oacnud-honduras-alarmada-crimenes-personas-pertenecientes-la-comunidad-lgtbi/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/onu-pide-a-honduras-investigacion-eficaz-por-crimen-de-cuatro-personas-lgbt.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/gobierno-pide-a-miembros-lgtbi-acogerse-a-mecanismos-de-proteccion-cuando-estén-amenazados.html>

The Association of NGOs (ASONOG) demands justice in the case of the murdered 13-year old Leodan Macías in the Bajo Aguán.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/asonog-demanda-que-crimen-contramenor-que-no-quede-en-la-impunidad>

OFRANEH wrote an open letter to the president of the Inter-American Development Bank Luis Alberto Moreno regarding a announced project to financially support the establishments of ZEDEs in Honduras. Proceso Digital reports that more than 30 international companies participated in a first auction for spaces in ZEDEs.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/11/16/carta-al-bid-en-relacion-a-su-proyecto-de-apoyo-a-las-inconsultas-ciudades-modelo-zede/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/primera-subasta-supera-las-80-mil-plazas-para-zonas-de-empleo.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/30-firmas-internacionales-competiran-por-mano-de-obra-hondurena-en-subasta-de-empleos-hernandez.html>

The Honduran government denied entrance to the country to the Venezuelan music group Los Guaraguao. They came to Honduras to perform at the closing ceremony of the Oppositional Alliance against the Dictatorship. The lawyer Omar Menjívar lists the legal arguments why this act violates the rights of the musicians.

ERIC presented a Habeas Corpus in favor of the four musicians. Criterio reports that the Opposition Alliance had informed the TSE about the arrival of the band.

The same day, a former US State Department Otto Reich and National Party ally, Otto Reich, claimed that Venezuela has sent infiltrators to Honduras to destabilize the elections...

The Honduran government helps to promote this narrative by announcing that measures have been take to prevent the arrival of foreigners wanting the destabilize the electoral process.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/16/ultima-hora-gobierno-hondureno-prohibe-entrada-al-pais-al-grupo-venezolano-los-guaraguao/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-gobierno-condena-el-arte-como-protesta-social-al-no-permitir-el-ingreso-de-los-guaraguao/>

<http://tiempo.hn/los-guaraguao-detenidos-aeropuerto/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/habeas-corpus-favor-de-grupo-musical-venezolano-retenido-por-el-gobierno-de-honduras>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/16/los-guaraguao-la-decision-la-dictadura-cachureca-negarles-ingreso-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/16/tse-fue-notificado-la-participacion-los-guaraguao-cierre-campana-la-alianza/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1126461-466/venezuela-env%C3%ADa-145-observadores-encubierto-a-honduras-seg%C3%BAAn-otto-reich>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2017/1126832-410/honduras-elecciones-agitadores-violencia-observadores-voto->

Hugo Noé Pino, former director of the Honduran Central Bank, and Edmundo Orellana, former Attorney General, explain why they vote for the Opposition Alliance and the Liberal Party respectively.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/16/quien-votar-la-herencia-del-presente-gobierno/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/16/los-candidatos/>

JOH denies the responsibility for the announced strike by the Medical Association Honduras (CMH), alleging that its president has links to Libre and this is why they announced a strike.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2520-joh-acusa-a-medicos-que-tienen-pacto-con-libre>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2517-medicos-hondurenos-declaran-huelga-nacional>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/16/crisis-en-hospital-escuela-falta-de-iluminacion-obliga-a-suspender-atenciones-medicas-y-cirugias/>

The hyped-up controversy about purged members of the police force continues. Salvador Nasralla, presidential candidate of the Opposition Alliance, emphasizes that all he said was to guarantee a due process to the purged members of the National Police Force. Nevertheless, he has been harshly criticized from different sides, among them the Association for a More Just Society, which led the journalist Rodolfo Colindres to call them "National Party activists".

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2518-lamentable-activismo-politico-en-depuracion-policia-radio-america>

<http://tiempo.hn/nasralla-varios-policias-no-depurados-influencias-politicas/>

COPINH published the translated statement by Senator Patrick Leahy criticizing the lack of a thorough investigation of Berta's assassination and demanding justice for her.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/declaracion-del-senador-patrick-leahy.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/16/ayuda-honduras-esta-condicionada-resolver-caso-berta-caceres-otros-asesinatos-periodistas-defensores-dd-hh/>

In These Time published a conversation between Gaspar Sánchez from COPINH and Black Lives Matter activist Veronica Morris-Moore.

<http://inthesetimes.com/article/20695/Chicago-Honduras-police-military-violence-indigenous-black-lives-matter>

El Pulso reports on the increase used of minors to collect extortion money.

<http://elpulso.hn/aumenta-el-uso-de-menores-para-cobros-de-extorsion/>

The president of the Honduran Central Bank expects remittances to increase by 14% this year in comparison to 2016.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/en-un-14-aumentar%C3%A1-el-envi%C3%B3-de-remesas-familiares-en-el-presente-%C3%B1o>

<http://elpulso.hn/salir-de-hondura/>

18/11/17

Bajo Aguán; Berta; Opposition Alliance; (Re)Elections; JOH; Vamos; Sexual Violence; National Police; Journalists; and High-Impact Crime à la Honduras

Casa Alianza also denounces the murder of the 13-year old Leodán Andrés Mancía Argüello in the Bajo Aguán.

Criterio reports on the investigation by the police which hasn't brought to light anything so far.

<http://www.casa-alianza.org.hn/images/documentos/CAH.2017/3.Comun.CAH/03.%20comunicado%20cah%20sobre%20leodan.pdf>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/17/policia-hondurena-maneja-varias-hipotesis-crien-nino-aguan/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/17/prometen-investigar-crimen-contra-menor-en-finca-de-palma-militarizada/>

Two new articles were published in international news outlets on Berta. Liz Ford reported for the Guardian directly from Río Blanco and John Perry writes for the London Review of Books about the "Dam Violence" which took her life.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/nov/17/berta-caceres-murder-case-honduras-land-rights>

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2017/11/17/john-perry/dam-violence/>

After having held the Venezuelan music group Los Guarango for more than 18 hours, the Honduran migration agents deported them.

El Libertador reports that the Opposition Alliance, for whose closing ceremony the band was invited, even had the green light from the TSE. Honduras Culture and Politics sees their treatment as the newest indicator of the erosion of free speech in Honduras.

Radio Progreso also criticizes the arrest and then deportation of the band.

Criterio reports that the discourse about Venezuelan electoral observers coming to Honduras to create chaos comes from the ultra-right in Venezuela, such as Robert Carmona Borjas.

And even Raúl Pineda Alvarado, a political analyst close to the National Party, calls the discourse about the Venezuelan observers fear-mongering.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/gobierno-de-honduras-expulsa-grupo-musical-los-guaraguao>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2522-tse-autorizo-a-la-alianza-banda-internacional>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/erosion-of-free-speech-in-honduras.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4014-de-intolerancia-y-dictadura-califican-deportaci%C3%B3n-de-los-%E2%80%99Clos-guaraguao%E2%80%9D-en-honduras>

<http://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4013-inadmisible-17-noviembre-2017>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/17/derecha-reaccionaria-venezuela-interfiere-proceso-electoral-honduras/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/analista-pol%C3%ADtico-califica-la-denuncia-del-ingreso-de-145-venezolanos-como-temeraria>

A hoard of zombies tried to wake of the Honduran public from its lethargy and motivate them to vote for qualified candidates, which also take into account the challenges Honduran women face.

Crismar Lujano presents the Honduran election as one between two economic models, the one of the National Party and the one of the Opposition Alliance.

The political analyst Ramón Enrique Barrios warns Hondurans of putting too much faith in the international electoral observers. According to him, it is still the responsibility of Hondurans to oversee the electoral process; most of all after November 26 when "the real elections begin".

Yesterday at 4pm in Honduras the deadline to request an identity card passed.

El Heraldo presents the changes between the last elections and the ones taking place in the week.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/17/no-seas-zombie-no-votes-la-misma-gente-aprende-elegir/>

<http://www.celag.org/ladisputaporelmodeloeconomicohonduras/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4015-fiscalizar-el-proceso-electoral-es-tarea-de-los-hondure%C3%B1os-opinan-analistas>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/las-400-pm-de-hoy-vence-el-plazo-para-solicitar-la-tarjeta-de-identidad-ante-el-rnp>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1127074-508/con-novedades-ir%C3%A1n-votantes-a-urnas-el-26-de-noviembre-en-honduras>

FOSDEH continues to criticize the economic figures of the JOH administration.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/17/tildan-de-mentiroso-al-gobierno-hondureno-por-alterar-estimaciones-de-crecimiento-economico/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/fosdeh-las-premisas-del-gobierno-en-cuanto-al-crecimiento-economico-son-falsas>

Criterio reports that Vamos has returned almost all of its 36'000 credentials to the TSE.

Proceso Digital, meanwhile, writes that they returned only 18'000.

ConfidencialHn raises some questions around Vamos.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/17/partido-devuelve-36000-credenciales-al-tse/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/vamos-devuelve-18-mil-credenciales-al-tse.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/17/partido-bonsai-vamos-entrega-18-mil-credenciales-suplentes-y-la-de-los-propietarios/>

Grecia Lozano, the former Youth Secretary at Libre, denounces having been sexually violated by the current Secretary for Political Formation for the Youth at Libre.

<http://elpulso.hn/grecia-lozano-rompe-el-silencio/>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle sheds some light on the (created) controversy about the purging committee and its work.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/17/depurados-depuradores-estado-derecho/>

The Journalists College Honduras (CPH) threatened the online newspaper Criterio with legal complaints for reporting on irregularities at the CPH-controlled pension fund for journalists.

A forum by C-Libre concludes that Honduras shows "serious setbacks" in the media development indicators of UNESCO.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/cph-amenaza-con-querella-medio-de-comunicaci%C3%B3n>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/honduras-muestra-graves-retrocesos-en-los-indicadores-de-desarrollo-mediatico>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/16/de-alto-impacto-arrestan-a-jose-ricardo-alvarez-por-robarse-una-gallina/>

19/11/17

OFRANEH; Bajo Aguán; Campesinxs; HRDs; (Re)Elections; Opposition Alliance; Music; Public Health; and Soccer and Politics

After the newest attempt to criminalize OFRANEH, the Honduras Solidarity Network and Rights Action launched an urgent action denouncing how the "'Canadian tourism mafia' file[d] trumped up charges against Garifuna leader Miriam Miranda".

