

01/02/18

IACHR; Military Police; National Police; Hydroelectricity; Journalists; Femicide; (Re)Elections - Protests, Repression, OAS, US, Analysis, UK; National Party; Conatel; MACCIH; Corruption; Radio Progreso; and the Solitude of JOH

The IACHR presented its agenda for this year. It will visit Honduras from July 29 to August 4.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2018/012.asp>

Luis Romero, a police agent, denounces that his partner, the police agent José Joel Castellanos, died at the hands of Military Police agents. The official version, meanwhile, states that he died in an exchange of fire between gangs and the Military Police.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/01/31/policia-militar-mata-agente-la-policia-nacional-segun-la-version-policia-participo-suceso/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2683-alerta-militares-un-peligro-en-calle-matan-policia-y-hieren-otro>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/01/honduras-el-salvajismo-de-la-policia.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/militares-detenidos-por-policia-muerto-en-tegucigalpa/>

Police commissioner Félix Adrián Colíndres Hernández and the two sub-commissioners Juan Manuel Aguilar Godoy and Marlon Agustín Vásquez Palma will appear before court on February 28 for the repression against human rights defenders and UNAH students last year.

ConexiHon denounces the legal attack by the Honduran police against AP for uncovering drug trafficking links of the newly elected head of police, José David Aguilar Morán.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/01/31/a-finales-de-febrero-sera-la-audiencia-contra-policias-que-reprimieron-a-varios-estudiantes/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/550-amenazan-con-querellar-a-periodistas-de-ap>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/director-de-la-polic%C3%ADa-amenaza-con-querellas-periodistas>

Defensores en Línea reports on Tuesday's attack by the Military Police on protesting inhabitants Reitoca, Francisco Morazán, who denounce the imposition of a hydroelectric project on the Petacón river. The Military Police used live bullets and hurt at least two protesters (see also yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/pmp-dispara-contra-ambientalistas-reitoca-y-amenaza-a-la-poblacion/>

C-Libre denounces an attack against the journalist Ely Vallejo by the police in San Pedro Sula. Vallejo told C-Libre that the attack came out of the blue as he was eating something on a park bench.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/polic%C3%ADa-agrede-periodista-en-v%C3%ADa-publica>

Carolina Sierra, representative of the Women for Life Forum, condemns the high level of impunity in cases of femicide in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/feminicidios-en-honduras/>

Libre's national coordination committee met yesterday and declared itself in "total insurrection" and to use non-violent methods to end JOH's dictatorship.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/01/31/partido-libre-se-declara-insurreccion-total-crea-los-comandos-insurreccion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-se-declara-insurreccion-total-anuncia-creacion-comandos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/01/31/la-insurreccion-popular-la-via-lo-demas-enganos/>

Salvador Nasralla calls out to his followers to take to the streets and defended the political prisoners. One of those held captive and criminalized is the recently reelected councilor José Javier Rubí Suazo. A court now ordered a temporary stay of proceedings against him and six others.

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-llama-a-defender-a-los-presos-politicos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/01/31/absuelven-a-funcionario-municipal-y-opositores-acusados-de-quemar-posta/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/sobreseimiento-provisional-para-regidor-de-villanueva-acusado-de-quemar-posta-policia.html>

El Heraldo held an interview with the former Guatemalan president Álvaro Colom, who the OAS chose to hold a meeting with the JOH regime about electoral reforms. Salvador Nasralla comments critical on Colom's mandate.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1148244-466/%C3%A1lvaro-colom-el-trabajo-de-la-oea-es-diferente-a-lo-que>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/01/31/traen-a-colom-de-amable-componedor-para-evitar-castigo-de-diputados-salvador-nasralla/>

ContraCorriente interviewed Claire White, daughter of the former US diplomat Robert White assigned to Honduras some 50 years ago. Claire White is currently back in Honduras as part of the US Emergency Faith Delegation and denounces how the US continues to finance the Honduran security forces which are in open war against its people.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/01/31/estamos-armando-al-ejercito-hondureno-matar-propio-pueblo-claire-white/>

Three new article are dedicated to the renewed split in the Honduran society. Radio Progreso highlights a sentence in JOH's inauguration speech of "those that are here", i.e. in the stadium, "and those that are there", i.e. outside.

Oscar Miguel Marroquín, meanwhile, wonders in which of the two Honduras the US representative Heide Fulton lives.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4211-honduras-la-de-los-%E2%80%9Cde-aqui-%C3%AD%E2%80%9D-y-la-de-los-%E2%80%9Cde-all%C3%A1%E2%80%9D-31-enero-2018>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/01/30/la-honduras-aqui-alla/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/01/31/las-dos-honduras-vive-la-senora-heide-fulton/>

The British Ambassador to Honduras, Thomas Carter, emitted a statement on JOH's inauguration in which he promised to continue collaborating with its "long-lasting partner".

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-statement-following-the-presidential-inauguration-in-honduras>

Fosdeh denounces that the changes to the budget bill, next to implementing a pact of impunity, also gave the JOH regime the possibility to stop paying labor benefits to employees not belonging to the National Party. The money saved is then used to hire National Party activists.

Nationalist congressman Oscar Arturo Álvarez Guerrero announced that he will step down. He stated personal reasons for his decision and announced that he will move to the US. Álvarez Guerrero was not just a

congressman, but the security minister in both the Maduro and Lobo government. Furthermore, he has also been linked to drug trafficking.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/01/31/gobierno-no-les-pagara-prestaciones-los-empleados-publicos-llenara-plazas-activistas-cachurecos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/01/31/disposiciones-del-presupuesto-la-republica-violan-la-constitucion-fosdeh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/01/31/diputado-nacionalista-oscar-alvarez-renuncia-curul-congreso-nacional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/oscar-alvarez-renuncia-diputado-del-partido-nacional/>

El Libertador reports on how Conatel is now even more firmly in the hands of JOH. While previously, its two commissioner were from both the Liberal and the National Party, now both of them as well as their two deputies are well-known National Party activists. One is even the sister-in-law of JOH's deceased sister, Hilda Hernández.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2684-familia-de-joh-y-oliva-blindan-dominio-en-telecomunicaciones-de-honduras>

Various opposition congresswo/men demand legal actions against the congresswo/men who approved the impunity pact. This coincides with recent statements by the MACCIH which called the impunity pact a crime rather than an error.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/01/31/exigen-investigacion-por-anadidos-en-reforma-a-ley-de-presupuesto/>

The JOH regime suspended the use of Department Development Funds. Five congresswo/men are accused of having used these funds for private gains.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-hernandez-suspende-entrega-de-recursos-del-fondo-de-desarrollo-departamental.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/01/31/joh-ordena-suspender-fondo-departamental-para-diputados/>

Radio Progreso interviewed José María Tojeira, its director in the 1970s and 80s. In 1979, Radio Progreso was closed for more than two months by the then government. This resonates with today's attack on the radio and its journalists.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4212-grupos-econ%C3%B3micos-usan-poder-del-estado-para-proteger-sus-intereses-se%C3%B1ala-jos%C3%A9-mar%C3%ADa-tojeira>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/190735>

02/02/18

FoE; National Police; (Re)Elections - Repression, JOH, Political Opposition, US; Bajo Aguán; MACCIH; Impunity Pact; APP; Homicide Rate; ENP; Education; National Party; and the Executioner's Dialogue

C-Libre and other human rights organizations raise the alarm regarding the voiced intentions of the JOH regime to "regulate" the content on social media.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/01/gobierno-honduras-quiere-imponer-censura-previa-traves-redes-sociales-e-internet/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2685-gobierno-hondureno-presenta-ley-mordaza-para-redes-sociales>

José David Aguilar Morán, the newly nominated director of the National Police Force, announced that he has made himself available to the MP to be investigated.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/01/director-policia-hondurena-se-pone-disposicion-investigado/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1148581-466/jos%C3%A9-david-aguilar-nunca-he-llevado-dinero-manchado-de-sangre-a-mí>

The US Emergency Faith Delegation was stopped from visiting the political prisoner Edwin Espinal. Three delegates accompanied Edwin's lawyer, Karol Cárdenas de COFADEH, to the prison La Tolva in Moroceli, El Paraíso, but the prison authorities denied them entry. At the same time, seven criminalized protesters held at El Pozo were released on Wednesday night (see yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/niegan-visita-de-delegacion-religiosa-de-eeuu-a-presos-politico-edwin-espinal/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4214-en-libertad-presos-pol%C3%ADticos-de-villanueva-cort%C3%A9s-acusados-por-su-lucha-contra-fraude-electoral-en-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/opositores-presos-injustamente-en-el-pozo-son-dejados-en-libertad/>

José María Tojeira, director of the Human Rights Institute at the Central American University IDHUCA, comments on the "Honduran case" and comes to the conclusion that JOH has to be considered a dictator. Óscar Esquivel fears four more years of the same, i.e. "poverty continues rising, crimes continues attacking us, the lack of health care will weaken our organisms and the lack of education will keep the neurons of the Honduran people under a layer of dust". He gave up on the political class, but continues to have hope in the Honduras people, which displays "more consciousness, more empowerment, more knowledge about how the delinquent politicians operate".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-caso-hondureno/>

<http://elpulso.hn/4-anos-mas/>

Oscar Miguel Marroquín has still some hope for the opposition political parties and their chances to get rid of JOH. He lists four differences between the situation now and the one in 2013 which could strengthen a peaceful popular uprising.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/01/esperemos-llamado-la-insurreccion-no-sea-demasiado-tarde/>

The US is in the defensive regarding their support of the JOH regime. US State Secretary Rex Tillerson claims that they treat all countries the same and that the elections in Honduras and the coming ones in Venezuela cannot be compared. The article then cites both José Miguel Vivanco from HRW and Adriana Beltrán from WOLA, who both strongly contradict Tillerson. Taking the example of migration, Radio Progreso explains why the US even acts against its own interests by supporting the JOH regime.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/mundo/1148501-410/eeuu-no-comparacion-elecciones-honduras-venezuela>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/01/proceso-honduras-venezuela-no-iguales-rex-tillerson/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4213-dictadura-y-migraci%C3%B3n-01-febrero-2018>

The MP recently tried to frame a human rights defender from the Bajo Aguán with no less than 11 murders going back to 2008. This is part of a criminalization strategy against campesinxs and human rights defenders in the region. Pedro Ulloa, 67-years old and father of nine, was released this week because the MP was not able to present any meaningful piece of evidence for their accusation.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensor-de-la-tierra-y-de-los-ddhh-es-dejado-en-libertad-por-falta-de-pruebas/>

The MACCIH spokesperson Juan Jiménez Mayor returned to Honduras after five days in Washington. He announced that they will continue to combat corruption together with the MP.

One big case concerns a corruption network involving some 60 current and former congresswo/men.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/01/vocero-la-maccih-regresa-washington-asegura-junto-al-mp-seguira-peleando/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jimenez-mayor-regresa-honduras-dispuesto-seguir-peleando/>

<https://tiempo.hn/maccih-interviene-dos-ongs-supuestamente-drenar-fondos-millonarios/>

One obstacle for the MACCIH is the recently approved impunity pact. Pinu-SD now presented a bill in Congress which demands the derogation of the reforms to the budget bill, i.e. the impunity pact. The MP, meanwhile, presented a constitutional challenge against it.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/bancada-del-pinu-sd-presenta-iniciativa-para-derogar-reformas-a-la-ley-de-presupuesto.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/mp-interpone-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-reforma-a-ley-de-presupuesto.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1148582-466/el-ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-present%C3%B3-recurso-contra-pol%C3%A9mica-reforma-a-la-ley-del>

Marcelo Colussi published a critical commentary about the Alliance for Prosperity.

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/opinion/366622/alianza-prosperidad-centroamerica-trinagulo-norte>

The MP claims that the homicide rate in January was 23.7% lower compared to January 2017.