<http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/urgent-action-canadian-tourism-mafia-file-trumped-up-charges-against-miriam>

Defensores en Línea reports on the most recent assassination of campesinos in the Bajo Aguán - Héctor Noé Cárcamo Catellanos was attacked by men dressed as soldiers and died on the spot. Another young campesino was gravely hurt and brought to a health center. This is the second murder in just one week, after the assassination of the 13-year old Leodán Andrés Mancía Argüello on Wednesday.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-tumbador-revive-asesinato-de-campesinos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/18/red-coiproden-condenan-asesinato-menor-aguan-exigen-justicia/>

Defensores en Línea spoke with the Secretary General of the CNTC, Franklin Almendares, about the increase in the criminalization of campesinxs in La Paz. According to him, there are some 850 campesinxs facing criminal charged in this department alone, 181 of which are women. 50 campesinxs have even been imprisoned.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/terror-en-la-paz-por-criminalizacion-de-campesinos-lencas/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports from an encounter of human rights defenders in Brussels organized by ProtectDefenders.EU

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1950-regimenes-se-han-sofisticado-para-obstaculizar-el-trabajo-de-los-defensores-y-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-en-el-mundo>

https://protectdefenders.eu/uploads/files/20171108%20PD.eu_Statement2017_FINAL.pdf

Criterio published the reflections by sociologist Leticia Salomón published on the electoral process in Honduras.

The TSE announced more details on how they will distribute the electoral material among the departments.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/18/competencia-limpia-elecciones-limpias-aqui-honduras/>

<http://tiempo.hn/proxima-semana-enviaran-maletas-electorales-los-18-departamentos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/18/autoridad-electoral-se-declara-lista-para-distribuir-el-material-previo-a-los-comicios/>

The former UNAH dean Julieta Castellanos joins in the defamation of Salvador Nasralla, the presidential candidate of the Opposition Alliance. Nasralla gets back up from PAC Congressman Virgilio Padilla, who clarifies, as many before, that Nasralla only guaranteed due process to purged members of the National Police Force. He also accuses the purging committee to act as National Party activists. The Venezuelan music group Los Guaragua, meanwhile, arrived in Venezuela where they denounced their treatment by the Honduran authorities.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/18/julieta-castellanos-no-esconde-inclinacion-joh-dice-nasralla-una-amenaza-pueblo-hondureno/>

<http://tiempo.hn/castellanos-nasralla-esta-comprometido-con-el-lado-oscuro-de-la-policia-nacional/>

<http://hondudiario.com/2017/11/18/comision-depuradora-debe-declararse-activista-del-partido-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/18/piden-a-depuradores-policiales-que-se-declaren-activistas-del-partido-nacional/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/18/venezuela-repudia-deportacion-los-guaraguao-gobierno-honduras/>

El Pulso interviewed the Honduran artist Fer King about his new single "Pura Mierda" expressing Honduras frustration with the political and economic elites.

<http://elpulso.hn/fer-king-pm/>

The strike by Honduran doctors has grown in size as the medical residents announced yesterday that they will join them.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/18/se-suman-medicos-residentes-a-la-huelga-por-incumplimiento-de-aumento-salarial/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/medicos-residentes-se-unen-a-huelga-de-galenos.html>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189309>

20/11/17

(Re)Elections; and Invented News, Elections and Horror Guitars

The Honduran general elections took another ugly turn. The Honduran authorities raided a house of supposed gang members "accidentally" finding there a lot of campaign material of the Opposition Alliance. ConfidencialHN denounces it as another false positive campaign by the government to spread terror and fear while criminalizing the political opposition.

Among the evidence the security forces "found" was a manual for homemade terrorism...

The coordinator of the Anti-Fraud Operation at the Opposition Alliance, Carlos Eduardo Reina, denounces the attempt to link them to organized crime. JOH told Proceso Digital that the opposition "has damaged Honduras a lot". Additionally, the Honduran government announced new visa restrictions

for Venezuelans.

At the same time, the National Party called its Sunday march "United for Peace"...

The Evangelical Brotherhood of Honduras, meanwhile, requests a temporal prohibition to carry arms for civilians before and after the elections.

At midnight, the week long "electoral silence" started.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/19/falsos-positivos-hallan-bombas-caseras-y-afiches-de-libre-en-casa-de-pandilleros/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/19/gobierno-honduras-emprende-campana-terror-electoral/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/libre-rechaza-que-este-vinculado-a-grupo-que-pretendia-desestabilizar-elecciones.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/los-de-la-oposicion-han-generado-mucho-dano-a-honduras-presidente-hernandez.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/19/honduras-aplica-la-visa-consultada-los-venezolanos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/19/cachurecos-piden-cuatro-anos-mas-de-joh-con-marcha-unidos-por-la-paz/>

<http://tiempo.hn/piden-prohibir-uso-armas-dias-despues-las-elecciones/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/19/evangelicos-piden-al-gobierno-prohibir-temporalmente-el-uso-de-armas/>

<http://tiempo.hn/inicia-silencio-electoral-lunes/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/19/otto-reich-los-guaraguao/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-se-apresta-a-elecciones-generales-en-medio-de-denuncias-de-intervencion-venezolana.html>

21/11/17

HRDs; Berta - Investigations; UNAH; Journalists; JOH; Political Opposition; (Re)Elections; US; Youth; Corruption; IHSS; Children; Public Health; and the Used-Goods Country

Five international human rights defenders denounce in an open letter their treatment by the Honduran government. They all have worked for years with Honduran human rights organizations and accompanied among others Berta Cáceres and COPINH. In 2016, one of them suffered a public smear campaign and another one was detained and deported when trying to enter Honduras. With the help of Honduran human rights organizations, they found out that all five of them have an expulsion order against them and they aren't allowed to return to Honduras for five years. But the Honduran government denies them access to their files and therefore any legal procedure to question these orders. One and a half year after starting to look into the matter, they now address the international community, asking them to pressure the Honduran government to withdraw these illegitimate expulsion order and to create an environment where national and international human rights defenders can conduct their important work.

See Attachment

ATIC announced the arrest of the criminal investigator Juan Carlos Cruz and the former police agent Miguel Arcangel Rosales Izcano. They are accused of having falsified proof in the murder investigation of Berta Cáceres.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/20/capturan-policias-falsificaron-pruebas-caso-berta-caceres/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2524-apresan-agentes-por-mentir-en-crimen-berta-caceres>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/20/detencion-judicial-policias-falsificaron-pruebas-crimen-berta-caceres/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/atic-captura-a-policias-que-presentaron-pruebas-falsas-en-crimen-de-caceres.html>

A judge ordered a temporary stay of proceedings in the case of the criminalized student Erick Josué García. COFADEH's lawyer Karol Cárdenas who is defending the student will appeal the decision demanding a dismissal of the proceedings because the MP wasn't able to show any reasonable proof to put Erick at the scene of the supposed crime.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sobreseimiento-provisional-a-estudiante-erick-josue-garcia/>

Journalists of both Al Jazeera and teleSUR were held for some time at the airport in Tegucigalpa. They arrived in Honduras to cover the coming elections.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/20/retienen-por-varias-horas-a-periodistas-de-al-jazeera-y-telesur-cuando-ingresaban-a-honduras/>

ContraCorriente reports on the revelations by Univisión which, once more, establishes link between JOH's brother Tony Hernández and drug trafficking.

JOH closes his campaign among other things with two hours of airtime yesterday in the TV show Frente a Frente to promote himself and further attack the political opposition.

He also gets a lot of space in the main newspaper. La Prensa printed his complete proposal for his coming presidency.

Meanwhile, there are more voices holding the JOH administration responsible for the murder of National Party activists to further promote their agenda of fear.

In an opinion piece in the Post and Courier, Fernando Antonio questions the US support for JOH emphasizing his "troubling record on human rights, underscored by his aggressive militarization of police power."

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/20/operacion-democracia/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3iDAYqnh7o&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1952-terror-en-elecciones-gobierno-de-joh-usa-falsos-positivos-para-generar-miedo-y-desmovilizar-a-la-oposicion>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2017/1127910-410/empleo-masivo-seguridad-convivencia-propone-joh>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/20/campana-de-miedo-desde-el-estado-asesinan-a-dirigente-del-partido-nacional/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/20/asesinato-una-artimana-mas-dentro-la-sucia-campana-electoral/>

http://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/editorials/danger-to-honduran-democracy/article_e9cd85e4-ca43-11e7-b94d-4fbf2bd987cf.html

As the JOH administration continues to promote the Venezuela scare, COFADEH fears that two opposition politicians may be attacked for their links to Venezuela.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1127891-508/presidente-hernandez-el-venezolano-que-crea-que-se-va-a-venir-a>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/20/joh-dice-que-el-57-de-los-ataques-en-las-redes-sociales-vienen-de-venezuela/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/20/confadep-denuncia-supuesto-plan-atentar-dos-candidatos-diputados-libre/>

The Alignment against Continuity denounces in a press conference the atmosphere of terror and fear created by an illegal reelection campaign. Radio Progreso wrote an insightful article on the difficult position of social movements during this electoral process. Today at midnight, the electoral silence begins. At the same time of announcing the coming electoral silence, the TSE concedes that they cannot control it on social media.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/de-consumirse-la-dictadura-al-pueblo-le-espera-un-ambiente-de-represion-y-de-violencia/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/posicionamiento-publico-de-la-convergencia-contra-el-continuismo/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3741-%C2%BFd%C3%B3nde-ha-de-estar-el-lugar-del-movimiento-social-en-estos-tiempos-electorales?-01-julio-2017>

<http://elpulso.hn/silencio-ultimo-dia-de-propaganda-electoral/>

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-a-las-12-de-la-noche-inicia-silencio-electoral/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1127895-508/tse-campa%C3%B1a-en-redes-no-podr%C3%A1-regularse-durante-silencio-electoral>

Jennifer Ávila spoke for ContraCorriente with US Congressman Keith Elisson. The politician of the Democratic Party just spent four days in Honduras to get to know the situation a bit better. He is one of the promoters of the Berta Cáceres Bill in the US Congress and he calls for "more human, less militarist and corporatist connections" between Honduras and the US.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/20/honduras-estados-unidos-deben-construir-conexiones-mas-humanas-menos-militaristas-corporativas-segun-congresista-keith-elisson/>