<http://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/los-homicidios-en-honduras-bajan-un-23-7-y-suman-280-en-enero.html>

El Tiempo reports on a scandal that erupted on social media about shady activities at the National Port Industry (ENP).

<https://tiempo.hn/escandalo-y-amenazas-entre-empleados-de-la-enp-involucran-a-diputado-leo-castellon/>

JOH presented his education plan for the years 2018-2030. According to the teachers union Colprosumah, 500'000 Honduran children have no access to the education system.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/herandez-presenta-iniciativa-plan-estrategico-para-la-educacion-en-honduras.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/01/mas-de-500-mil-ninos-y-jovenes-estan-excluidos-del-sistema-educativo/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1148609-466/ministro-de-educaci%C3%B3n-marcial-sol%C3%ADs-hay-que-garantizar-calidad-en-la-ense%C3%B1anza>

According to ConfidencialHN, Óscar Álvarez had to retire as a Nationalist congressman for his new job at Energy Transfer Partners in Dallas, Texas.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/01/oscar-alvarez-renuncio-a-curul-para-trabajar-como-ejecutivo-en-ee-uu/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/190784>

03/02/18

Berta - Trial, Impunity; Military Police; (Re)Elections - Protests, Repression, OAS, Dialogue; MACCIH; Judicial Power; Drug Trafficking; Secrecy Law; Employment; IADB; and Drones from Israel

COPINH continues to update on the trial in the case of Berta Cáceres assassination. Yesterday, there was another day in court, but "without any big news". COPINH demands a professional trial according to international standards as well as an investigation into the intellectual authorship of the crime.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2018/02/actualizacion-audiencia-de-hoy-02-de.html>

"Today marks 23 months since the assassination of indigenous leader Berta Cáceres and we are about to reach the second anniversary of her transition."

<https://copinhenglish.blogspot.ch/2018/02/two-years-after-assassination-of-woman.html>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2018/02/a-casi-2-anos-del-asesinato-de-la-mujer.html>

The Human Right Roundtable condemns the murder of the police agent José Joel Castellanos on Tuesday by members of the Military Police (see Friday's e-mail). The Roundtable highlights that the murdered police agent was responsible for protecting the LGBTI organization APUVIMEH based on special protection measures by the IACHR. They demand a thorough investigation and denounce the continued militarization of public security.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-condena-asesinato-del-policia-jose-joel-castellanos-por-elementos-militares/>

Friday nights protesters called once more for justice and an end to the JOH regime. But another main aim was a show of support for the MACCIH after it suffered another quite open attack with the impunity pact. New protests have been announced for today in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/02/hondurenos-reactivan-indignacion-gritan-justicia-justicia-joh-frente-la-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cadena-anticorrupcion-honduras-alianza/>

<https://tiempo.hn/alianza-oposicion-convoca-este-sabado-misa-insurreccion-tegucigalpa-sps/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the case of two teachers who were detained by the Military Police after participating at a protest by the Opposition Alliance.

COFADEH held a vigil yesterday for all the victims of the last two months of state repression.

It must feel like another hard blow for the families of the victims that JOH publicly thanked the Armed Forces yesterday for their role in the post-electoral crisis...

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/jose-rastran-la-evidencia-con-la-que-me-encontraron-es-un-calcetin-que-use-para-cubrime-del-gas/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cese-de-hostilidades-y-amigable-componedor/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2686-joh-agradece-a-militares-represion-y-asesinato-de-hondurenos>

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro challenges a recent statement by US State Secretary Rex Tillerson that the OAS changed position on the Honduran elections (see yesterday). Almagro emphasized that they never changed positions and that no one said something different than what their technical support highlighted. This report clearly says that the Honduran elections suffered from serious short-comings which do not allow for the recognition of a winner.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/02/la-oea-no-cambio-posicion-honduras-responde-almagro-tillerson/>

<https://tiempo.hn/luis-almagro-oea-no-ha-cambiado-postura-elecciones-honduras/>

A UN mission will start holding meetings with different political actors next Monday as a preparation for a dialogue.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1148869-466/misi%C3%B3n-exploratoria-de-la-onu-comenzar%C3%ADa-reuniones-con-actores-pol%C3%ADticos-este-lunes>

Juan Jiménez Mayor, spokesperson of the MACCIH, spoke with the protesters yesterday evening (see above) and promised them that their struggle against corruption only just began.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/02/la-lucha-la-corrupcion-verdad-recien-comienza-juan-jimenez-mayor/>

It is questionable how effective this struggle can be with a Supreme Court in control by JOH and the National Party. Another piece of evidence for its partisanship came yesterday, when the Constitutional Chamber decided in favor of Lena Karyn Gutiérrez, former Nationalist vice-president of Congress, and her family. They are accused crimes against public health, the falsification of documents, fraud and more.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/02/43043/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2690-corte-hondurena-acepto-amparo-de-los-gutierrez>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/admiten-amparo-a-favor-de-lena-gutierrez-y-familia-pero-medidas-cautelares-siguen-firmes.html>

Criteria reports on recent statements by US president Trump to cut aid for countries which do not effectively fight drug trafficking.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/02/trump-amenaza-cortar-la-ayuda-aquello-paises-no-frenen-narcotrafico/>

Conadeh welcomes the reform proposal to the Secrecy Law.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/02/conadeh-apoya-reforma-de-la-ley-de-secretos-oficiales/>

Peter Fleming, executive director of the Plan 20/20, promises that they will create 600,000 jobs in the next four years.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/02/director-de-plan-2020-asegura-que-se-generaran-600-mil-empleos/>

The JOH regime signed an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) to receive a \$60 million credit for its education and youth employment program. During the signing ceremony, JOH said that they benefited from the credit because "we have put our own house in order"...

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/bid-aportara-60-millones-para-fomentar-educacion-y-empleo-de-jovenes.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1148884-466/banco-interamericano-de-desarrollo-presta-60-millones-de-d%C3%B3lares-para-calidad-educativa>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2689-en-julio-llegarian-drones-que-gobierno-hondureno-compro-a-israel>

04/02/18

(Re)Elections - JOH, Dialogue, Portests; US; Rule of Law; Economy; and SPS - Between Cement and Poverty

Radio Progreso explains how the post-electoral crisis is about to take a new turn. They denounce that a media campaign is trying to portray the situation in the country as back to normal. According to them, the rejection of the JOH regime is still high and widespread and the current government is the most delegitimized in Honduras' history. As a consequence, the proposed dialogue by JOH won't work as its only goal is to legitimize the electoral fraud, corruption and impunity. Oscar Miguel Marroquín calls the dialogue a trap based on the premise of divide and conquer. Manuel Zelaya agres.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4219-el-gobierno-de-joh-03-febrero-2018>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/03/dialogo-una-trampa/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/03/almagro-vuelve-a-jugar-el-papel-de-anestesiador-manuel-zelaya/>

Padre Melo presents the requisites for a dialogue to be successful: i) the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the assassinations in the post-electoral context; ii) the demilitarization of public security; and iii) the recognition of the illegality of the reelection as well as the electoral results. Meanwhile, the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsmen (CCPDH) supports the idea of a dialogue in Honduras. And the vice-president Ricardo Álvarez presents the arrival of an exploratory mission of the UN as already a success for the dialogue...

<http://elpulso.hn/padre-melo-entre-acusaciones-y-el-llamado-al-dialogo-nacional/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1149005-410/ombudsman-de-centroam%C3%A9rica-apoyan-el-di%C3%A1logo-en-honduras-para-superar-la-crisis>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1149094-466/califican-misi%C3%B3n-de-la-onu-como-paso-fundamental-para-el-di%C3%A1logo-en>

Stephen Kinzer comments on US policy towards democracy: "Yet last weekend, with the blessing of the United States, a government that evidently stole an election was installed in Honduras. President Juan Orlando Hernández was sworn in for a second term despite the fact that the Honduran constitution forbids re-election. What we say we detest in Venezuela, we pretend not to notice in Honduras."

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2018/02/03/democracy-when-suits/JpPn106slbBgiyC3TLM0BP/story.html>

Proceso Digital reports on yesterday's protests.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nasralla-acusa-a-la-oea-de-querer-dilatar-solucion-a-crisis-en-honduras.html>

Honduras lost another place in the Rule of Law Index and stands not at 103 out of 113 countries.

<http://data.worldjusticeproject.org/#/groups/HND>

The business lobby COHEP wants JOH to cancel the 1.5% sales tax.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/03/si-joh-no-quita-el-1-5-por-ciento-a-las-empresas-no-habra-empleos-cohep/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4217-san-pedro-sula-inmersa-entre-el-concreto-y-la-pobreza>

05/02/18

NGOs; FoE; HRDs; Bajo Aguán; (Re)Elections - Church, Dialogue; IACtHR; MACCIH; and the Secrecy Law

Criterio reports that the Interior Ministry of Honduras threatened to take away the legal status of NGOs which "promote the destabilization of the country".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/04/regimen-joh-amenaza-suspender-personeria-juridica-ongs-defienden-al-pueblo/>

This Tuesday, Congress will discuss the bill pretending to regulate freedom of expression on social media and the Internet in general. El Heraldo presents it as a debate on hate speech online.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/04/congreso-honduras-comienza-discutir-martes-la-ley-bozal-del-internet/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1149376-466/congreso-nacional-iniciar%C3%A1-este-martes-debate-de-ley-para-combatir-campa%C3%B1as-de>

ConexiHon got access to a requisition against three members of the police force who had attacked four human rights defenders and eight university students last year. ConexiHon denounces that the requisition is held back at the courts without being executed.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/552-listo-requerimiento-contra-policias-que-atacaron-defensores-de-ddhh-cuando-se-ejecutara>

ContaCorriente published a long article on the current situation in the Bajo Aguán influenced by the recomposition of drug trafficking structures after the end of the Los Cachiros as well as the irregular general elections.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/02/04/despertar-palmeras-seguir-la-pesadilla/>

The Catholic Church impersonated by Cardinal Óscar Rodríguez continues to be a partisan actor in Honduras denigrating the Opposition Alliance.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/04/cardenal-ve-como-bochornosa-misa-organizada-por-alianza-opositora/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cardenal-rodriguez-homilia-domingo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/04/espectaculo-bochornoso-califico-cardenal-rodriguez-la-misa-los-caidos-la-oposicion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/04/jesus-predicas-monopolio-del-cardenal-mel-zelaya/>

Businessman and member of the group calling for a national dialogue (which were nominated by JOH), Juan Ferrera, concedes that the positions

of the JOH regime and the political opposition are "irreconcilable". Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle believes the time has come for everyone for a "constitutional insurrection" and the preparation for a dialogue facilitated by international mediators leading to a constituent assembly. José Rafael del Cid highlights the non-violent characteristics of the needed insurrection. The Citizen Platform, meanwhile, a NGO alliance close to the JOH regime, believes everything is running according to plan...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/04/posturas-del-gobierno-y-oposicion-son-irreconcilables-respecto-al-dialogo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/04/insurreccion-constitucionalista-dialogo-dos-frentes-una-ruta/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/04/resistir-sin-violencia-pasividad-resignacion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/expresidenciales-apuestan-al-dialogo-y-esperan-facilitador-designado-por-onu-segun-plataforma-ciudadana.html>

The Economist dedicates an article to the Inter-America Court on Human Rights and its recent ruling on gay marriage. It also looks back on the court's history, writing that "[i]t derives its power from its role as the final arbiter of the meaning of the American Convention on Human Rights, which took effect in 1978 and gained influence as dictatorships became democracies in the 1980s and 1990s. The court rules on cases referred to it by the region's human-rights commission, a watchdog organisation that is based in Washington. The commission can issue preliminary judgments of its own. At first countries saw the IACHR, which operates under the aegis of the Organisation of American States (OAS), as a complement to their own judicial systems. But over the past decade it has become a supranational supreme court for human rights."