Casa Alianza reports that last month 57 Hondurans under 23 were murdered, seven of which were under 17-years old.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/casa-alianza-reporta-que-57-jovenes-menores-de-30-anos-murieron-en-forma-violenta-en-septiembre.html>

A social audit commission in Bonito Oriental, Colón found irregularities in the two million Lempiras construction of a pavement in one of its neighborhoods. According to the local mayor, the executing company is only a front and belongs to the JOH administration. The TSC announced that they are currently investigating at least (don't they know...) former officials of different administrations for illicit enrichment.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tse-investiga-a-16-exfuncionarios-por-enriquecimiento-ilicito-uno-que-funge-en-la-actualidad.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4016-irregulares-en-construcci%C3%B3n-de-pavimento-en-bonito-oriental-col%C3%B3n-revela-autor%C3%ADa-social>

Not satisfied with the work of the intervention committee, employees at the IHSS labor union Sitrahss announced protest measures starting tomorrow. They further will make public irregularities committed by the committee.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/20/ante-irregulares-la-junta-interventora-trabajadores-del-seguro-social-haran-asamblea-informativa-miercoles/>

The IACHR asks its member state to invest more in the future of their countries, their children.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/cidh-insta-los-estados-mejorar-la-inversion-en-la-infancia>

So far there has been no agreement between the Medical Association Honduras and the Honduran government. New talks are planned for next week. The Honduran government decreed a state of emergency in the public health system.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/medicos-y-gobierno-no-llegan-acuerdo-y-se-reuniran-la-proxima-semana.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/20/cmh-lo-unico-pedimos-reconozcan-la-deuda/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/20/gobierno-de-honduras-decreta-emergencia-en-el-sistema-hospitalario/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/20/honduras-se-esta-convirtiendo-pais-lo-usado/>

22/11/17

HRDs; ZEDEs; Community Radios; Journalists; JOH; Opposition Alliance; Liberal Party; (Re)Elections; Economy; National Police; Corruption; Public Health;

The open letter of the five international human rights defender being confronted with expulsion orders and a five-year prohibition to return to Honduras is now also available in English.

Pasos de Animal Grande links their situation to the recent expulsion of the Venezuelan band Los Guaraguao, denouncing the misuse by the Honduran government of migratory law to keep out critical voices.

Defensores en Línea reproduced the open letter online.

See Attachment

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1954-honduras-el-pais-que-expulsa-sin-justificacion-a-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-internacionales>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/carta-abierta-a-los-respetables-miembros-del-cuerpo-diplomatico-internacional-y-organismos-internacionales-con-presencia-yo-enfoque-en-honduras/>

Ebal Díaz, the secretary of the Council of Ministers, told El Heraldo that national and foreign companies already bought land to build ZEDEs.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1128219-466/empresarios-ya-compraron-tierras-para-edificar-las-zonas-de-empleo-y-desarrollo>

Bernardino Pérez, the human rights defender and social communicator at the community radio Radio Taragual - The Voice of Life, denounces that for three months now, they lose signal every day at 6pm when they want to air their political program.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-las-seis-de-la-tarde-sacan-del-aire-a-radio-taragual/>

C-Libre denounces the hostile environment for international journalists created by the Honduran government in the wake of the general elections.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/ambiente-migratorio-hostil-para-periodistas-internacionales>

The opposition politicians Luis Redondo and Jorge Cálix presented yesterday the report "The Parliamentarian Theft of the Century" highlighting all the irregularities at Congress when JOH was its president between 2010 and 2014. They claim that the Honduran public lost 300 billion Lempiras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2525-congreso-de-joh-desperdicio-300-mil-millones>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/21/honduras-denuncian-que-de-la-mano-de-joh-se-consumo-el-robo-parlamentario-del-siglo/>

Libre leader and former mayoral candidate Roberto Suazo Córdoba was murdered in La Paz yesterday. ConexiHon published some more details on the detention and deportation of the four members of Los Guaraguao on Thursday.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/21/matan-arma-blanca-la-paz-profesor-dirigente-libre/>

<http://tiempo.hn/asesinan-a-profesor-dirigente-de-libre/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/una-voz-no-callara-mientras-se-le-diga-juan-que-hay-libertad>

On Monday evening, the Liberal Party activist Ilesia Raquel Portillo Guevara was murdered in La Ceiba.

<http://tiempo.hn/activista-liberal-asesinada-la-ceiba/>

Radio Progreso explains what kind of Honduras will hold general elections this Sunday - a country of "poverty, blood, violence corruption, death and impunity." MADJ as well can only offer a bleak view on the elections, while emphasizing that it also offers opportunities for social movements "to organize the indignation and convert it into a stream of transformation". JOH signed an executive decree forbidding the carrying of fire arms between this and next Thursday. Proceso Digital reports that the remaining 40 electoral observers of the EU arrived in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4017-la-honduras-que-va-a-elecciones-21-noviembre-2017>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/11/21/Elecciones-2017-Certezas-desaf%C3%ADos-y-oportunidades>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/21/joh-aprueba-decreto-ejecutivo-prohibe-la-portacion-armas-marco-las-elecciones/>

<http://tiempo.hn/gobierno-impone-desarme-general-antes-y-despues-elecciones-generales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/unos-40-observadores-de-la-ue-llegan-a-honduras-para-los-comicios-del-domingo.html>

Javier Suazo looks back at the economic policies of previous Honduran government, going back as far as 1982, and wonders if a possible president Nasralla could break with the neoliberal policies of the last National Party administrations.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189366>

Omar Rivera, member of the purging committee, has to appear in front of a court today. Three purged police agents accused him of defamation. Three prison guards were arrested after the escape of an inmate on his way to the courts in Trujillo.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/omar-rivera-citado-a-audiencia-por-difamacion-reforma-policial-es-irrefrenable-responde.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/21/capturan-a-tres-policias-penitenciarios-en-zona-norte-de-honduras/>

Various social movements jointly asked the MACCIH to investigate irregularities around the highway concessions handed out by COALIANZA in 2013.

The same day, the MP announced to investigate irregularities around another highway deal in the Olancho department.

Meanwhile in a corruption case at the Lawyers College Honduras (CAH), its former president Olvin Antonio Mejía Santos and eight further accused appeared in front of a court yesterday.

Mario Díaz, member of the Association of Judges for Democracy (AJD), declares Mejía Santos' arrest an important sign to those who manage public funds for their own benefit.

A public prosecutor linked to the CAH corruption case was also arrested.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/por-supuestos-actos-de-corrupcion-piden-a-maccih-investigar-concesiones-de-carreteras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/21/ministerio-publico-inspecciona-construccion-tramo-carretero-olancho-ligado-al-delito-fraude-redaccion-criterio-redaccioncriterio-hn-tegucigalpa-la-fiscalia-especial-la-transparenci/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/21/expresidente-colegio-abogados-comparece-ante-tribunales-materia-corrupcion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/detencion-judicial-para-expresidente-de-abogados-y-otros-ocho-imputados.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/21/captura-del-expresidente-de-abogados-debe-servir-de-ejemplo-para-los-que-administran-fondos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/capturan-a-fiscal-vinculado-al-desfalco-del-colegio-de-abogados-en-sps.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/21/arrestan-a-fiscal-por-participar-en-el-desfalco-al-colegio-de-abogados/>

The president of the Medical Association Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, denounces a smear campaign by the government against them and she threatens that if a doctor is fired for the strikes, they all will walk.

<http://www.proceso.hn/salud-y-sociedad/5-salud-y-sociedad/si-despiden-a-un-medico-renunciaran-todos-y-entregamos-hospitales-al-gobierno-cmh.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/21/colegio-medico-de-honduras-a-este-gobierno-no-le-interesa-la-salud-del-pueblo/>

23/11/17

HRDs; Impunity; COPINH; UNAH; LGTBI; Bajo Aguán; Opposition Alliance; JOH; (Re)Elections; Women; Corruption; National Police; Migration; Journalists; Public Health; and a 50 Years Cycle

ConexiHon reports on the case of the five international human rights defenders and denounces that the Honduran authorities denied them access to information regarding their expulsion orders. ConexiHon gained access to part of the information, publishing now a document by the Human Rights Secretariat which writes to the National Migration Institute about the expulsion orders.

<http://conexihon.hn/autoridades-hondurenas-niegan-informacion-defensores-y-periodistas-internacionales-expulsados-en>

The former police commissioner María Luisa Borjas made public information about the intellectual authorship behind three high-impact cases: the assassinations of Berta Cáceres, Alfredo Landaverde and Orlan Chávez. She mentioned names of businessmen, police and army officials, public prosecutors and members of organized crime. According to Borjas, the MP is in possession of this information but failed to act on it. She now requested protection by CONADEH fearing for her life. Speaking about the murder of Berta, Borjas mentions among other people the former vice-president of Congress, the Nationalist Gladis Aurora López and her husband Arnold Castro Hernández as well as the president of the bank Ficohsa, Camilo Alejandro Atala Faraj. In the case of Alfredo Landaverde, Borjas claims that the son of Ramón Mata gave the order for his murder. Talking about the murder of Orlan Chavez, also known as the Golden Prosecutor, Borjas accuses various police officials for his murder.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/comisionada-de-policia-publica-informes-sobre-crimenes-de-impacto-en-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/22/comisionada-maria-luisa-borjas-senala-gladis-aurora-lopez-esposo-los-asesinos-berta-caceres/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/22/hijo-ramon-mata-dio-la-orden-asesinar-alfredo-landaverde-maria-luisa-borjas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/22/oficiales-policia-asesinaron-al-fiscal-oro-maria-luisa-borjas/>

COPINH denounces the intimidation and harassment of the indigenous community Achiotal, Siguatepeque on Monday by state security forces and an environmental prosecutor. They showed up when the 45 families were harvesting beans and destroyed their plants, falsely claiming that they have an eviction order.

<https://copinh.org/article/comunicado-amenazas-por-fiscal-de-mediambiente-y-p/>

A private security guard at the UNAH sprayed tear gas into the face of a young boy.

Casa Alianza demands the cancellation by the UNAH with the private security company ESPA.

<http://tiempo.hn/guardia-rocia-gas-pimienta-rostro-menor/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/22/exigen-destituir-a-empresa-de-seguridad-contratada-por-la-unah-que-ataco-a-menor/>

Giorgio Trucchi reports on the recent upsurge of murders of the LGBTI community in Honduras.

Defensores en Línea also detects an increase in hate crimes in the running up of the elections.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189384>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-registra-aumento-de-crimenes-de-odio-en-ano-electoral/>

Yoni Rivas, campesino leader from the Bajo Aguán, denounces that the region has seen an increase in militarization in recent weeks. He sees this as part of an intimidation campaign to force people to abstain from voting.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/22/denuncian-remilitarizacion-del-aguan-a-pocos-dias-de-las-elecciones-generales/>

Another activist of the Opposition Alliance was murdered. The harassment of everything linked to the political opposition continues. An eleven-people delegation by the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (Coppal) was held for hours at the airport in Tegucigalpa.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/22/asesinan-a-otro-activista-de-la-alianza-opositora-en-comayagua-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/22/autoridades-migracion-honduras-retienen-cinco-horas-delegados-coppal/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/22/gobierno-de-joh-acosa-a-observadores-invitados-por-la-oposicion/>

An analysis by ConexiHon found a complete dominance of electoral propaganda by JOH and the National Party. They analyzed two radio and two TV stations on two days both in October and November.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/oficialismo-saturo-la-pauta-publicitaria-durante-campana-politica>

CEPR published the development of nine social and economic indicators in Honduras between the years before the coup d'état and today.

Ollantay Itzamná published further details on what country goes to the polls this Sunday.

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle draws lessons from the 12 last elections for coming Sunday.

<http://cepr.net/blogs/the-americas-blog/honduras-social-and-economic-indicators-since-the-2009-coup>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189381>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/21/lecciones-la-historia-las-ultimas-12-elecciones/>

Defensores en Línea reports that the advocacy of women's organizations had some success in demanding answers by the presidential candidates regarding women-specific topics.

Four women wrote a joint article for CotraCorriente voicing their opinion about the role of women in the coming general elections.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/organizaciones-de-mujeres-logran-que-candidatos-presidenciales-incorporen-su-agenda-en-sus-planos-de-gobierno/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/22/la-pulcritud-la-politica-las-mujeres-las-elecciones-honduras/>

El Libertador looks at the proposals by the three main presidential candidates regarding the fight against corruption.

C-Libre and Ciprodeh presented an appeal against a recently approved bill lowering the penalty for corruption thought to favor state officials.

Honduras requests the extradition of the businessman José Santos Arias Chicas from Spain. He is held responsible for the corruption case around the City of Angels residency project.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2528-que-dicen-las-propuestas-anticorrupcion-de-los-tres-principales-presidenciables>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/22/interponen-recurso-contrala-reduccion-de-penas-a-saqueadores-del-estado/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/22/honduras-pedira-a-espana-extradicion-del-constructor-de-ciudad-del-angel/>

Two police agents were arrested on Monday. They are accused of homicide, abuse of authority and more.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/capturan-dos-polic%C3%AD-que-provocaron-la-muerte-de-joven-y-por-lo-que-pobladores-incendiaron>

El Pulso tells the story of the 10-year old Oscar Ramón Cardoza Sevilla who wanted to travel from Tocoa, Colón to the US to join his mother. He traveled with some 40 other migrants when their truck was attacked in Tabasco, Mexico and he was deadly hit by a bullet. His father denounces that the bullet came from the Mexican Federal Police.

<http://elpulso.hn/policia-federal-mexicana-mata-a-menor-hondureno/>

Reporters without Borders greets the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a resolution about the security of journalists and the fight against impunity in cases against them.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/rsf-celebra-la-nueva-resolucion-relativa-a-la-seguridad-de-los-periodistas-adoptada-por-la-asamblea-general-de-la-onu/>

The confrontation between the health sector and the JOH administration continues.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/22/joh-prefiere-gastar-en-armamentos-de-guerra-y-no-en-medicina-para-los-pobres-colegio-medico/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4018-cada-cincuenta-a-%C3%B1os-22-noviembre-2017>

24/11/17

MADJ; Bajo Aguán; Community Radios; Journalists; Reelection; JOH; Opposition Alliance; (Re)Elections; Electoral Violence; Women; National Police; Public Health; US; and Closed after 80 Years

MADJ started on November 19 a campaign to have political candidates in the Atlántida department sign a pact with its citizens, in which they publicly commit to respect the rights of the communities to protect and preserve their natural resources as well as to guarantee transparency and accountability. A similar initiative was signed by the then elected mayor of Tela, Mario Fuentes. MADJ denounces that he hasn't kept his word these last four years.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/11/23/2013-y-2017-dos-pactos-por-Atl%C3%A1ntida-las-razones-por-las-que-el-alcalde-de-Tela-se-niega-a-firmar>

Yoni Rivas, spokesperson of the Agrarian Platform, denounces that the Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders failed to offer them any meaningful protection.

CONADEH requested a thorough investigation of the murder of the 13-year old Leonel in the Bajo Aguán. He also demanded a penalty for the UNAH security guards hurting a young boy with pepper spray.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1956-yoni-rivas-plataforma-agraria-mecanismo-de-proteccion-no-ha-dado-el-ancho-para-prottegernos>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/23/defensor-del-pueblo-reclama-aplicacion-de-la-ley-contra-agresores-de-menores/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports how the Honduran government controls freedom of information by granting the majority of radio licenses to powerful interests group alignment with them.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/investigaciones/item/1951-estado-de-honduras-tiene-controlada-la-libertad-de-expresion-otorgando-la-mayoria-de-frecuencias-de-radio-a-los-grupos-fictivos-de-poder>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/images/adjuntos/infografiaRadios.pdf>

C-Libre held a press conference yesterday, in which they denounced the hostile environment for international journalists created by the Honduran government. Out of the 1080 radio licenses, only 10 went to community radios.

The social communicator Walter Salinas denounces receiving threats by National Party activists in Patuca, Olancho. The man accused of organizing the threats is Francisco Rodríguez, an official at the Secretariat for Agriculture and Livestock (SAG).

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/comunicador-denuncia-agresiones-de-activistas-nacionalistas>

US congresswoman Jan Schakowsky wrote an OpEd in the New York Times underlining the illegality of JOH reelection bid while also denouncing his human rights track record.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/23/opinion/honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez-election.html?mwrsm=WhatsApp&referer=>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-candidato-hondureno/>

Radio Progreso cites political analyst who believe it to be very likely that the illegal reelection bid by JOH is financed by public money. One possible source is the Advertisement Exchange Law (Ley de Canje Publicitario).

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the hate campaign promoted by JOH against the political opposition.

JOH, meanwhile, continues to spark fear about Venezuelan interference in the elections.

The same day, the National Party presented an analysis apparently proofing Venezuelan interference...

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4023-fondos-p%C3%BAblicos-podr%C3%ADan-estar-financiando-campa%C3%B1a-electoral-de-joh-seg%C3%BAn-analistas>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1955-campanas-de-odio-contra-la-oposicion-en-el-marco-del-proceso-electoral>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/23/39195/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1128922-508/informe-confirma-injerencia-de-venezuela-en-proceso-electoral-de-honduras>

El Pulso spoke with the Electoral Affairs Secretary of LIBRE, Oscar Rivera, about the greatest challenges the Opposition Alliance faces in these general elections. Rivera says that three things must happen for them to have a chance to win (additional to getting the most votes): i) defending the ballot tables, ii) verifying the transmission of the votes and iii) overcoming the campaign of fear and coercion by the National Party. In a new press release, the Opposition Alliance denounces the campaign of fear.

So does the Liberal Party.

An example of the atmosphere of fear being created in Honduras, is the use of Air Force planes to fly over Honduras on the lookout of "anti-socials trying to destabilize the electoral process".

In an article by ConfidencialHN there are more impression of the Operation Peace and Democracy II.

<http://elpulso.hn/los-tres-retos-de-la-alianza-el-26n/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/23/alianza-oposicion-rechaza-campana-terror-del-partido-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/23/denuncian-complot-del-partido-nacional-para-aterrear-a-la-poblacion-antes-de-los-comicios/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/23/fuerza-area-se-inmiscuye-la-campana-terror-electoral/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/23/fusina-atiborra-calles-de-el-pedregal-para-desarrollar-operacion-paz-y-democracia/>

Rodolfo Cortés Calderón critically inquires about the role of electoral observers.

7000 of the expected 16'000 national electoral observers are university students.

125 of the 600 expected international observers arrived yesterday in Honduras.

El Pulso presents some details to the election of the new Congress, e.g. 70% of all congresswo/men are searching reelection.

La Prensa visited the center where the ballots will be electronically counted. According to the TSE, if everything runs smoothly, they know who won the presidential elections already after 3.5 hours. The political opposition already in the past announced that they wouldn't recognize these results on wait for the counting by hand.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189417>

<http://elpulso.hn/listos-los-custodios-electorales-de-la-unah/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/llegan-125-observadores-internacionales-para-verificar-transparencia-en-elecciones>

<http://elpulso.hn/mas-del-setenta-por-ciento-de-diputados-buscan-reeleccion/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2017/1128941-410/conteo-presidencial-elecciones-honduras-tribunal_supremo_electoral

Defensores en Línea counts a total of 18 murder of people affiliated to political parties in the weeks up to the primary elections earlier this year and the general elections taking place this Sunday. Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle published his reflections on political violence in Honduras and how it is being employed.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/previo-a-comicios-electorales-aumentan-los-crimenes-politicos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/23/la-nueva-violencia-politica-real-figurada-representada/>

The protest by the doctors may reach a new level as the government announced to fire 300 of them for not showing up to work, i.e. for pursuing their right to strike. The Alignment against Continuity published a press release in solidarity with the protesting doctors.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/23/secretaria-salud-remite-las-audiencias-descargo-300-doctores-huelga/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/comunicado-de-solidaridad/>

The UN proposes a pact to end violence against women in Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/23/onu-propone-pacto-ponga-alto-la-violencia-las-mujeres-honduras/>

A police official promised denounced to El Tiempo that various of his female colleagues were purged from the police force because they denied having sex with police officials. He also reports on the generally high-level of sexual harassment in the police force and the lack to respond to complaints.

<http://tiempo.hn/cupula-policial-depuro-mujeres-sexo/>

FACTum has translated the great investigative piece by Jake Johnston on the role of the US in the coup d'état in 2009.