<https://www.economist.com/news/americas/21736199-ruling-favour-gay-marriage-will-provoke-resistance-latin-americas-human-rights-court>

Oscar Miguel Marroquín has some uncomfortable questions for the MACCIH. Why did they disappear from the public stage around the general elections? Why did they not inform about the investigation for corruption against Mauricio Oliva, Nationalist congressman and president of Congress, before the elections?

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/04/curioso-protagonismo-la-maccih-posterior-al-fraude-electoral/>

Odir Fernández, the head of the investigation unit at the CNA, calls for the derogation of the Secrecy Law believing a reform not to be enough. The reform proposes changes to 14 articles allowing for example to the MP to ask for the declassification of documents.

<https://tiempo.hn/jefe-del-cna-solicita-derogar-ley-secretos-vez-reformarla/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1149396-466/solo-el-ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-podr%C3%A1-pedir-desclasificar-la-informaci%C3%B3n>

06/03/18

(Re)Elections - Repression, Dialogue, PGR; MACCIH; National Police; FoE; US; UNAH; Catholic Church; Colombia; Maras; ENEE; and a Poem

The JOH regime in the form of the Military Police continues to assassinate protesters. Yesterday, the 40-year old father of six, Guadalupe Ismael Hernández, was shot in the back or the head by a member of the Military Police in Choloma, Cortés. The head of the Armed Forces reacts to the newest murder by saying that he laments that the military and the police are always held responsible for the deaths of protesters...

The Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Defenders (IM-Defensoras) published a public letter to the special rapporteurs of the UN and the IACHR to demand from the Honduran government to stop the repression and respect the right of its citizens.

The second report by COFADEH on the human rights violations in post-electoral Honduras covering the events until December 31, 2017 has now been published in English as well.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-regimen-de-joh-sigue-asesinando-a-manifestantes/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2694-policia-militar-asesino-hoy-otro-manifestante-en-choloma-honduras>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/man-shot-dead-at-protest-over-honduras-disputed-election/2018/02/05/41ddd600-0ade-11e8-998c-96deb18cca19_story.html

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-necesariamente-todos-los-muertos-que-hay-en-protestas-es-culpa-de-ffaa-o-policia-defiende-jefe-castrense.html>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/554-defensoras-llaman-a-relatorias-para-exigir-cese-a-represion-en-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2nd-COFADEH-Report-English.pdf>

Salvador Nasralla reiterates that he won't speak to JOH under the current circumstances. Both the main media and the Citizen Platform said recently that he agreed to a dialogue presenting as a success.

According to the president of the body made responsible by JOH to organize the dialogue, Germán Cáliz, the UN will send three persons to Honduras, Carlos Vergara, Marín Merkis and Carolina Soberanis. Apparently, they already arrived in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-habla-alvaro-colom-joh-uno-no-se-sentaria-dialogar/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/onu-designa-a-mision-que-llegara-al-pais-en-apoyo-al-dialogo-nacional.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/a-disenar-estructura-del-dialogo-llega-mision-de-la-onu-a-clara-jorge-yllescas.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1149686-466/misi%C3%B3n-de-la-organizaci%C3%B3n-de-las-naciones-unidas-onu-arriba-a-honduras>

The Liberal Party asks its congresswo/men not to participate in the election of the new head of the State Prosecutor's Office (PGR) due to the "constitutional fracture" Honduras currently suffers from as a consequence of JOH's illegal and fraudulent reelection.

<https://tiempo.hn/eleccion-del-procurador-una-prueba-marcara-posicion-diputados-liberales-cn/>

The Spanish newspaper El País published an article on the MACCIH's investigation into the former president Lobo, his wife and various Nationalist officials currently in office. They report that the MACCIH has gathered "strong evidence" of the links between Lobo and the Los Cachiros drug cartel when handing out concessions for hydroelectric projects.

EL País also published an interview with Juan Jiménez Mayor, in which the spokesperson of the MACCIH says that the corruption network of congresswo/men may very well include up to 140 instead of the initially thought 60 congresswo/men. Furthermore, they currently investigate 30 NGOs presumably linked to the network.

In May, three former members of the Honduran police with links to Fabio Lobo will appear before a court in New York.

https://elpais.com/internacional/2018/02/04/america/1517782127_571976.amp.html

https://elpais.com/internacional/2018/02/05/america/1517785633_346499.html

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1149671-466/eeuu-fija-para-mayo-juicio-contr-tres-exoficiales-que-ten%C3%ADan-nexos-con>

InSight Crime has now finally picked up the AP report on the drug trafficking links of the newly nominated director of the National Police and how this affects the disputed purging committee. They write that "[t]he recently published AP report puts the entire legitimacy of the special police commission into question."
La Prensa reports that the purging committee requested information from the DEA.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/accusations-honduras-police-reform-commission-trouble/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1149689-410/honduras-dea-droga-narco-wilter_blanco-cupula-policial-

Criterio published the new bill on Internet regulation which will be discussed today in Congress.
Both C-Libre and Carlos Zelaya Herrera comment critically on the bill.
The Journalists Association Honduras fears that it limits freedom of expression in Honduras.
The Opposition Alliance announced a protest against the bill.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/05/conozca-proyecto-ley-regula-los-actos-odio-discriminacion-redes-sociales-e-internet/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/diputado-oficialista-presenta-iniciativa-de-ley-para-%E2%80%9Cregular%E2%80%9D-las-redes-sociales>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/05/internet-redes-sociales-regulacion-la-usanza-dictaduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nueva-ley-bozal-pondra-a-prueba-cn/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-convoca-planton-tegucigalpa-martes/>

The US representative Heide Fulton met with the new human rights secretary Karla Cuevas.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-pide-a-honduras-mejorar-ddhh-e-investigar-el-actuar-de-fuerzas-del-orden.html>

The new semester at UNAH started with a protest by students which was repressed by state security forces leaving two students hurt.

<https://tiempo.hn/unah-catedra-bombas-lacrimogenas-piedras-primer-dia-clases/>

The Italian newspaper L'Espresso continues to publish critical coverage on the Honduran Cardinal Oscar Maradiaga and his link to a possible corruption case.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2693-l-espresso-el-lado-oscuro-del-cardenal-maradiaga>

Dick Emanuelsson traces the similarities between Álvaro Uribe in Colombia and JOH in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/05/honduras-colombia-camino-la-reeleccion-uribe-joh/>

An active member of the Honduran Air Force (FAH) was arrested for links to the Mara 18.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/detienen-miembro-activo-de-la-fah-y-dos-personas-m%C3%A1s-vinculados-la-pandilla-18>

<http://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/fna-captura-a-tres-personas-entre-ellas-un-miembro-de-la-fuerza-aerea.html>

The MP is investigating a multi-million purchase of an IT system by ENEE.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mp-investiga-millonaria-compra-de-sistema-informatico-en-enee.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1149676-466/fiscal%3%ADa-indaga-sobre-compra-millonaria-de-software-en-la-enee-autoridades-dicen>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/desmienten-que-el-sistema-de-informaci%C3%B3n-adquirido-por-la-enee-se-haya-dejado-sin>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ayudeme-compa-2/>

07/02/18

Drug Trafficking; MACCIH; FoE; (Re)Elections - Dialogue, Protests, Repression, EU; Golpe; Bajo Aguán; Armed Forces; Impunity; Canada; Debt; National Police; and Between Books and Bullets

Radio Progreso explains how the Security Minister Julián Pacheco Tinoco personifies the "that Honduras" in contrast to "this Honduras". The latter is the Honduras for most Hondurans, in which laws and judges enforce them. "That Honduras" is the one of impunity, in which Pacheco Tinoco, who has been linked to drug trafficking on several occasions, continues to lead a Secretariat responsible for the police with its duty to serve and protect.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4221-el-ministro-de-seguridad-de-aqu%C3%AD-y-el-ministro-de-seguridad-de-all%C3%A1-06-febrero-2018>

InSight Crime picked up the story by El País on the MACCIH's investigation into the links of former president Pepe Lobo and members of the governing National Party with the Los Cachiros drug cartel (see yesterday).
The MACCIH, meanwhile, called once more for the derogation of the Secrecy Law.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/maccih-holds-evidence-fmr-president-lobo-dealings-cachiros-drug-group/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-pide-derogar-ley-de-secretos-y-saluda-propuesta-del-ejecutivo.html>

A group of Honduran and regional civil society organizations expressed their opposition to the new attack on freedom of expression in Honduras. Access Now also dedicates an article to this worrisome development. So does El Libertador and Pasos de Animal Grande. Anarella Vélez comments on the importance of freedom of expression which also applies to social media. The National Party and its congresswo/men ignore all of the above, claiming that the bill intends to bring peace...
...and only serves to stop hate speech.
The bill also proposes the creation of a National Cybersecurity Council.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/06/profundo-rechazo-ley-regula-las-redes-sociales-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/06/la-libertad-expresion-esta-peligro-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2695-lista-ley-para-reprimir-redes-sociales-en-honduras>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2025-gobierno-de-joh-a-traves-del-congreso-nacional-apresura-sus-pasos-para-el-control-del-internet-en-honduras>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/556-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-las-redes-sociales>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/con-regulacion-de-contenido-en-redes-sociales-buscamos-ambiente-de-paz-diputada-bermudez.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/regularemos-campanas-de-odio-y-no-censuraremos-redes-sociales-diputado-marco-paz.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ley-contra-odio-y-discriminacion-en-internet-no-es-para-regular-redes-sociales-aclara-comision-de-dictamen.html>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/la-ley-de-regulaci%C3%B3n-falsas-noticias-crear%C3%A1-un-consejo-nacional-de-ciberseguridad>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1150012-466/comisi%C3%B3n-de-ciberseguridad-abordar%C3%A1-el-odio-en-las-redes>

Honduras fares worst of all Central American countries in electoral liberty in an index by the Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty (Madrid, Spain) and the Autonomous University of Chile.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/06/honduras-ultimo-pais-centroamerica-indice-libertad-electoral/>

The UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres congratulates JOH for his victory the same day he sends a UN mission to Honduras to facilitate a dialogue needed due to the electoral fraud by JOH and his regimes repression against protesters...

The UN mission will prepare its agenda together with the UNDP in Honduras will meet on Thursday with JOH's nominated team to organize the dialogue.

And they meet with JOH on Friday.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/06/secretario-general-la-onu-envia-miision-exploratoria-felicita-joh-segundo-mandato/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/06/43130/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mision-exploratoria-de-onu-realizara-reuniones-con-sectores-politicos-efrain-diaz-arrivillaga.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/mision-exploratoria-la-onu-inicia-agenda-este-miercoles-preve-terminar-viernes/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1149973-466/juan-orlando-hern%C3%A1ndez-recibir%C3%A1-el-viernes-a-la-misi%C3%B3n-exploratoria-de-las>

El Pulso reports on the most recent protests by the Opposition Alliance and what they perceive as a change of tactics.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-marcha-de-las-antorchas-de-la-alianza-de-oposicion/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the solidarity campaign with political prisoner Edwin Roveló Espinal which reached Canada.

Defensores en Línea explains how the Honduran courts are accusing protesters of mundane things to criminalize them so that they are not perceived by the international community as political prisoners, e.g. they do not accused them of illicit association, but rather attempted arson.

Political activist Heber Esaú Padilla denounces that he and his family received threats, one time directly by a Military Police agent who threatened to murder him.

REDEHSUR denounces the ongoing repression and human rights violations in Honduras.

The Provincial Conference of Latin America of the Jesuits sent another mission to Honduras which were part of the US Emergency Faith Delegation. They presented a separate press release denouncing the situation in Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/familia-canadiense-solicita-ayuda-para-liberar-a-edwin-espinal-presopolitico-hondureno/>

<https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/elmvale-family-says-loved-one-wrongfully-imprisoned-in-honduras-1.3790588>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/protestantes-son-acusados-de-delitos-comunes-para-que-las-carceles-no-estenen-lenas-de-presos-politicos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/lider-de-la-oposicion-denuncia-ataques-politicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/06/la-redehsur-condena-asesinatos-violaciones-la-crisis-post-electoral-vive-honduras/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/~rprog/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4222-una-injusticia-que-sigue-clamando-a-gritos-nuestra-solidaridad-cristiana>

A group of European human rights networks demand from the EU to highlight the important work of human rights defenders in Honduras and to demand from the Honduran state to end the repression against them and the Honduran people.