<http://revistafactum.com/estados-unidos-siempre-sup-o-del-golpe-de-estado-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cerrado-el-centro-penal-de-santa-barbara-despues-de-mas-de-80-anos.html>

25/11/17

HRDs; Berta - Agua Zarca; Impunity; Journalists; Political Opposition; JOH; ZEDEs; (Re)Elections; Militarization; National Police; Public Health; and Three Boys Running For President

The Center for Women's Rights (CDM) reports on the winner and the nominees of this year's Carlos Escaleras Human Rights Prize. It is meant for human rights defenders such as this year's winner the indigenous Toluþán Dilma Consuelo Soto who resists a mining project together with her community. The prize is dedicated to the human rights defender Carlos Escaleras who was murdered in 1997 - a crime that still rests unpunished.

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/defensoras-y-defensores-de-la-tierra-siguen-la-lucha-de-carlos-escaleras/>

Custody has been extended by six months against the former vice-minister of SERNA, Darío Roberto Cardona Valle. He is accused of having handed out illegally the environmental license for Agua Zarca.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/extienden-por-seis-meses-m%C3%A1s-la-prisi%C3%B3n-preventiva-ex-viceministro-dar%C3%ADo-cardona-por-caso->

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/24/extienden-por-seis-meses-la-prision-preventiva-contra-exfuncionario-por-autorizar-ampliacion-de-agua-zarca/>

ContraCorriente spoke with the former police commissioner María Luisa Borjas about her recent revelations regarding the intellectual authorship of three high-impact murder cases: Berta Cáceres, Alfredo Landaverde and Alfredo Landaverde (see Thursday's e-mail).

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/24/6424/>

Reporters without Borders expresses its preoccupation about the tomorrow's election, the security of journalists and the attacks against freedom of expression.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1957-rsf-que-esperanza-para-la-libertad-de-prensa-en-visperas-de-las-elecciones-presidenciales-en-honduras>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/24/reporteros-sin-fronteras-preocupados-los-periodistas-marco-una-ilegal-reeleccion/>

The denigration of the political opposition and fear-mongering continues. Radio HRN claims that four men detained in Lempira were threatening people to vote for the Alliance or they would be murdered.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/capturan-cuatro-seguidores-de-la-alianza-opositora-en-lempira-por-amenazas-la-poblaci%C3%B3n>

Javier Suazo looks at the use of the concept of change used by neoliberal governments in Honduras, such as JOH's Deep Change between 2014-2017.

Even though political campaigning is not allowed in the week before the election, JOH was interviewed by Proceso Digital where he continued to denigrate the political opposition.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189438>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-mira-una-conexion-clara-entre-depurados-y-la-alianza-joh-juan-orlando.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/24/gobierno-de-honduras-usa-mercenarios-venezolanos-y-cubanos-para-atacar-a-opositores/>

In a further attempt to illegally promote his reelection, JOH had his Labor Minister Carlos Madero announce that 43 companies presented requests to be part of a ZEDE.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-40-empresas-se-ofrecen-para-invertir-en-zonas-de-empleo.html>

COFADEH announced to attend complaints about human rights violations regarding the general elections throughout the weekend.

DW interview Padre Melo about tomorrow's elections.

The two presidential candidates from the Liberal Party and the Opposition Alliance participated in an interview with Radio Progreso.

The same Radio Progreso analyzes tomorrow's election through a fight of ideologies lens, with the US as an important actor.

The currently highest US representative in Honduras, Heide Fulton, tweeted that she hopes for "free, credible, transparent and peaceful" elections.

Honduras Culture and Politics offers a good summary (in English) about tomorrow's election; its particularities, what is at stake, and what to expect.

Criterion published "the numbers" for tomorrow's elections, e.g. the official electoral census contains 6'046'873 voters, of which 13% are new voters.

Tomás Andino presents five scenarios for tomorrow's elections: i) a win by JOH without resistance, ii) a auto-coup by the JOH administration feeling that they would lose the elections, iii) a spontaneous uprising by the people against perceived fraud with the Armed Forces repressing them, iv) a US intervention to stop an electoral fraud or v) an popular

uprise defeating the JOH regime.

The coalition Observation N-26 calls to Hondurans to go to the polls massively.

The electoral observation mission of the EU announced that they will publish their final report in January 2018.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/24/cofadeh-atendera-denuncias-violacion-derechos-humanos-marco-las-elecciones/>

<http://m.dw.com/es/vamos-a-tener-un-proyecto-autoritario-en-honduras/a-41522215?maca=es-Facebook-sharing>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4027-fortalecer-institucionalidad-y-combatir-corrupci%C3%B3n-prometen-candidatos-presidenciales-de-oposici%C3%B3n-a-horas-de-elecciones-en-honduras>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4024-lucha-de-ideolog%C3%ADas-en-el-proceso-electoral-24-noviembre-2017>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/elecciones-libres-creibles-transparentes-y-participativas-pide-representante-de-embajada-de-eeuu.html>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/election-sunday.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/24/fraude-raiz-toxica-todas-las-corrupciones/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/24/potenciales-escenarios-alrededor-del-proceso-electoral/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/24/observacion-n-26-llama-votar-forma-consciente-masiva/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/24/union-europea-emitira-en-2018-el-informe-sobre-las-elecciones-en-honduras/>

Criterion reports on an increase in the militarization of Honduras in the days before the elections.

El Tiempo reports that the voting centers will be protected by cameras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/24/territorio-hondureno-luce-militarizado-e-inmerso-una-campana-terror-electoral/>

<http://tiempo.hn/policias-y-militares-en-las-calles-votaciones/>

<http://tiempo.hn/4-mil-camaras-elecciones-generales-en-honduras/>

ConfidencialHN reports on another instance of sexual harassment by the National Police Force (see yesterday's e-mail for more).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/24/bajos-instintos-policia-ultraja-a-dama-en-posta-de-danli-honduras/>

The Health Secretariat wants the announced dismissal of protesting doctors to be declared illegal.

The rest of the government doesn't seem to listen. The Labor Minister threatened once more to fire them.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/autoridades-de-salud-piden-se-declare-ilegal-la-suspensi%C3%B3n-de-labores-de-m%C3%A9dicos>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/galenos-en-paro-corren-el-riesgo-de-ser-despedidos-reafirma-el-gobierno.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/38-politica-nacional/uno-de-ellos-gobernara-honduras.html>

26/11/17

Berta - Impunity; (Re)Elections - HRDs, Fraud, Journalists, Observation, Candidates, Women, Violence, Art, The Process, Results; and to Talk About Something Else: Soccer and Violence

MADJ denounces that the Honduran state continues to violate the rights of Berta's family to participate in the investigation process as established by the Penal Code. Furthermore, the MP and the Judicial System present alleged progress in the case by presenting new arrests, but they continue to fail to go after the intellectual authors of the assassination.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/11/25/Capturas-en-caso-Berta-contin%C3%BAan-encarcelando-peces-flacos-sin-llegar-a-los-autores-intelectuales>

It's election day, or as Oscar Miguel Marroquín calls it: "A democratic party accompanied by impunity, drug trafficking and corruption". Alexander Main highlights today's significance: is it a step forward or another step backward?

The New York Times reports on today's election with a focus on JOH's two faces: "The first image is one of a law-and-order leader who pulled his country back from the brink of becoming a failed state. The other picture is one of an autocrat who has imposed his will on every branch of government."

Radio Progreso offers its critical view on today's process.

As does El Faro.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/24/una-fiesta-democratica-acompanada-impunidad-narcotrafico-corrupcion/>

<http://cepr.net/publications/op-eds-columns/elections-in-honduras-a-step-forward-or-another-step-back>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/25/world/americas/honduras-election-juan-hernandez.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/25/honduras-reeleccion-tan-toxica-mel-zelaya-le-dieron-golpe-solo-considerar-asunto/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4028-el-voto-fortalece-la-democracia-nunca-la-dictadura-25-noviembre-2017>

<https://elfaro.net/es/201711/centroamerica/21204/El-silencio-en-Tegucigalpa-augura-unas-presidenciales-distintas.htm>

An international human rights defender from the US who has visited Honduras countless times was detained in the San Pedro Sula airport for ten hours yesterday. She is part of a human rights delegation organized by US human rights organizations. The migration authorities claimed among other things that a person with a similar name had already entered the country and that she didn't have permission to work in Honduras. After the ten hours, she was allowed to enter Honduras.

COFADEH's Berta Oliva expresses her great worries about the public denigration of human rights defenders, which took a new turn with a recently published video attacking Carlos H Reyes, Ismael Moreno, a young student activist and Rafael Alegría.

La Voz de los de Abajo, which leads a US human rights delegation, already published a first interview held with Franklin Almendares, General Coordinator of the largest peasant organization in Honduras, the Central Nacional de Trabajadores del Campo (National Center for Rural Workers).

ContraCorriente spoke with Victoria Cervantes, who is also part of the US delegation, about the situation in Honduras and the role of the US government.

El Pulso spoke with both Berta Oliva and Padre Melo about the Alignment against Continuity and their position on the electoral process.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-restriccion-migratoria-permiten-ingreso-de-defensora-internacional-de-ddhh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/25/gobierno-hondureno-detiene-defensora-derechos-humanos-los-estados-unidos/>

<https://hondurasresists.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/they-are-instilling-fear-so-that-we.html>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/25/apoyo-acusaciones-la-hipocresia-del-gobierno-estados-unidos-respecto-hernandez/>

<http://elpulso.hn/posicion-de-la-convergencia-contra-el-continuismo-ante-las-elecciones/>

The Economist (!) just published an article on the Honduran elections in which it reports on a recording they obtained "that, if authentic, suggests the ruling party has plans to distort results in the upcoming elections." In the recording, which is from a National Party training session for people stationed at the ballots, National Party leaders present " at least five vote-rigging methods, couching them in banal terms such as "strategy" and "technique" and interspersing them with legitimate advice."

<https://www.economist.com/news/americas/21731725-recording-obtained-economist-suggests-it-may-be-merits-investigation-hondurass>

The current mayor of Comayagua, Carlos Miranda, threatened the journalist Reynaldo Irías for informing about irregular municipal spending, among other things for electoral propaganda.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/alcalde-reeleccionista-amenaza-con-querella-periodista-por-difundir-nota-sobre-su>

Several community media outlets launched together the site Guancasco de Medios to cover the elections with a special human rights focus.