The EU Electoral Observation Mission presented a report to the European Parliament, but according to El Tiempo, it was not the final report on the Honduran elections which we still await.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/06/carta-abierta-la-ue-estados-miembros-la-preocupante-situacion-los-derechos-humanos-honduras-periodo-post-electoral/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mision-la-ue-presenta-informe-ante-parlamento-europeo-elecciones-honduras/>

Yesterday, the first case for human rights violations during the coup d'état in 2009 came to the Honduran Supreme Court. It is the case of the teacher Agustina Flores who was mistreated (vejámenes) by two police agents. The three judges set September 24, 2018 for the public oral proceeding.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/primer-caso-de-violacion-a-los-ddhh-del-golpe-de-estado-de-2009-a-juicio-oral-y-publico/>

Both the Permanent Human Rights Observatory of the Aguán and the Coalition against Impunity denounce the attempted criminalization of human rights defender Pedro Ulloa.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/~rprog/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4224-denuncian-criminalizaci%C3%B3n-contra-defensores-y-defensoras-en-honduras>

Tomas Andino Mencía looks back to see how the Armed Forces have been and continue to be used in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/06/sirven-las-gloriosas-fuerzas-armadas-honduras/>

Glenn Flores tells the story of Jeannette Kawas, who was murdered 28 years ago yesterday and whose murder rests in impunity.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/06/la-impunidad-honduras-lleva-nombre-jeannette-kawas/>

The IACHR welcomes Canada's creation of an independent Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) mandated to investigate allegations of human rights abuses linked to Canadian corporate activity abroad.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2018/020.asp>

https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/01/the_government_ofcanadabringingleadershiptoresponsiblebusinesscond.html

Reporteros de Investigación highlights patterns in how the JOH regime

takes up debt.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/06/congreso-nacional-aprobo-13-prestamos-de-deuda-externa-en-solo-nueve-meses/>

Police commissioner Héctor Iván Mejía announced his retirement. According to La Prensa, he is just one of several high police officials retiring as part of a protest with the recent changes to the structure of the National Police Force.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/06/hector-ivan-mejia-dice-adios-a-la-policia-nacional-de-honduras/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/02/honduras-hector-ivan-mejia-interpone-su.html>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1150000-410/confirman-desbandada-oficiales-policia-honduras>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/555-los-libros-y-las-balas>

08/02/18

HRDs; Violence against Women; (Re)Election - Repression, Dialogue, Reelection, LGBTI; FoE; Corruption; MACCIH; Women; US; Dug Trafficking; and the MACCIH and the Honduran Elites

The Human Rights Defenders Protection Observatory from OMCT and FIDH launched an urgent action in the case of the human rights defenders and university students who were attacked by the police last September. According to the Observatory, the statements of the three accused, the police commissioner Félix Adrián Colíndres Hernández and the two police sub-commissioners uan Manuel Aguilar Godoy and Marlon Agustín Vásquez Palma will be taken on February 28, 2018.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/28-de-febrero-audiencia-de-declaracion-de-imputado-contra-policias-por-actos-de-tortura-y-malos-tratos-en-perjuicio-de-12-defensoras/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2026-justicia-tardia-el-28-de-febrero-oficiales-de-policia-que-torturaron-a-defensores-de-ddhh-iran-a-audiencia-de-imputado>

Reporteros de Investigación published a report on media violence in crimes resulting in the death of women.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/07/violencia-mediatica-en-los-delitos-contra-la-vida-de-mujeres-hondurenas/>

Rights Action sent out an updated urgent action on the political prisoner Edwin Espinal.

Defensores en Línea reports on the case of Manuel de Jesús Bautista Salvador. The 22-year old man was intercepted by the Military Police on his way home on December 3, 2017 and has not been seen again. This was during the time of the curfew and the limited constitutional guarantees. After another murder of a protester this week, CONADEH called out to the Honduran authorities to respect the law and to abstain from using lethal weapons and to stop the indiscriminate use of tear gas.

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/day-20-free-edwin-espinal-political-prisoner-in-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-dos-meses-de-su-desaparicion-familiares-aun-se-preguntan-donde-esta-manuel-de-jesus/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/07/conadeh-no-mas-impunidad-y-evitar-que-siga-derramamiento-de-sangre/>

The Opposition Alliance in person of Manuel Zelaya said yesterday in

Congress that they would participate in the dialogue under some conditions, e.g. if the resolution coming from the UN mediation have a legal status.

Zelaya also emphasizes that for them, it is not a dialogue but rather a mediation led by the UN.

Three representatives of the Opposition Alliance meet yesterday with the UN delegation. They proposed six steps to overcome the crisis and emphasized from the start that they do not recognize JOH as the president. Political analyst Edmundo Orellana explains how last November's illegal reelection was a long-planned event and that the main goal of a UN-mediated dialogue has to be the reversal of this second coup d'état in Honduras' recent history.

<http://elpulso.hn/alianza-de-oposicion-condiciona-mediacion-de-la-onu-en-crisis/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/oposicion-pide-una-mediacion-internacional-y-no-un-dialogo-mel-zelaya.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/07/alianza-oposicion-no-reconoce-joh-presidente-manifiestan-comision-la-onu/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/07/zelaya-afirma-que-dialogo-patrocinado-por-la-onu-debe-tener-condiciones-claras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-zelaya-mision-exploratoria-mandan-comision-alianza-de-oposicion/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/opinion/item/4227-el-di%C3%A1logo-como-medio-para-revertir-el-golpe-de-estado>

In Congress, meanwhile, JOH's allies intend to regulate the reelection as fast as possible trying to white-wash November's event.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/07/43225/>

The Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Rhianna Ferrera, who protested against being inscribed at the TSE with her former name Pedro Ernesto Ferrera when she run for Congress last November.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/07/deniegan-recurso-a-integrante-de-la-diversidad-sexual-que-participo-en-elecciones/>

ConexiHon has some more information on the new bill limiting freedom of expression online and the creation of the National Cybersecurity Commission that would go along with it.

The Special Rapporteur on FoE at the IACHR, Edison Lanza, voices his opposition against the bill in an interview with El Heraldo. Telecommunication and internet companies also oppose the bill.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/559-congreso-creara-comision-nacional-de-ciberseguridad-y-enmascara-ley-mordaza>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1150315-466/edison-lanza-un-r%C3%A9gimen-de-censura-privada-establece-ley-que-regular%C3%A1-internet>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2698-no-va-ley-mordaza-a-redes-causa-demandas-a-telefonía-privada>

Similar to the recent attempt to protect themselves from corruption investigation with the impunity pact, congresswo/men also protected executives overseeing the pension fund for journalists, IPP, from being investigated.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/07/la-llamada-ley-secretos-pasar-la-historia-juan-jimenez-mayor/>

The former Guatemalan president Álvaro Colom announced that he will start his work officially next Monday. He was nominated by the OAS to mediate between the JOH regime and the MACCIH. Colom emphasizes that he is only mandated to work on the electoral reforms. The business lobby COHEP speaks out in support of the MACCIH.

Interestingly, COPHEP made this statements the same day the MACCIH announced that they will also start looking at Honduran companies.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/07/oea-instalara-mesa-para-dialogar-con-el-gobierno-sobre-reformas-electorales-y-la-maccih/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/mi-trabajo-sera-directamente-con-el-gobierno-en-torno-a-las-reformas-electorales-alvaro-colom.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1150311-466/%C3%A1lvaro-colom-reitera-que-viene-a-trabajar-en-reformas-electorales>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/el-cohep-ve-necesaria-la-permanencia-de-la-maccih-en-el-pa%C3%ACs>

<https://tiempo.hn/maccih-buscara-tambien-parar-la-colusion-empresas-gobierno/>

Women's organization work on implementing on the local level a common agenda for women presented last year during the electoral campaign.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/07/las-hormigas-avanzan-lucha-posicionar-agenda-mujeres-planes-gobiernos-locales/>

The political analyst Graco Paredes demands a reaction to the recent statements by US president Trump regarding Mexico and the Central American countries not doing enough to stop the drug flow to the US.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/07/piden-a-gobierno-hondureno-dignidad-para-responder-ante-declaraciones-de-trump/>

A former Honduran police agent was sentenced to five years in prison in the US for drug trafficking.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/07/condenan-a-cinco-anos-de-carcel-a-exoficial-de-policia-presos-en-ee-uu/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/expolicia-hondureno-condenado-a-cinco-anos-por-narcotrafico-en-eeuu.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/07/la-maccih-las-elites/>

09/02/18

Surveillance; FoE; MP - Elections, Germany; (Re)Elections - EU, UN, Dialogue, Protests; Berta - Agua Zarca; Secrecy Law; Social Movements; National Police; Mayors; UNAH; US; Drug Trafficking; Remittances; and Global Hypocrisy

The Guardian reports that the British government "sanctioned sales of spy equipment to Honduras shortly before a disputed general election led to a violent crackdown on opposition protesters and activists in the Central American country."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/08/uk-sold-spyware-to-honduras-just-before-crackdown-on-election-protesters>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/08/reino-unido-vendio-equipo-de-espionaje-a-honduras-antes-de-las-elecciones/>

<https://tiempo.hn/reino-unido-vendio-equipo-de-espionaje-a-honduras/>

Another country plays a prominent role in the the surveillance of Hondurans, Israel. El Pulso reports that Israel supports Honduras in the technical aspects of the new bill censoring the Internet and social media.

The Inter-American Development Bank announced that it supports the new bodies created with the bill by donating equipment. CONADEH presents its recommendations for the bill. Ignoring the national and international protests of the recent days, Congress approved the bill in its first out of three debates. The bill is officially called "National Cybersecurity Bill and Protection Measures for Acts of Hate and Discrimination on the Internet" or in short, Muzzle Bill (Ley Bozal).

<http://elpulso.hn/con-asistencia-israeli-honduras-regularia-redes-sociales/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/conadeh-present%C3%B3-recomendaciones-al-proyecto-de-ley-que-regula-los-actos-de-odio-y>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1150679-466/el-comit%C3%A9-interinstitucional-de-ciberseguridad-estar%C3%A1-integrado-por-19-instituciones>

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-nacional-ley-nacional-de-ciberseguridad-ley-bozal/>

Congress has to elect a Attorney General and their deputy in September. The MACCIH would welcome a reelection of Óscar Chinchilla. Even though he was elected under suspicion circumstances five years ago and was seen as an ally of JOH, some analysts believe he changed and plays now an important part in the anti-corruption struggle in Honduras. Edmundo Orellana Mercado, a former Attorney General, is one of those people, but he believes at the same time that the new Congress may stop his reelection as they already tried to stop the work of the MACCIH with the adoption of the impunity pact. Raúl Pineda Alvarado does not agree and asks for a more independent MP and, therefore, Attorney General.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/08/vocero-la-maccih-da-visto-bueno-reeleccion-oscar-chinchilla/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1150647-466/maccih-a-favor-de-reelegir-al-fiscal-general-%C3%B3scar-chinchilla>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/08/oscar-chinchilla-puede-unico-garantice-seguir-la-politica-anticorrupcion-instalada-la-maccih-edmundo-orellana-video/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/08/hay-que-sacar-la-basura-de-la-cabeza-de-los-politicos-edmundo-orellana/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/08/un-fiscal-general-amarrado-tendra-miedo-a-quienes-administran-la-corrupcion/>

The new German ambassador Thomas Wriessnig asked JOH to change gear from words to actions when it comes to fighting corruption. He urges the JOH regime to reestablish the MP's capacity to investigate corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/08/embajador-aleman-pide-joh-pasar-del-discurso-anticorrupcion-los-hechos/>

The EU representative in Honduras emitted a press release together with the German, Spanish, French and British embassies. They call to both sides to overcome the current polarization in Honduras, once more ignoring the power imbalance in Honduras. They also greet the attempt for a dialogue and offer their support. They further remind Honduras about the importance of human rights, ask the Honduran authorities to respect the right to peaceful protest and demand an investigation into the violence and murderers during the post-election protests. There is not one word about the electoral fraud, which at least partly has also been highlighted initially by its electoral observation mission.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/08/la-union-europea-preocupada-situacion-honduras-obvia-hablar-del-fraude/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-ue-pide-investigar-violencia-y-muertes-en-protestas-en-honduras.html>

Salvador Nasralla denounces a recent statement by the Secretary General of the UN, Antonio Guterres, congratulating JOH.

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-onu-juan-orlando-hernandez-jose-manuel-zelaya/>

The UN delegation is satisfied with its first meetings and its reiterates its neutrality and impartiality. They also meet with representatives of the Liberal Party, but as with the Opposition Alliance, Luis Zelaya did not attend.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mision-exploratoria-de-onu-complacida-tras-reuniones-con-sectores-politicos-y-convocantes.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/luis-zelaya-tampoco-llego-a-reunion-con-mision-de-onu-aunque-envio-comitiva-liberal.html>

The Opposition Alliance calls for new protests today, this time outside the UN in Tegucigalpa.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/mel-llama-a-aliancistas-a-protestas-este-viernes-frente-a-onu-en-la-capital.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/08/mel-convoca-protestas-para-defender-triunfo-de-nasralla/>

In the Agua Zarca case, the former Serna vice-minister Darío Roberto Cardona Valle has to reappear before court on February 22, 2018. He is accused of abuse of authority for the irregularly handing out the environmental license for Agua Zarca.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/pr%C3%B3ximo-22-de-febrero-audiencia-de-proposici%C3%B3n-de-pruebas-ex-viceministro-dar%C3%ADo-cardona-por>

Liberal congressman Mauricio Villeda presents a bill to derogate the Secrecy Law.

<https://tiempo.hn/mauricio-villeda-presenta-iniciativa-para-derogar-ley-de-secretos/>

El Pulso spoke with Rafael Alegría, former Libre congressman and president of Vía Campesina Honduras, about the role of social movements in Honduras' political landscape.

<http://elpulso.hn/rafael-alegría-los-obreros-y-campesinos-solos-no-vamos-a-lograr-los-cambios-en-este-país/>

A picture of a young boy holding a heavy arm by the police causes an uproar. According to Criterio, the picture was taken during a police activity in El Progreso, Yoro.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/08/la-policia-honduras-les-da-armas-los-ninos/>

Óscar Esquivel portrays the reelected mayor of Tegucigalpa, the Nationalist Nasry Asfura, and his love for "covering the city with cement".

<http://elpulso.hn/nasry-tito-asfura/>

This week, UNAH students returned to class under protest. Now they are expecting the promised election of their student representatives.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4229-unah-vuelve-a-clases-a-la-espera-de-elecciones-estudiantiles>

The JOH regime reacted to the recent statements by US president Trump that Honduras and other Central American countries and Mexico aren't doing enough to stop drug trafficking.

<https://tiempo.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-contesta-a-las-declaraciones-de-donald-trump/>

The JOH regime claims that the amount of drugs going through Honduras has decreased by 70%, but it does not specify since when. Given their press release, it could mean since 2012.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/08/honduras-trazas-del-narcotrafico-se-reducido-70-ciento/>

Remittances to Honduras are continuing to rise, last month they were 17.9% higher than in January of 2017.

<http://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/remesas-enviadas-a-honduras-disminuyeron-un-12-5-en-primer-mes-de-2018.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/item/4230-hipocres%C3%ADa-global>

10/02/18

MILPAH; (Re)Elections - Protests, Dialogue, US, EU, Economy, Funding; FoE; Women's Rights; Labor Rights; US; IHSS; Forced Displacements; National Police; Venezuela; Penitentiary System; and Once More - Two Honduras

CPTRT held a forum yesterday in Tegucigalpa on how indigenous Lenca communities survive state violence in Honduras. They focused on the Lenca organization MILPAH, whose members gave testimony to their struggle and the repression they suffer.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/milpah-y-cptrt-victimas-de-persecucion-comparten-testimonios/>

Protesters blocked for the second time last week the highway to Guatemala and Puerto Cortes in Choloma. State security forces used tear gas and live bullets to evict them.

There were also protests outside the UN building in Tegucigalpa.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2701-viernes-de-enfrentamiento-e-insurreccion-civil-en-choloma-honduras>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/09/honduras-en-medio-de-enfrentamientos-liberan-autopista-tomada-por-manifestantes/>

<https://tiempo.hn/protesta-de-la-alianza-de-oposicion-onu/>

The Human Rights Roundtable emphasize in a press release that they are not part of the Citizens Platform established by NGOs close to the JOH regime. They do not recognize the agreements the latter made and they accuse them of trying to hide the violent reality of Honduras in which protesters are murdered, tortured and assassinated.

Omar Rivera still pretends he speaks for everyone.

The same claims JOH when he says that everyone stands behind the dialogue.

The UN exploratory mission, meanwhile, left Honduras again and prepares now its report to the Secretary General.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/09/mesa-derechos-humanos-desmiente-plataforma-ongs-afines-al-gobierno/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/09/dirigente-civil-pide-a-mision-exploratoria-definir-metodologia-de-dialogo/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/09/presidente-herandez-esta-optimista-todos-los-sectores-coinciden-dialogar/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1150912-410/delegados-onu-mision-exploratoria-crisis-honduras>

The US continues to try to rewrite recent history as a high state department official, Francisco Palmieri, claims that the electoral

results in Honduras were not questioned by anyone...having covered the last three months daily, this blatant lie is almost unbearable.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/09/subsecretario-estado-ee-uu-resultado-electoral-no-fue-cuestionado/>

The EU parliamentarian Lola Sánchez denounces that the EU parliament has become "blind, deaf and mute" regarding the violence in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/09/parlamento-europeo-se-vuelve-ciego-sordo-mudo-ante-ola-violencia-e-ilegalidad-vive-honduras-lola-sanchez/>

The former president of the Honduran Central Bank tells Radio Progreso in an interview that the economic elites in Honduras are profiting off the current post-electoral crisis through tax exemptions, benefits and other privileges while the majority suffers from even more taxes, high tariffs for public services and the reduction in public goods.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4235-tesis-politica-beneficia-a-las-elites-economicas-del-pais>

The Clean Politics Unit which was presented as a guarantor of transparency in campaign financing has so far cited 12 candidates for suspicious transactions, four of which the TSC is now investigating.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/09/unos-12-candidatos-fueron-citados-por-indicios-de-financiamiento-ilicito/>

Fernando Silva highlights the circumstances in which the Nozzle Bill censuring internet and social media came about. Radio Progreso presents it as a further enclosure of the media landscape in which the main newspaper are already allied with the JOH regime. As already mentioned yesterday, the main business lobby COHEP also opposes the bill. And the Journalist Association Honduras (CPH) also rejects it.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/02/09/ciberseguridad-cibercensura-ciberespionaje/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4237-honduras-a-un-paso-de-censurar-craticas-y-debate-politico-en-redes-sociales>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/09/empresarios-honduras-rechazan-ley-bozal-las-redes-sociales/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2702-empresarios-hondurenos-exigen-al-congreso-olvidarse-de-ley-mordaza>

<https://tiempo.hn/colegio-periodistas-rechaza-ley-ciberseguridad-considerarla-lesiva/>

The Women's Movement for Peace "Visitación Padilla" commemorates its 34th anniversary - 34 years of "pain, anger, dignity, hope, powerlessness".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/560-mientras-el-pais-retrocede-las-chonas-avanzan>

El Pulso reports on the growing tension between the labor union STIBYS and the company Embotelladora La Reyna regarding outsourcing.

<http://elpulso.hn/coca-cola-company-y-su-divorcio-de-la-cerverceria-hondurena/>

InSight Crime reports that "[a] new analysis suggests the US congress is poised to push back against President Donald Trump's proposals for massive cuts in security aid to Latin America, adding to mixed messaging from Washington that is causing uncertainty for regional partners."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/us-congress-rejects-trumps-proposed-cuts-to-latam-aid/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/09/wilfredo-cerrato-plan-alianza-la-prosperidad-se-financio-fondos-nacionales/>

The MP presented new proof in the IHSS corruption case.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/09/presentaran-pruebas-contr-exdirectivos-del-ihss-y-duenos-de-constructora-por-lavado-de-activos/>

The head of the UNHCR in Central America, Cuba and Mexico, José Samaniego, laments that violence generates more and more forced displacements in the region.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/acnur-afirma-que-violencia-genera-cada-vez-mas-desplazados-en-centroamerica.html>

Two police agents at the Bureau for Criminal Investigation (DPI) face trial for abuse of authority.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/en-audiencia-inicial-dos-agentes-activos-de-la-dpi>

The JOH regime takes part in a group judging the democratic state of Venezuela...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/09/honduras-participa-grupo-lima-peru-invalidar-elecciones-venezuela/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/09/peru-convoca-al-grupo-lima-analizar-elecciones-venezuela/>

Seven inmates at the youth detention center Renaciendo were hurt in a fight and received medical attention at the hospital. El Tiempo writes about at least nine hurt inmates.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/09/siete-infractores-resultan-heridos-en-reyerta-en-carcel-juvenil/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tegucigalpa-heridos-centro-renacer-ue/>

Radio Progreso continues with its series on the two Honduras that exist next to each other.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4231-las-dos-honduras-una-con-sabor-lucha-la-otra-con-olor-a-dictadura-09-febrero-2018>

11/02/18

(Re)Elections - Protests, Fraud, UN and OAS; Money Laundering; Penitentiary System; Public Health; and JOH and Trump

Next protests took place yesterday in Choluteca, in the south of Honduras. The peaceful protest ended on city square where speeches were held. At that moment the state security forces started to repress the protesters throwing tear gas.

Ismael Zepeda lists all the reasons why the Honduran people currently protest, the electoral fraud only being the latest reason in an accumulation of frustration.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2703-gaseada-choluteca-en-masiva-movilizacion-contr-reeleccion>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/10/honduras-crisis-post-electoral-toma-posesion-movimiento-social/>

Reporteros de Investigación reproduces a long article by Padre Melo in Envío about the "electoral fraud feeling like an imperial coup d'état".

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/10/un-fraude-electoral-con-sabor-a-golpe-de-estado-imperial/>

Salvador Nasralla expresses his disappointment with the UN and the OAS.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-oea-y-la-onu-son-organizaciones-de-guante-blanco-salvador-nasralla.html>

The journalist Cesar Funes presents three short videos on the effects of new money laundering laws on the economy on the Atlantic coast of Honduras.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/10/blanca-economia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/09/productores-de-colon-cuestionan-bloqueo-financiero-porque-los-tildan-de-lavadores-de-dinero/>

The prison authorities react to the fight in the Renaciendo youth detention center by transferring eight Mara leaders to the COBRAS headquarters.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/10/trasladan-a-jefes-pandilleros-a-otra-carcel-tras-reyerta-en-centro-de-detencion/>

Suyapa Figueroa, who stands out for her criticism of the JOH regime and its public health policy, was reelected as the president of the Honduran Medical College (CMH).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/10/reeligen-a-suyapa-figueroa-como-presidenta-de-los-medicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/10/gremio-medico-reelige-suyapa-figueroa/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4238-el-gobernador-imperial-y-el-gobernador-colonial-10-febrero-2018>

12/02/18

(Re)Elections - Protests, Campaigning; Corruption; MACCIH; Violence; Education; Sexual Violence; TPS; Customs' Union; and What Now?

The Opposition Alliance published more details on its "peaceful insurrection".

Nasralla, meanwhile, reiterates that only the people can save the country from the dictatorship and that it is not worthwhile to wait for outside help.