C-Libre, meanwhile, installed a Freedom of Expression Observatory for the elections.

COFADEH will be attending human rights violation throughout the day.

<https://guancascodemedios.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA4ULJGluXs&feature=youtu.be>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-atendera-denuncias-a-los-ddhh-durante-las-elecciones-generales/>

ContraCorriente published an interview with the former coup general Romeo Vásquez who now runs for president for the Patriotic Alliance. He declares that if he were still the head of the Armed Forces he would do the same thing as in 2009.

In another article, ContraCorriente reports on the next generation of National Party leaders incorporated by Kilvett Beltrand.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/25/hoy-jefe-las-fuerzas-armadas-hondurenas-haria-lo-2009/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/25/candidato-millennial-partido-tradicional/>

El Pulso looks at the gender distribution of today's election, in which 57.26% of all 1273 candidates are men.

Yesterday, the world also commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. On this occasion, CEM-H reminds us about the situation of women in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/mayoria-de-hombres-buscan-un-curul-en-el-congreso/>

<http://www.cemh.org.hn/dia-internacional-de-la-no-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-ni-una-asesinada-mas/>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/25n-nunca-mas-un-pais-sin-nosotras-alto.html>

Another party activist was murdered in the days and hours before the election. Armando Ordóñez, a Liberal Party activist, was murdered in Orocuina, Choluteca.

<http://tiempo.hn/asesinan-a-activista-del-partido-liberal-en-choluteca/>

ContraCorriente presents an artist's take on the electoral process.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/25/gano-gris-ante-color-maestro-urbano/>

El Pulso explains the mechanics behind the election of a congresswo/man. For the first time, the TSE will allow to vote at home for people with special needs. According to El Tiempo, 15 people in the Central District of Francisco Morazán will benefit from this. The offices of the RNP, meanwhile, have been swamped by Hondurans in need of their identity cards to vote today.

<http://elpulso.hn/como-se-eligen-a-los-diputados-del-congreso-nacional/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tribunal-supremo-electoral-implementara-voto-casa/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/11/25/abarroto-rnp-la-colonia-kennedy/>

According to an article by Criterio, the first results can be expected between 7pm and 8pm tonight.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/25/tse-7-8-la-noche-se-dara-la-primera-proyeccion-resultados-las-elecciones/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/25/nuevo-abordaje-la-violencia-futbol-necesita-honduras/>

27/11/17

(Re)Elections - "Results", HRDs, Irregularities, Militarization, Costs, Int. Coverage; Drug Trafficking;

Having been awake 26 hours and with still no official result published by the TSE, I have to take a rest now. Here is what happened until now:

Even before 8pm, the National Party declared JOH as the winner. He then took to the streets and first his wife and then JOH himself hold a speech claiming that he already had received congratulatory calls by other presidents. According to Radio Globo, never before in the "democratic" period of Honduras, a candidate has declared himself president without any TSE statement beforehand.

Shortly afterwards, the Opposition Alliance announced in a press conference based on 3281 vote tally sheets (out of some 18'000), Salvador Nasralla will be the winner of the elections.

And of course, the Liberal Party also celebrated. El Pulso called it the beginning of the war of numbers.

At 9pm - 2 hours later than initially announced, Honduras Culture and Politics wrote that the TSE released the first vote count with Nasralla 20'000 votes in the lead. They also wrote that a press conference for 9.15pm, which did not take place. This raised a lot of suspicion, even more as the TSE bragged before the elections that their new system will run smoothly.

While there was no message from the TSE, human rights defenders started to denounce that the Armed Forces started to increase their presence in the streets in Tegucigalpa and around the TSE.

Shortly before 10pm, the TSE announced that they won't release for the time being failing to give convincing explanations why they can't release the results of the ballots already processed. They just said, that they will release later today (i.e. Sunday in Honduras).

El Libertador voices fears that the ruling elite tries to get the needed international support in back-room dealings for the continuity of the JOH regime.

Shortly before Midnight, Radio Globo, COPINH, COFADEH and others reported that the TSE had already counted over 70% of the ballots with Nasralla coming out as the winner, but they deny announcing it officially. At 10 past midnight, the Opposition Alliance announced that they won

presidency with 45.4% of votes over 40.6% for JOH.

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2017/1129825-410/juan_orlando_hernandez-elecciones_honduras-tse-joh-partido_nacional

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/partidonacional/1129827-508/presidente-juan-orlando-hern%C3%A1ndez-se-declara-ganador-de-las-elecciones-generales>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/partidonacional/1129824-508/juan-orlando-hern%C3%A1ndez-es-felicitado-por-mandatarios-de-guatemala-y-ecuador>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/26/salvador-nasralla-presidente-electo-honduras-mel-zelaya/>

<http://elpulso.hn/inicia-guerra-de-numeros-en-proceso-electoral/>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/partial-official-results-in.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/26/tanquetas-antidisturbios-se-instalan-en-distintos-lugares-de-tegucigalpa/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1129872-508/tribunal-supremo-electoral-today%C3%ADa-no-puede-brindar-resultados-electorales>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/statement-from-tribunal-supremo.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2534-crisis-tse-ha-tardado-datos-electorales-y-ciudad-militarizada>

The international human rights delegation by La Voz de los de Abajo denounced that they were verbally attacked while observing the electoral process.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/turba-intimida-a-delegacion-internacional-la-voz-de-los-de-abajo/>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/with-78-of-vote-counted.html>

The polling stations were closed yesterday at 4pm instead of prolonging the voting for another hour as it did in the past. The president of the TSE promised that those in line would still be able to vote, but it has been announced on various occasions that this was not the case. Even though prohibited by the Electoral Law, several media outlets, such as La Prensa and La Tribuna, published exit polls by the company Ingeniería Gerencial already around 6pm, hours before the TSE published its first results.

The company "apparently is owned by Arturo Corrales, former member of Hernández government. Not a company with any track record in this kind of work."

Already in the afternoon, the TSE decommissioned 21 manipulated vote tally sheets from National Party activists.

Defensores en Línea denounced that armed men threatened voters in Comayagüela.

Defensores en Línea also reports on harassment by the police and armed forces of voters in San José de Tutule, La Paz.

According to El Tiempo, a National Party activist stabbed an activist of the Opposition Alliance.

El Tiempo lists some of the irregularities reported in Tegucigalpa.

El Tiempo reports on chaos reigning at the RNP in San Pedro Sula while they were supposed to hand out identity cards to vote.

According to a preliminary report by Observation N-26, a member of the LGBTI community was impeded of presenting herself at the ballot.

Romeo Vásquez Velásquez, presidential candidate of the Patriotic Alliance, denounced that some of its members were impeded to take on their roles at the ballot tables.

A PINU member in the role of secretary of a ballot table had to withdraw after being harassed by the Nationalist head of the ballot table.

Eva Fernández, a former member of the National Party who now run for the Opposition Alliance, was denied her right to vote.

Voting centers in the Kennedy neighborhood in Tegucigalpa denounced that

they lacked the seal to ratify the ballots.
Honduras Tierra Libre lists some further irregularities.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/26/tse-ordena-el-cierre-de-elecciones-a-las-400-de-la-tarde-no-da-prorroga/>

<http://tiempo.hn/oficial-se-cierran-urnas-de-votaciones-a-partir-de-las-4-pm/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2017/1129777-410/resultados-boca_urna-elecciones_honduras-tse-joh-nasralla

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/exit-polling-for-national-party.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/26/decomisan-21-actas-cierre-poder-activistas-del-partido-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/26/arrestan-a-nacionalistas-con-21-actas-de-cierre-a-favor-de-joh/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-durante-escrutinios-hombres-armados-amedrentan-a-vecinos-en-colonia-capitalina/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/persecucion-policias-y-militares-registran-a-votantes-en-tutule/>

<http://tiempo.hn/nacionalista-apunalo-a-miembro-de-la-alianza/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tegucigalpa-durante-votaciones-denuncias/>

<http://tiempo.hn/rnp-entrega-cedulas/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/26/proceso-electoral-ha-tenido-excelente-participacion-segun-la-observacion-n-26/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/romeo-vasquez-voto-y-denuncio-artimanas-para-impedir-a-sus-representantes-estar-en-mer.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/insultos-obligan-cachurecos-secretaria-de-mesa-retirarse/>

<http://tiempo.hn/niegan-votar-eva-fernandez/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/26/piden-a-eva-fernandez-lavar-sus-manos-para-poder-votar/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/26/denuncian-falta-de-sellos-para-autenticar-votos-en-colonia-kennedy/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/11/graves-denuncias-de-fraude-en-honduras.html>

Radio Progreso highlights the militarization of the electoral process.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4029-con-fuerte-presencia-militar-y-denuncias-de-irregularidades-se-desarrollan-elecciones-en-honduras>

According to the Finance Minister Wilfredo Cerrato, the electoral process cost about two billion Lempiras (the primary elections in March and yesterday's general elections combined).

<http://tiempo.hn/ministro-finanzas-revela-costo-las-elecciones-honduras/>

Honduras Culture and Politics offers a great overview of the coverage of the elections by international media outlets.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/electoral-coverage-part-one.html>

El Pulso published a chronology of yesterday's election.

<http://elpulso.hn/cronologia-del-n26-primera-parte/>

Jake Johnston reports on the the implication of the Honduran Security Minister Julián Pacheco Tinoco in drug trafficking, according to testimony from a Mexican drug-trafficker-turned-Drug-Enforcement-Agency-informant in U.S. court.

<https://theintercept.com/2017/11/26/honduras-election-pacheco-security-minister-is-running-drugs-according-to-court-testimony/>

28/11/17

(Re)Elections - Results, Liberal Party, Opposition Alliance, TSE, Irregularities, Congress, US; and the Chronic of a Long Day

The TSE announced yesterday, after hours of silence, that they will not publish further results for the presidential race until they have received all votes from the polling stations.

Honduras Culture and Politics offers must-read insights into how to read the results so far. According to their thorough analysis, it is more than unlikely that the lead by Salvador Nasralla will have changed once all votes are counted.

This has more or less also been confirmed by the TSE magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo when he declared that the tendencies of the results in the presidential election don't change with the incorporation of newly counted votes.