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-llama-a-reactivar-los-comandos-de-lucha-en-los-proximos-60-dias/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/11/zelaya-propone-organizacion-de-comandos-de-lucha-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-solo-pueblo-puede-salvar-al-pais/>

According to the Clean Politics Unit, the 261 candidates running in the November elections audited so far have spent more than 136 million Lempiras for campaigning.

<https://tiempo.hn/mas-de-136-millones-gastos-elecciones-diputados/>

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) agreed on rules on how to audit congresswomen who have received public money between 2006 and 2018.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/11/aprueban-reglamento-para-investigar-recursos-entregados-por-el-parlamento-a-diputados/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tsc-aprueba-reglamento-para-auditar-fondos-y-subsidios-gestionados-por-diputados-y-ong.html>

The Business and Industries Chamber of Cortés (CCIC) offered its support

to the MACCIH.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/11/empresarios-del-norte-ofrecen-apoyo-la-maccih/>

Six people died in in Juticalpa, Olancho in the third massacre this year in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/11/cinco-personas-muertas-ataque-cuarteria-juticalpa-olancho/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/matanza-acribillan-a-cinco-personas-en-juticalpa-olancho.html>

Former ANDI president Adolfo Facussé challenges the new education minister Marcial Solís who claimed that school kids sitting on the floor instead of chairs is part of the Finish education style Honduras is trying to reproduce...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/11/al-ministro-educacion-le-ha-pegado-gobiernitis-adolfo-facusse/>

Alejandro Rosales, director of CONATEL, told Proceso Digital that Honduras is one of the worst countries in the region when it comes to uploading videos of sexual violence done to children.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/honduras-crece-la-pornografia-en-la-web-oscura.html>

The Honduran chancellor María Dolores Agüero told El Heraldo that Honduras will request an 18-month prolongation to the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Hondurans in the US.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1151363-466/honduras-solicitar%C3%A1-a-estados-unidos-una-extensi%C3%B3n-de-18-meses-al-tps>

Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala reopened talks for a customs' union.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/11/honduras-salvador-guatemala-retomaran-negociaciones-union-aduanera/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/11/honduras-hacia-adelante/>

13/02/18

Berta - Impunity; HRDs; Omar Rivera; Journalists; FoE; (Re)Elections - JOH, Repression, Democracy, US; Electoral Reform; JOH; Armed Forces; Campesinas; TPS; Mayors; Education; US; And Spending Money

"It will soon have been two years since the crime against our sister Berta Cáceres Flores, bringing up again the memory of that horrible incident that was a blow to our organization, people, country and all of humanity. (...) COPINH calls on those in solidarity around the world to use this day to symbolically reject the imposition of violent death upon those who defend life. For Berta and for the hundreds of social fighters assassinated in Honduras and around the world we demand justice."

<https://copinhenglish.blogspot.ch/2018/02/in-bertas-memory-global-action.html>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2018/02/en-memoria-de-berta-accion-global.html>

Defensores en Línea reports on the case of the human rights defenders and university students attacked by the police last September. A police commissioner and two sub-commissioner now face trial on February 28.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensores-agredidos-por-policias-esperan-justicia/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/565-proceso-contr-tres-policias-no-quede-impune-demandan-a-nivel-internacional>

The journalist Sandra Maribel Sánchez denounces the role played by the "double agent" Omar Rivera, who is both part of the Association for Peace and Justice and Peace (APJ) and member of the purging committee. According to Sánchez, he gave critical information about the social movement to the Security Secretariat.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/12/una-trama-de-doble-poder/>

The journalist Bictor Wuilfredo Ruiz Hernández fled to the US after having received death threats. He had to wait for 23 in a migration detention center in Texas before the authorities qualified his case as credible and he was allowed entry into the US.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/periodista-se-refugia-en-estados-unidos-tras-graves-amenazas-en-honduras>

"The Committee to Protect Journalists, along with more than 50 international and local digital rights organizations and media outlets, joined calls on Honduran lawmakers this week to reject a proposed law that would regulate online speech."

Libre congressman sees the bill as part of a strategy to cover corruption cases by the JOH regime.

The Association of Media Outlets also opposes the so-called Muzzle-Law. C-Libre denounces that Congress, nevertheless, approved the bill in its first of three debates.

<https://cpj.org/blog/amp/028988.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/pronunciamiento-de-la-asociacion-de-medios-de-comunicacion/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/12/jari-dixon-ley-de-ciberseguridad-es-para-tapar-la-corrupcion-del-gobierno/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/congreso-aprueba-en-su-primer-debate-ley-que-restringe-libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n>

Showing his true colors, JOH asked the UN to investigate supposed links between the Opposition Alliance and Maras during the elections...

This seems to be a coordinated attack. The same statements came from the president of the National Party, Reinaldo Sánchez, Nationalist congressman Fernando Anduray and Ebal Díaz, the secretary of the Council of Ministers.

The latter even announces that they will present proof during the dialogue...now at least we understand for what the National Party thinks a dialogue serves...

Little wonder that Billy Joya is part of this.

El Libertador reacts by highlighting some of the links by National Party officials with known and sometimes even arrested criminals.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/12/hernandez-pidio-la-onu-investigue-las-maras-nexos-la-alianza-las-elecciones/>

<https://tiempo.hn/juan-orlando-hernandez-onu-maras-pandillas-alianza-de-oposicion-nasralla/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/12/presidente-del-nacionalismo-insiste-en-que-nasralla-esta-aliado-con-el-crimen/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/12/nacionalista-denuncia-que-la-alianza-quiere-robarle-las-elecciones-a-joh/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/12/ebal-diaz-operacion-cusuco-estrategia-atermorizar-al-pueblo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presentaremos-en-mesas-de-dialogo-pruebas-que-la-alianza-tiene-vinculacion-con-maras-ebal-diaz.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/12/billy-joya-basta-ya-esta-estrategia-odio-mel-nasralla/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/12/pleno-dialogo-partido-nacional-acusa-la-alianza-querer-robarse-elecciones-ayuda-las-maras-crimen-organizado/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2705-partido-nacional-deja-entrever-aumento-de-represion-en-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2704-partido-nacional-acusa-a-nasralla-y-a-mel-de-vinculos-con-crimen>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-rechazo-comunicado-del-partido-nacional/>

The human rights public prosecutor Jacobo Santos denied to receive the complaint by a young man beaten unconsciously by the Military Police after participating in a protest.

Pasos de Animal Grande asks the important question 'cui bono' when it comes to the brutal repression by state security forces during the post-electoral crisis.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2028-fiscal-se-niega-a-ingresar-denuncia-de-victima-que-policia-militar-dejo-inconsciente-de-salvaje-golpiza>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2029-a-quien-le-conviene-el-uso-excesivo-de-la-fuerza-por-los-cuerpos-represivos-en-honduras>

Honduras dropped to its lowest score in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index in the recent past, even lower than in 2010 (there was no score in 2009).

<https://infographics.economist.com/2018/DemocracyIndex/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/566-honduras-una-libertad-de-prensa-limitada-y-una-democracia-hibrida-the-economist>

David A. Sylvester, who participated in the US Emergency Faith Delegation to Honduras published two articles on his experiences.

<https://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/defending-hope-against-fear-and-repression-in-honduras>

<http://www.tikkun.org/tikkudaily/2018/02/12/an-emergency-appeal-from-honduras/>

The Liberal congresswoman Edinora Brooks announces that she supports the idea of a plebiscite about the presidential reelection. UD congressman Mario Noé Villafranca agrees.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/12/parlamentaria-se-unira-a-propuesta-para-reglamentar-reeleccion/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/12/piden-a-hondurenos-opinar-sobre-la-reeleccion-a-traves-de-un-plebiscito/>

Radio Progreso explains the rationale behind the business sector to support to JOH regime.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4240-un-reparto-del-pa%C3%ADs-a-cambio-de-apoyo-a-la-dictadura-12-febrero-2017>

Honduras just signed a memorandum of understanding with Mexico to increase military cooperation. Cybersecurity and cyberdefense were especially mentioned, which could be interpreted as worrisome given the current attempt to regulate Internet content in Honduras.

<http://www.infodefensa.com/latam/2018/02/12/noticia-mexico-honduras-suscribieron-acuerdo-capacitacion-militar.html>

Criterio reports on the ongoing "persecution, criminalization and prosecution" of campesinas - 1700 in total.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/12/campesinas-honduras-perseguidas-criminalizadas-judicializadas-pedazo-tierra/>

Honduras and other Central American countries are currently fearing that the Temporary Protection Status won't be prolonged anymore. Now, James D. Nealon, the former ambassador to Honduras who lobbied for maintaining TPS, resigned from the DHS.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/top-kelly-ally-resigns-sought-extended-amnesty-for-immigrants/article/2648699>

ConfidencialHN reports on an attack against the mayor of Guarizama, Olancho.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/12/atentan-contra-alcalde-de-guarizama-olancho/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/alcalde-de-guarizama-olancho-recibi%C3%B3-un-atentado-criminal-en-las-%C3%BAltimas-horas>

Ruy Díaz Díaz shares his critical reflections on the Honduran education system.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/567-finlandia-vs-honduras-el-apagon-pedagogico-recargado>

Heide Fulton, currently the highest US representative in Honduras, has to leave for military duty for six weeks and will be replaced by Brian Nichols.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/12/la-teniente-coronel-heide-fulton-deja-embajada-estados-unidos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/heide-fulton-honduras-alemania-brian-a-nichols/>

El Tiempo reveals some of the spending by the former IHSS director's cousin with the stolen money.

<https://tiempo.hn/mario-zelaya-ihss-jose-zelaya/>

14/02/18

Journalists; Solar Energy; FoE; (Re)Elections - OAS, Repression, Dialogue, Political Opposition, US; JOH; Lawyers; Labor Rights; Penitentiary System; Corruption; US; Public Health; Employment; and Three Times Hell

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras expressed its concern about the attack against UNETV journalist Cesar Silva yesterday morning. Silva was attacked by a unknown man with a knife while reporting.

See Attachment

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/568-con-punal-en-mano-atacan-a-periodista-cesar-silva>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/13/oacnudh-condena-ataque-periodista-cesar-silva-UNETV/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/13/plena-transmision-vivo-atacan-punal-periodista-honduras-cesar-silva/>

<https://tiempo.hn/video-periodista-une-tv-se-salva-apunalado-desconocido/>

ConexiHon published the first part of an investigation into the situation around the solar energy project Los Prados - a tense situation of harassment, violence and criminalization.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/561-cronica-del-despojo-fotovoltaica-los-prados>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva claims that they first want to talk all relevant sectors before continuing with the approval of the Muzzle Bill. Congress' special committee for the bill met yesterday with UN and OAS representatives.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/13/recla-el-parlamento-hondureno-y-seguira-socializando-control-a-redes/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/diputados-hablan-con-representantes-de-onu-y-oea-sobre-ley-mordaza.html>

Jesse Freeston published a two-part video serie on the "Never-Ending Coup".

http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=20996

http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=21058

OAS' General Secretary Luis Almagro told an interviewer by CNN that the OAS has not recognized the electoral results in Honduras nor congratulated JOH for it.

<https://tiempo.hn/luis-almagro-a-cnn-gobierno-honduras/>

Defensores en Línea visited the family of Telmo Isauro Villareal, who was murdered by the Military Police on January 20 at the start of the one week long national strike.

The Honduran writer J Donadín Álvarez offers his interpretation of the death of another protester, a young man named Erick who was also shot at by the Military Police.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nohemi-matute-telmo-dejo-un-espacio-vacio-en-nuestro-hogar/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/item/4243-la-bala>

The former Guatemalan president Álvaro Colom was arrested for corruption. He was nominated to facilitate the dialogue in Honduras... The Honduran Nation Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) calls his arrest Honduras needs to follow.

<https://tiempo.hn/reinaldo-sanchez-captura-alvaro-colom-dialogo-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/odir-fernandez-captura-de-alvaro-colom-honduras/>

El Libertador reports on yesterday's widespread campaign by the JOH regime to criminalize the political opposition (see yesterday). Salvador Nasralla reacted with a public statement.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2707-mas-alla-de-medios-y-periodistas-en-sucia-campana-contra-oposicion>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/13/nasralla-afirma-que-esta-dispuesto-a-dialogar-para-abordar-denuncias-de-fraude/>

Another US analyst comes to the conclusion that the US "has prioritized political concerns over the preservation of the so-called democratic norms in the region."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/13/la-respuesta-inconsistente-e-ineficaz-del-departamento-estado-la-proliferacion-antidemocratica-america-latina/>

Radio Progreso lists recent statements by JOH, his wife and National Party officials to show that Honduras is ruled by a "thuggish, cynical, corrupt" political class.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4241-brutos-lumbreras-o-c%C3%ADnicos-13-febrero-2017>

El Pulso reports on the attempt by three independent lawyers to take over the leadership of the Lawyers Association Honduras (CAH) to revert its development into a spokesperson of the powerful Honduran elite.

<http://elpulso.hn/coalicion-gremialista-busca-la-presidencia-del-cah/>

It has been 50 days since 2800 banana plantation workers from Chiquita Honduras started to strike. This protest, apart from Radio Progreso, has been marginalized by the main media outlets.

<http://elpulso.hn/tras-50-dias-bananeros-siguen-en-huelga/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the construction of a new 'maximum security' prison in Zamora, Colón.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/un-pozo-en-pozos-de-charco/>

ConfidencialHN reports on newly detected irregularities in infrastructure projects by the JOH regime. The new mayor of Esquipulas del Norte, Olancho asked the MP to investigate the former Nationalist mayor Santos Rufino Hernández for corruption. 20 million Lempiras are missing.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/13/modificacion-antojadiza-a-concesion-costara-a-los-hondurenos-11-millones-de-dolares/>

<https://tiempo.hn/millonaria-indemnizacion-pagara-estado-de-honduras-peajes/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/13/denuncian-exalcalde-nacionalista-esquipulas-del-norte-olancho-desvio-20-millones-lempiras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/esquipulas-del-norte-desvio-de-20-millones-de-lempiras-partido-nacional-partido-liberal/>

The JOH regime reacted to the recent statements by Trump of not doing enough to combat crime and drug trafficking. They write that they took notice of Trump's priorities and they will work accordingly...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/13/gobierno-joh-se-muestra-sumiso-ante-trump-promete-combatir-las-maras-narcotrafico/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-anuncia-profundizara-cooperacion-con-eeuu-para-combatir-la-ms-13.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4242-que-trump-no-considera-%E2%80%9Camigos%E2%80%9D-a-los-pa%C3%ADses-de-centroam%C3%A9rica-es-una-realidad-comprobada-sostienen-analistas>

El Heraldo talked with Suyapa Figueroa, the newly reelected president of the Medical Association Honduras (CMH). She emphasized the importance of public health and demanded the derogation of the Social Protection Framework Bill.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1152096-466/suyapa-figueroa-lucharemos-porque-se-derogue-la-ley-marco-de-protecci%C3%B3n-social>

Hondutel, ENEE and ENP cut almost half its staff (from 10'804 to 5'511) between 2013 and 2017.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1152041-466/empresas-p%C3%BAblicas-recortaron-5293-plazas-en-cuatro-a%C3%B1os>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/13/tres-historias-infierno/>

**Oficina del Alto Comisionado de los Derechos Humanos OACNUDH
Expresa su preocupación por atentado contra periodista Cesar Silva de UNETV**

Tegucigalpa 13 de febrero de 2018.- La oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos en Honduras expresa preocupación y solidaridad con el periodista Cesar Silva de UNETV, que esta mañana sufrió un atentado contra su vida mientras desarrollaba su labor periodística. La OACNUDH se ha reunido con el periodista Cesar Silva, quien ha descrito los actos de agresión en su contra y de otros periodistas del mismo medio.

La oficina recuerda que cualquier acción de violencia, intimidación y hostigamiento contra periodistas y comunicadores sociales constituyen un grave ataque a las libertades de opinión y expresión, los cuales son pilares fundamentales de un estado democrático de derecho.

La OACNUDH insta a las autoridades hondureñas a investigar inmediatamente el crimen contra Cesar Silva y a tomar medidas para la seguridad e integridad física, emocional y psicológica del periodista Cesar Silva. Asimismo llama al Estado a darle prioridad y promover las condiciones para que periodistas puedan trabajar en un clima de seguridad, tolerancia y libertad.

15/02/18

Militarization; NGOs; FoE; (Re)Elections - Repression, Dialogue; MACCIH; Mining; ZEDE; Forced Disappearance; Journalists; Impunity Pact; Toll Booths; Maras; IHSS; Penitentiary System; and the Prosecutor

A change to the judicial law (Ley Especial de órganos Jurisdiccionales con Competencia Territorial en Materia Penal) allows the creation of tribunals with national jurisdiction at military facilities. Even though presented as a tool to go against organized crime, ConexiHon denounces that it will be used against campesinxs.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/570-honduras-juzgados-en-bases-militares-conoceran-casos-de-campesinos-acusados-de-usurpacion>

Representatives of Honduran civil society organizations denounce the recent threats by JOH to cancel their legal personalities.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2033-gobierno-de-joh-quiere-callar-organizaciones-al-amenazar-con-cancelar-personerias-juridicas>

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras expressed its concern about the Muzzle Bill and its effects on freedom of expression.

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/posts/2088676571373130>

Sean Hawkey published a series of photos on the Honduran post-electoral crisis.

<https://sojo.net/interactive/human-rights-groups-ground-amid-violent-honduras-election-protests>

Various Honduran human rights organizations came together to form a committee to fight for the freedom of political prisoners and an end to the criminalization of protesters.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/conforman-comite-pro-liberacion-de-los-presos-politicos/>

Efraín Díaz Arrivillaga, nominated by the JOH regime to set up the dialogue, fears that it is in danger after the verbal attacks by JOH and his allies against the political opposition endangers the dialogue.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/14/posible-dialogo-mediacion-la-onu-esta-entrampado-acusaciones-del-partido-nacional/>

Juan Jiménez Mayor, spokesperson of the MACCIH, received a death threat. According to the political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado, the MACCIH has to be turned into an international prosecution office through an agreement with the OAS to be successful. This is a reaction to a letter by OAS' Secretary General Luis Almagro to JOH saying that the MACCIH needs to be strengthened.

In the letter, Almagro also announced that the dialogue with Honduras will continue even after the arrest of their designated facilitator Álvaro Colom. Functionaries at the General Secretariat will take over his role.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/14/escriben-mensaje-subliminal-muerte-vocero-la-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jimenez-mayor-amenaza-muerte-oea-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/14/la-maccih-convertirse-una-fiscalia-internacional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/luis-almagro-pide-seguir-trabajando-honduras-pesar-ausencia-alvaro-colom/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1152447-466/secretar%C3%ADa-de-la-oea-asume-el-di%C3%A1logo-con-el-gobierno-de-honduras>

Rights Action denounces how the Canadian mining firm Aura Minerals and its Honduran subsidiary MINOSA "have dug up at least 89 cadavers, pressuring and paying mostly impoverished families for the "right" to move their dead."

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/89-bodies-dug-up-by-aura-minerals-canadian-company>

Giorgio Trucchi reports on the fate of 15 families on the Exposición Island which face expulsion due to a planned ZEDE.

<http://www.albasud.org/blog/es/1013/isla-exposicion-honduras-15-familias-al-borde-del-desalojo>

ConexiHon denounces that the 20-year old son of Elba Paz Ayala, Ever Misael Lagos Ayala, disappeared together with another young man after being arrested by the police.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/573-donde-esta-mi-hijo>

Reporteros de Investigación spoke with journalist Omar Rivera who was recently attacked while working. El Libertador denounces that one of its columnists, Pedro Fúnez, was stabbed on his way home on February 4. 75 journalists have been murdered in Honduras since 2001, 92% of these cases rest in impunity and 43% took place under the JOH regime.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/14/el-alto-riesgo-del-periodista-cesar-silva/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2711-apunalan-a-columnista-de-el-libertador-en-tegucigalpa>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/investigaciones/item/2027-el-43-de-los-asesinatos-de-periodistas-ha-ocurrido-en-el-gobierno-de-juan-orlando-hernandez>

Oscar Melara presents an analysis of the impunity pact.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/14/lea-documento-explicativo-del-llamado-pacto-impunidad/>

Criterio took up the revelation by ConfidentialHN yesterday, that Honduras has to pay some \$11 million to a private company as part of a public private partnership for not meeting the level of fees made through the toll booths.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/14/260-millones-lempiras-pagaremos-los-hondurenos-la-concesionaria-peajes-no-cobrados/>

Security sub-secretary Luis Suazo announced today that they are preparing a new strategy to combat the Maras. John Creamer of the US State Department met with JOH and announced their support for it.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/14/gobierno-de-honduras-prepara-estrategia-para-combatir-las-maras-y-pandillas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-anuncia-estrategia-especial-para-combatir-maras-y-pandillas-en-honduras.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ee-uu-da-apoyo-a-honduras-en-lucha-contra-las-maras.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1152470-466/estados-unidos-respaldar%C3%A1-lucha-del-gobierno-hondure%C3%B1o-contra-la-inseguridad-y-el>

The uncle of former IHSS director Mario Zelaya, Mario Rojas, was found guilty of money laundering and fraud linked to the IHSS corruption case.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/14/hallan-culpable-al-tio-del-exdirector-del-ihss-por-lavado-de-activos/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/mp-obtiene-una-nueva-sentencia-condenatoria-por-el-desfalco-del-ihss>

Yesterday six years ago, the prison in Comayagua burned down taking 362 with it. COFADEH announces that they will continue to fight for justice in this case.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/14/segun-cofadeh-sigue-sed-justicia-seis-anos-incendio-penal-comayagua/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/14/el-fiscal/>

16/02/18

MACCIH; (Re)Election - Repression, JOH, Analysis; FoE; Education; Drinking Water; Penitentiary System; ENEE; Corruption; Child Labor; Deportation; and What Homeland?

Another blow coming from Honduras. After revealing that he received death threats (see yesterday), the MACCIH's spokesperson Juan Jiménez Mayor now announced his resignation. Criterio reproduced his five-page letter to the Honduran people explaining it. Jiménez Mayor gives as a main reason the missing political support from the OAS and its General Secretary Luis Almargo, who just yesterday also published an open letter in Honduras, in which he criticized the work of the MACCIH. In no less than 23 points, Jiménez Mayor presents the "real situation of the Mission [MACCIH] and its relationship with the OAS General Secretariat. He mentions some really worrisome points, e.g. that Jacobo Domínguez, who was expelled from the MACCIH in Honduras after allegations that he intended to sabotage its work for political reasons, still is considered as part of the MACCIH's Washington team, receiving \$10'000 per month without Jiménez Mayor knowing what he is actually doing. Political analyst Víctor Meza speaks of a conspiracy against the MACCIH, which "presents a pebble in the shoes of the corruption, with Juan Jiménez Mayor being the biggest one".

Jorge Yllescas and Filadelfo Martínez both criticize the role of Luis Almargo.