A former TSE president, Augusto Aguilar, comes to the same conclusion. Nevertheless, the National Party continues to claim that they will win by 5% once all votes are counted. To expose their arguments as illusory, I refer you again to the two articles by Honduras Culture and Politics.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-no-dara-mas-resultados-presidenciales-hasta-que-lleguen-actas-faltantes.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1130227-508/hasta-que-se-cuente-la-%C3%BAultima-acta-electoral-tse-dar%C3%A1-resultados>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-sigue-recibiendo-actas-del-pais/>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/what-may-be-coming-in-honduran-election.html>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/new-numbers-quietly-added-to-tse-website.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/27/triunfo-salvador-nasralla-irreversible-marco-ramiro-lobo/>

<http://tiempo.hn/magistrado-del-tse-la-tendencia-es-irreversible/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/expresidente-del-tse-los-datos-reflejados-indican-la-poblaci%C3%B3n-no-quiere-una-reelecci%C3%B3n>

<http://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-asegura-superar-alianza/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2537-partido-nacional-acude-al-terrorismo-en-honduras>

The presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, told the public that he recognizes Salvador Nasralla as the winner and asked JOH to do the same.

Shortly afterwards, Zelaya and Nasralla meet to publicly reaffirm their parties joint efforts to defend the electoral results. Furthermore, Zelaya emphasized his interest in signing a governability pact with the Opposition Alliance.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2536-luis-zelaya-pide-a-joh-que-acepte-la-derrota>

<http://tiempo.hn/luis-zelaya-ratifica-triunfo-nasralla/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2539-oposicion-hondurena-comparara-datos-para-ratificar-a-salvador-nasralla>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/27/luis-zelaya-salvador-nasralla-reafirman-defensa-resultados-electorales/>

The Opposition Alliance held a big rally outside of the TSE yesterday afternoon to celebrate their expected victory in the presidential race. El Libertador presents a short portrayal of Salvador Nasralla, highlighting the different roles he played in the 2013 elections and the once now.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/27/alianza-oposicion-se-manifiesta-frente-al-tse-celebrando-triunfo-salvador-nasralla/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-marcha-de-la-victoria-tse/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2535-el-senor-que-evito-la-reeleccion-presidencial-en-honduras>

The civil society coalition Observation N-26 met with the TSE to criticize that their lack of communication created speculation and unease. They demand more transparency in the process taking place right now. El Libertador offers an interesting comparison between the comportment of the TSE on the day of the 2013 elections and now in 2017.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/27/cuestionan-lentitud-de-la-autoridad-electoral-para-dar-resultados-creibles/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/n-26-insta-a-candidatos-a-respetar-resultados-y-critica-la-demora-del-tse.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2538-renato-y-corrales-cometen-delito-incitando-vandalismo-y-crisis>

The MP announced that they have received 200 complaints for electoral fraud.

<http://tiempo.hn/ministerio-publico-recibio-denuncias/>

El Pulso reports on the first results published by the TSE regarding the setup of the new Congress. So far there are results for Atlántida, Yoro, Choluteca, Valle, El Paraiso, Olancho, Cortés and Francisco Morazán. The results are based on less than 15% of the tallies.

<http://elpulso.hn/primeros-conteos-de-diputados-para-atlantida-y-yoro/>

<http://elpulso.hn/primeros-conteos-de-diputados-para-choluteca-y-valle/>

<http://elpulso.hn/primeros-conteos-de-diputados-para-el-paraiso/>

<http://elpulso.hn/primeros-conteos-de-diputados-para-olancho/>

<http://elpulso.hn/primeros-conteos-de-diputados-para-cortes/>

<http://elpulso.hn/primeros-conteos-de-diputados-para-francisco-morazan/>

According to El Heraldo, the turnout of Hondurans living in the US was less than expected. From the 51'000 registered voters less than 2000 actually voted, of which almost two thirds voted for Nasralla.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1130201-508/proyectan-una-dr%C3%A1stica-baja-de-electores-en-estados-unidos>

<http://elpulso.hn/de-como-honduras-busca-nuevo-presidente-cronica-de-la-elecciones-generales-2017/>

29/11/17

(Re)Elections - TSE, Results, Drug Trafficking, Observation, Opposition Alliance, National Party, Interpretation, Armed Forces; Community Radios; Corruption; and Everybody to the Streets

The behavior of the TSE after the election has raised criticism from various parts. US Congressman Eliot L. Engel raised concern about the lack of transparency.

The electoral observation mission by the European Union called on the TSE to stop creating an atmosphere of uncertainty.

And so did the UN.

And COHEP.

Radio Progreso highlights how this behavior further raises the distrust by the public in the TSE. In its annual survey, 77.1% of respondents in 2016 said that they don't trust the institution.

COFADEH's Bertha Oliva declared that what should be a sign of hope had been turned into "days of uncertainty, insecurity and fear".

The Coalition against Impunity warns that the TSE may create the condition leading to a constitutional crisis - or rather a deepening of the constitutional crisis as the reelection bid already was unconstitutional.

FOSDEH criticizes that the high investment in the TSE is not reflected at all by their unprofessional behavior. In 2013, the electoral process cost some 1.6 billion Lempiras, now it was already 2.1 billion.

The Episcopal Conference of Honduras denounces in a press release that the TSE is generating suspicion for stalling in the publication of the electoral results.

El Libertador published a portray of the man orchestrating a lot of the uncertainty, TSE president David Matamoros Batson.

<https://engel.house.gov/latest-news1/engel-statement-on-honduran-presidential-election/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tardanza-del-tse-falta-a-los-derechos-humanos-de-la-poblacion/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2017/1130289-410/elecciones_honduras-mision_europea-salvador_nasralla

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/28/la-onu-se-suma-al-llamado-tse-mantenga-informados-los-hondurenos-los-resultados-electorales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/onu-pide-a-la-poblacion-mantener-actitud-pacifica-mientras-se-esperan-resultados-de-las-elecciones.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/28/cohep-pide-al-tse-mantenga-informados-los-hondurenos-los-resultados-las-elecciones/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4030-elecciones-entre-certezas-e-incertidumbres-28-noviembre-2017>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tras-elecciones-48-horas-de-incertidumbre-inseguridad-y-miedo/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1958-tse-podria-estar-creando-condiciones-para-un-clima-de-confrontacion-y-tesis-institucional-segun-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/28/fosdeh-papel-del-tse-no-corresponde-la-millonaria-inversion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/28/tse-genera-suspicion-conferencia-episcopal-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2544-honduras-perfil-david-magister-en-golpes-electorales>

While there weren't any new results published for over 24 hours, the TSE started to upload them in pieces again yesterday. As the trend suddenly changed in favor of JOH, this raised further suspicion.

Currently, Salvador Nasralla's lead has shrunk to 1.47% or a bit more than 35'000 votes.

The TSE announced that they will be in possession of all the tallies by 8pm tonight.

Jorge Cáliz, Libre congressman, told ContraCorriente that the results won't be reversed. According to him, they just upload the tallies in which JOH won first to reduce the margin and create a better bargaining position of the National Party cadre which fears being arrested for the

IHSS corruption case or deported for its involvement in drug trafficking.

<http://www.startribune.com/european-observers-worried-by-silence-on-honduran-election/460563063/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/manana-a-las-8-00-de-la-noche-tendremos-el-100-de-las-actas-david-matamoros-batson.html>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/28/magistrado-dice-tendencia-irreversible-pueblo-se-parte/>

In 2013, the presence of drug cartels changed the voting patterns in favor of JOH. Honduras Culture and Politics investigates how the breaking up of some cartels changed the voting patterns. There preliminary results show that JOH lost a substantial share of votes with the drug traffickers gone. Interestingly, the analysis also confirms to some extent the above-mentioned statement by Jorge Cálix:

"While not our main goal when we started this, these three selected municipios demonstrate how variable voting is this year, from place to place. This lends support to suspicions of many that the continuing reporting of vote tallies that favor the incumbent, Juan Orlando Hernández, would be unlikely to happen if the order of counting were random. You might get one municipio going 50% for the National Party, like El Paraiso, but equally you might get vote counts with the Alianza in the lead."

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/how-cartels-affected-vote-2013-and-2017.html>

The electoral observation mission of the OAS announced that they will remain in the country for the time being. And so will the one by the EU.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mision-de-observacion-electoral-de-la-oea-llama-a-mantener-la-calma-y-continuara-en-el-pais.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/28/ue-se-quedara-en-honduras-hasta-que-se-divulguen-resultados-oficiales/>

The Opposition Alliance, meanwhile, announced that they will defend the vote and called for new protests again today. Yesterday, they took to the streets as well.

Salvador Nasralla called on the UN, EU and the OAS to investigate a possible collusion of the TSE and the National Party.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189482>

<http://tiempo.hn/marcha-en-la-avenida-circunvalacion/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2540-hondurenos-celebran-victoria-de-la-oposicion>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/28/nasralla-pide-la-union-europea-oea-naciones-unidas-manden-comisiones-investigacion/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2543-presidente-electo-de-honduras-pide-investigacion-a-oea-y-onu>

The National Party published its internal results from their computers declaring themselves the winners of Sunday's elections once more. They base their explanations once more on the argument that JOH won the rural population with a huge margin.

It is worth to highlight the analysis of Honduras Culture and Politics again to show why this thinking is wrong.

The former TSE magistrate Enrique Ortez explains how JOH is just following up on what he promised: "To do whatever it takes."

<http://elpulso.hn/pn-sedeclara-ganador/>

<http://elpulso.hn/guerra-de-numeros-entre-partidos-politicos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/28/herandez-insiste-gano-las-elecciones/>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/what-may-be-coming-in-honduran-election.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2541-joh-no-mintio-hara-lo-que-tenga-que-hacer-exfuncionario-electoral>

Ollantay Itzamná interprets the results of the Opposition Alliance and Salvador Nasralla as an uprising of the poor against the system which made them poor in the first place.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189495>

The Defense Secretariat felt obliged to publish a press release explaining that the trucks of the Armed Forces on Honduras' streets are used to transport the electoral material.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/28/camiones-militares-movilizados-retornan-repartir-personal-material-electoral-secretaria-defensa/>

In a UNESCO-financed workshop, representatives of community radios in Honduras discussed the adverse situation they confront in Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/radios-y-vocerias-comunitarias-bajo-amenaza-en-honduras>

In the corruption case at the Lawyers' Association Honduras (CAH), the accused have to await trial in prison.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/28/implicados-en-saqueo-del-colegio-de-abogados-seguiran-encarcelados/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/mp-logra-prisi%C3%B3n-preventiva-contrainvolucrados-en-caso-del-cah>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/28/honduras-dos-presidentes-pueblo-las-calles/>

30/11/17

(Re)Elections - TSE, Results, OAS, National Party, Opposition Alliance, US, Int. Coverage, LGBTI, SPS; HRDs; and a Letter from Mexico

A moment before wanting to send out this newsletter, I was made aware of repression taking place at INFOP.

With the results turned in the counted tallies and JOH 3000 votes in the lead, the criticism of the TSE only grows further and voices denouncing corruption and signs of fraud become more prevalent. (At the moment of wanting to send out the e-mails, I checked the TSE homepage again and it seems that new (biased) votes were uploaded to the system. JOH now leads by 22'000 votes...most votes came from i) Copan, where a previous tie now became a 9000 votes lead for JOH, ii) Olancho and iii) and Yoro) Of course it did not help that the system of the TSE broke down for five hours yesterday further raising suspicions.

The TSE president David Matamoros Batson pretended everything is alright, i.e. that it won't affect the election results.

But at the same time, the TSE magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo said that he was surprised about what is going on.

Several US congresswo/men have denounced the situation in Honduras in press releases and over Twitter.

The European Left/Nordic Green Left parliamentary group at the EU Parliament also published a statement of concern.

Criterion reports on a petition by US civil society organizations calling out to their government as well as the OAS to demand complete transparency in the vote counting process

The Association of International Cooperation (ACI), which is made up of 28 international NGOs with presence in Honduras, voiced its concerns about the behavior of the TSE and demands complete transparency. And of course, there is also widespread criticism from National actors of the TSE's behavior. Radio Progreso, aware of the partisanship of the institution, calls directly to the three magistrate demanding that they leave aside politics and to think about piece and stability for Honduras. The National Human Rights Board denounces the irresponsible behavior of the TSE and demands from the international community to closely observe the situation in the country. The Network of Social Communicators and HRD fro El Paraíso see in the behavior of the TSE just the reflection of the total control JOH has in Honduras. There are further statements from COPINH, COFADEH, COPPAL, ATALC but also church groups. Héctor Renán Soto Caballero published an analysis of the TSE based on the elections and its aftermath.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/29/sistema-trasmision-resultados-del-tse-se-cayo-cinco-horas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/matamoros-acepta-caida-del-servidor-de-datos-pero-defiende-transparencia-del-tse.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/magistrado-lobo-arremete-contra-sistema-de-datos-del-tse-tono-rivera-lo-llama-activista-de-la-alianza.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/29/advierten-que-el-retraso-malicioso-del-tse-es-para-favorecer-a-joh/>

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/press-releases/schakowsky-statement-on-the-presidential-election-in-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/29/departamento-estado-dejar-apoyo-ciego-joh-evaluar-estas-elecciones-manera-justa-objetiva/>

<https://twitter.com/RosLehtinen/status/935904423351607296>

<https://twitter.com/HFACDemocrats/status/935908778549096448>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/29/influyente-congresista-de-ee-uu-pide-al-tse-que-acelere-conteo-de-votos/>

<https://twitter.com/RoKhanna/status/936075869256331264>

<https://twitter.com/RepMcGovern/status/935913282464047104>

<https://twitter.com/RepMarcyKaptur/status/935962873121202177>

<https://twitter.com/repmarkpocan/status/935984212808753152>

<http://www.guengl.eu/news/article/gue-ngl-news/transparencia-of-results-a-priority-after-disputed-honduras-vote>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/29/organizaciones-sociedad-civil-los-ee-uu-piden-conteo-votos-transparente-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/29/espacio-aci-respalda-lucha-la-sociedad-civil-demanda-transparencia-las-elecciones/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4031-se%C3%B1ores-del-tribunal-supremo-electoral-no-jueguen-con-la-voluntad-popular-29-noviembre-2017>

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/pronunciamiento-de-mesa-de-ddhh-ante-crisis-actual-en-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-red-de-comunicadores-sociales-y-defensores-de-ddhh-de-el-paraiso-responsabiliza-al-gobierno-de-cualquier-desorden-social/>

<https://copinhenglish.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/copinh-calls-to-respect-will-of.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/respect-the-plebiscite-of-november-26/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/advierte-coppal-sobre-posible-golpe-electoral-en-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-conferencia-de-religiosos-y-religiosas-de-honduras-se-pronuncia-sobre-la-situacion-en-estas-elecciones-generales-del-pais/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/29/atalc-manifiesta-solidaridad-pueblo-hondureno-defensa-voto/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189506>

At the time of writing, JOH leads the presidential election with some 3000 votes with a bit less than 83% of the tallies counted. (At the moment of wanting to send out the e-mails, I checked the TSE homepage again and it seems that new (biased) votes were uploaded to the system. JOH now leads by 22'000 votes...most votes came from i) Copan, where a previous tie now became a 9000 votes lead for JOH, ii) Olancho and iii) and Yoro) As mentioned on previous days, it is widely believed that a biased approach to first count votes favoring JOH has been chosen to create uncertainty and tension. The former UNAH dean and human rights defender Juan Almeyda Bonilla fears that the ground is being prepared for another coup d'état, this time against a president-elect.

The skewed approach of incorporating new votes becomes also clear when looking at the results the two opposition parties came up with. They are in possession of all the tallies and according to their calculations, the Alliance wins with the same 5% margin as announced by the TSE on Monday morning. Honduras Culture and Politics translated an analysis by Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle on this.

Criterio published an analysis by Edmundo Orellana which further dissects the strategy of the merchant of doubts.

And Javier Suazo highlights the role of former JOH minister and still ally Arturo Corales.

The Alignment against Continuity calls out to the Honduran people to take to the streets in all parts of Honduras and defend the vote and their victory over the dictatorship.

The TSE announced that they finished scanning tallies from ten departments and only seven remain. Taking a closer look at those seven departments, we find the following: i) Colón: Nasralla has a 17'000 votes lead, ii) Gracias a Dios: a tiny department, where JOH currently leads by 1500 votes, iii) Olancho: JOH leads by 5000 votes, iv) Copán: tied, v) Cortés: Nasralla leads by almost 100'000 votes, vi) Nasralla leads by over 20'000 votes and vii) Lempira: JOH has a 14'000 vote lead. If the proportions don't change, Nasralla is the clear favorite and it is further proof of the biased vote counting by the TSE.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-honduras-peligra-un-nuevo-golpe-de-estado/>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/rodolfo-pastor-fasquelle-on-election.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/29/confundir/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189502>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/posicionamiento-de-la-convergencia-contra-el-continuisimo/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/editorial/item/1960-las-tecnicas-para-adobar-un-fraude-electoral-en-honduras-y-la-resistencia-popular>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/29/faltan-procesar-resultados-de-las-actas-de-siete-departamentos-de-honduras-tse/>

Due to the growing uncertainty, the OAS invited both presidential candidates, Salvador Nasralla and JOH, to sign an agreement that they would recognize the results. Both did, but as the system of the TSE broke down (see first article), Nasralla feared that a trap had been set and he withdrew.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/29/joh-y-nasralla-se-comprometen-aceptar-resultados-de-elecciones-generales/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/29/no-validez-documento-firme-la-oea-me-tendieron-una-trampa-nasralla/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2547-salvador-nasralla-se-retracta-por-documento-firmado-con-oea>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/29/oea-lamenta-que-nasralla-no-apoye-pacto-para-respetar-resultados-electorales/>

In its first preliminary report, the electoral observation mission of the European Union highlights the dominance of JOH over his two rivals regarding media coverage as well as billboards. Criterio highlights how the behavior of JOH in inciting his activist violates the new repressive Penal Code which he promoted just months back. ContraCorriente reports on the questions around the reelection as a congresswoman of Gladys Aurora López after having been linked to the murder of Berta Cáceres.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mision-union-europea-cuestiona-predominio-oficialista-en-medios-de-comunicacion>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/29/representante-amnistia-internacional-dice-herandez-deberia-capturado-las-ff-aa-incitar-al-desorden/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/29/la-paz-gladys-aurora/>

The Opposition Alliance nominated 50 lawyers to denounce irregularities in the tallies.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/29/unos-50-abogados-defenderan-el-triunfo-parcial-de-nasralla-en-comicios-generales/>

The US embassy invites people to follow the counting process through the TSE homepage and the US State Department asks not to interfere in the work of the TSE...

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/la-embajada-de-eua-invita-a-seguir-conteo-de-votos-en-vivo.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-espera-trabajar-con-lideres-democraticamente-electos-y-pide-paciencia-para-conocer-vencedores.html>

As the uncertainty and tension rises in Honduras, the international media coverage increases. The radio show Worldview interviewed the US Honduran specialist professor Dana Frank about the current situation in Honduras.

Democracy Now! hold an interview with Suyapa Portillo, Assistant Professor of Chicano & Latino Studies at Pitzer College, who just returned from Honduras where she was an election observer. Both the New Yorker and ABC News report on the days after Sunday's election.

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/worldview/suspicion-around-honduran-presidential-election/84e8113b-fe87-41ed-a45b-45242e510a85>

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/11/29/electoral_results_delayed_in_honduras_presidential

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/us-ally-says-he-won-honduras-presidential-election-hondurans-disagree>

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/days-election-men-declare-honduran-president-amid-rising/story?id=51462579>

The trans woman Rihanna Ferrera wasn't elected but she celebrates the possibility for her to run as a candidate as a success.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/29/poblacion-lgtbi-aun-lejos-del-poder-politico-honduras/>

ContraCorriente published short article accompanied by many photos on the situation in Rivera Hernández, San Pedro Sula, during the elections and the hopes of the local residents.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/29/la-rivera-hernandez-busca-pintarse-colores-le-sostenga-la-esperanza/>

The IACHR demands from its member state to guarantee and support the right of women to defend their rights as well as to adopt protection mechanism with a gender lens allowing women human rights defender to work freely.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/estados-deben-garantizar-mujeres-el-derecho-defender-derechos-dice-la-cidh>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cidh-llama-a-los-estados-a-reconocer-y-proteger-la-labor-de-mujeres-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/11/29/conmovedora-carta-de-periodista-mi-madre-es-de-la-lista-de-los-casi-3000-muertos-del-ihss/http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/29/candidato-presidencial-hondureno-nasralla-denuncia-retencion-de-actas-que-lo-favorecen/>