Even before the news broke, the Honduran Indignados Movement voiced fears that the MACCIH may disappear from Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/15/conozca-la-carta-integra-juan-jimenez-mayor-renunciando-cargo-jefe-la-maccih/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2035-jimenez-mayor-renuncia-despues-de-amenazas-se-agudizan-las-presiones-politicas-para-que-la-maccih-se-vaya-de-honduras>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1152749-466/por-diferencias-con-luis-almagro-juan-jim%C3%A9nez-mayor-renuncia-a-la-maccih>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/15/mafia-multinacional-esta-conspirando-contrala-maccih-advierte-pensador/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/almagro-no-es-confiable-porque-tiene-intereses-politicos-mas-grandes-que-honduras-afirma-analista.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/15/la-actitud-de-almagro-esta-fortaleciendo-las-mafias-jorge-yllescas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/15/aparente-sintonia-de-secretario-de-la-oea-con-corruptos-es-una-amenaza/>

<https://tiempo.hn/movimiento-indignados-denuncia-plan-para-sacar-a-la-maccih-del-pais/>

On Wednesday, several Honduran human rights organization have formed a committee with the objective of achieving the freedom of political

prisoners and the end to judicial persecution of protesters (see yesterday). Yesterday, they published their first press release presenting themselves to the public.

Defensores en Línea published some more details on this new committee, which currently consists of COPEMH, COLPEDAGOGOS, COPRUM, STIBYS, ERIC, Coalition against Impunity, Honduran Solidarity Network (US and Canada), COFADEH, International Ecumenic Human Rights Observatory and Vía Campesina. There are currently 22 known cases of political prisoners in four different prisons and 80 cases of criminalization.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/formation-of-committee-for-the-liberation-of-political-prisoners/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/comite-nacional-exigira-la-liberacion-de-las-personas-encarceladas-por-razones-politicas/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/al-menos-ochos-organizaciones-de-ddhh-se-unen-para-lograr-la-liberacion-de-presos-politicos-en-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/dictadura-de-joh-mantiene-a-22-presos-politicos/>

During a session in Congress, Pinu congressman Luis Redondo stood up and shouted out all the names of the victims of state violence during the post-electoral protests.

<https://tiempo.hn/luis-redondo-pos-electoral-el-congreso-fuerzas-armadas-alianza-de-oposicion-honduras/>

Lola Sánchez Caldentey, EU parliamentarian, criticized JOH for denigrating the political opposition. She further denounces the role of the Honduran main media for turning a blind eye on the state repression.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2708-eurodiputada-lola-sanchez-lamenta-desfachatez-de-joh-y-diario-la-prensa>

Padre Melo was recently in Guatemala to present his reading of the situation in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/15/claves-entendimiento-desmoronamiento-del-proyecto-dictatorial-joh-desde-movimiento-social-padre-melo/>

Radio Progreso explains why the social media is not the problem in Honduras, but rather a reflection of Honduras itself.

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) believes that the debate around the Muzzle Bill is only a smokescreen to divert attention away from the Impunity Pact.

The MACCIH and MP, meanwhile, announced to further their investigation into the congresswomen involved in drafting the Impunity Pact.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4245-las-redes-sociales-no-son-problema-15-febrero-2018>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/14/corte-suprema-congreso-dilatan-los-tiempos-pueblo-se-olvide-del-bochornoso-pacto-impunidad-cna/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ufecic-maccih-atic-recogen-indicios-sobre-implicados-en-pacto-de-impunidad.html>

Chaco de la Pitoreta comments on the new Honduran Education Minister Marcial Solís and his plan for the Honduran education system.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/~rprog/index.php/comunicaciones/reportaje/item/4246-la-educaci%C3%B3n-de-aqu%C3%AD-y-la-de-all%C3%A1-en-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2712-como-en-finlandia-educacion-despide-personal>

Honduras lives currently through a process of decentralization/municipalization of the drinking water supply. The

process is planned to finish this year and Radio Progreso critically accompanies the process, giving voice to those that fear it is a first step to privatize the water supply.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4244-entrega-de-administracion-del-agua-a-alcalde-se-completara-este-2018>

Opposition forms against the newly revealed plans to build another "high-security" prison in Tocoa, Colón.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/15/ciudadanos-empresarios-se-oponen-construccion-pozo-iii-tocoa-colon/>

ConfidencialHN reports on the most recent step in dismantling the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/15/gobierno-de-honduras-ordena-la-desarticulacion-de-la-enee1/>

The National Bank and Securities Commission announced its investigation of various (former) congresswomen and functionaries. Various former managers at the Lawyers Association Honduras went to trial yesterday for corruption. Its former president, Olvin Mejía, admitted to embezzlement and demanded an abbreviated trial.

<https://tiempo.hn/la-cnbs-estaria-investigando-las-finanzas-varios-diputados-exdiputados/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/15/comparecen-exdirectivos-del-colegio-de-abogados-por-multimillonario-desfalco/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/15/expresidente-de-los-abogados-admite-delito-y-pide-procedimiento-abreviado/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1152733-466/expresidente-del-colegio-de-abogados-de-honduras-busca-evitar-desorbitada-pena>

According to the Honduran authorities, there are over 400'000 child laborers in Honduras.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/mas-de-400-mil-ninos-realizan-trabajo-infantil-en-honduras>

666 Honduran children have so far this year been deported back to Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-600-menores-muchos-de-ellos-solos-deportados-a-honduras-este-ano.html>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle inquires about the idea of the homeland (patria) in today's Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/15/cual-patria-carajo/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2713-honduras-gerencia-de-pais-receive-and-delivery>

17/02/18

MACCIH; Hydroelectricity; (Re)Election - Repression, Journalists, JOH; Violence against Women; Lawyers; Public Debt; Corruption; Economy; and Living for the Defense of Human Rights

There seems to be only one topic in today's Honduran media landscape: the resignation of the MACCIH spokesperson Juan Jiménez Mayor. Together with him, other important figures inside the MACCIH announced their resignation. Julio Arbizu leaves by saying that one day it will be known which corrupt figures lie behind the attacks against the MACCIH.

InSight Crime speak with Mike Allison, a Central America expert at the University of Scranton, Christine Wade, a Central America expert and political science professor at Washington College, and Eric Olson, the director of the Woodrow Wilson Center's Latin American program, about the significance of the resignation, the role of the OAS ("OAS chief Almagro 'appears to have pulled the rug out from under his own mission'") and the next steps ("Olson said, "no matter who is appointed, there will be ongoing attempts by those alleged to have been involved in corruption to undermine, to obstruct and to make more difficult" the process of rooting out corruption in Honduras.")

The political opposition, the Opposition Alliance and the Liberal Party, met with the MACCIH throughout yesterday afternoon and evening. They decided to write a letter to the OAS not to accept the resignation by Jiménez Mayor and to give more autonomy and financial independence to the MACCIH. They also highlighted coming efforts to elect a strong Attorney General.

Nevertheless, OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro has already accepted the resignation.

He nominated Ana María Calderón Boy to head the transition.

José Ugaz, president of Transparency International, holds Almagro responsible for the weakening of the MACCIH and the resignation of Jiménez Mayor. He wonders what political motives lie behind this.

Carlos Zelaya Herrera believes that this is proof of the complicity between JOH and Luis Almagro.

The same Almagro is accused of stopping the publication of the newest report of the MACCIH before the general elections in Honduras.

Reporteros de Investigación requested access to this report based on the Right to Access to Public Information (AIP).

JOH, meanwhile, pretends it all has nothing to do with him.

He meet with representatives of the countries supporting the MACCIH.

Wilfredo Mendéz, director of Ciprodeh, has already given up on the MACCIH for a while.

The Liberal Party proposes Thelma Aldana, public prosecutor in Guatemala, as a replacement for Jiménez Mayor.

El Pulso makes a further link to Guatemala and the early days of the CICIG. In 2010, its head Carlos Castresana resigned after three years using similar arguments as Jiménez Mayor (a campaign against CICIG, a boycott by Congress, lack of support by the UN).

COPINH also react with a press release highlighting how the departure of Jiménez Mayor reflects the same impunity that reigns in the caso of Berta Cáceres.

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) believes that this resignation further debilitates governance in Honduras as well as the belief by its citizens in the democratic system.

USAID tweets: "This is terrible for Honduras".

I list some further reactions by ambassadors.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/diferentes-motivos-orillan-a-renunciar-al-jefe-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/16/julio-arbizu-advierde-tarde-temprano-se-sabra-quienes-los-corrutos-atacan-la-maccih/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/16/cercanos-colaboradores-de-jimenez-tambien-abandonan-la-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/julio-arbizu-procurador-la-maccih-tambien-renuncia-cargo/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-anti-graft-body-head-resigns-claims-lack-international-support/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/16/oposicion-politica-honduras-sella-acuerdo-retener-juan-jimenez-mayor-la-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/oposicion-protesta-jimenez-mayor-maccih/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/16/secretario-de-la-oea-acepta-renuncia-de-exjefe-anticorrupcion-y-delega-responsable-de-transicion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/luis-almagro-nombra-nueva-vocera-la-maccih-sustitucion-jimenez-mayor/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/16/director-transparencia-internacional-responsabiliza-almagro-quebre-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/16/proyecto-maccih-la-renuncia-evidencia-la-complicidad-almagro-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/16/almagro-escondio-informe-la-maccih-situacion-pre-electoral/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/16/oea-debera-entregar-el-informe-maccih-que-oculta-desde-2017/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/16/joh-pidio-dos-veces-a-jimenez-que-no-se-fuera-de-la-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/juan-orlando-hernandez-maccih-oea-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/16/la-maccih-proyecto-fracasado-no-forma-levante-cabeza-wilfredo-mendez/>

<http://elpulso.hn/luis-zelaya-si-no-luchamos-hoy-contra-la-corrupcion-el-pais-se-nos-va-de-las-manos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2714-partido-liberal-acusa-al-gobierno-de-boicot-a-la-maccih>

<http://elpulso.hn/que-sigue-ahora-con-la-maccih/>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2018/02/copinh-ante-la-renuncia-de-miembros-de.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/16/oficina-anticorrupcion-lamenta-el-debilitamiento-de-la-maccih/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/partido-nacional-continuará-respaldando-a-la-maccih-usaid-honduras-califica-como-terrible-para-honduras.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/embajador-palmero-lo-importante-es-que-la-maccih-siga-trabajando-y-no-interrumpa-sus-actividades.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/embajador-de-francia-lamenta-renuncia-de-jefe-de-mision-de-la-oea-en-honduras.html>

Radio Progreso reports on the resistance by the indigenous Lenca community in Reitoca, Francisco Morazán, against a hydroelectric project on the Petacón river.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4251-pueblo-ind%C3%ADgena-de-reitoca-resiste-a-que-r%C3%ADo-petac%C3%B3n-muera-con-instalaci%C3%B3n-de-hidroel%C3%A9ctrica>

ConexiHn also reports on the recently formed committee for the support of political prisoners in the post-electoral context.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/576-surge-comite-nacional-por-la-liberacion-de-presos-politicos-en-contexto-post-electoral>

19 journalists and social communicators have suffered attacks and threats in the post-electoral crisis. CONADEH demands an investigation into this and the role of the Military Police.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/15/conadeh-pide-investigar-al-comandante-de-la-policia-militar-tras-revelar-19-ataques-contra-la-prensa-en-contexto-poselectoral/>

As the time of Lent has begun, Radio Progreso explains how this could be an occasion to review our life and behavior but in the case of JOH he seems to have been tempted by the "Lenten demons" for denigrating and criminalizing the political opposition.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4248-los-demonios-cuaresmales-16-febrero-2018>

Women's Rights Organization presented a bill to create the legal basis for the creation of safe houses for women survivors of violence.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/575-organizaciones-proponen-ley-de-casas-refugio-para-mujeres-sobrevivientes-de-violencia>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/16/ley-de-casas-refugio-para-proteger-victimas-de-delito-mas-denunciado-en-honduras/>

The lawyer Carlos Ivan Ordoñez was murdered yesterday afternoon by a group of unknown assailants.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/16/muere-abogado-que-fue-tirroteado-en-comayaguela/>

<https://tiempo.hn/muere-abogado-penalista-tirroteado-comayaguela/>

Radio Progreso writes about the growing problem of rising debt levels at the municipal level in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4247-millonarias-deudas-hunden-a-municipalidades-en-honduras>

El Libertador reports on how the Honduran Central Bank will stop regulating the exchange rate giving it over to the interbank market.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2715-atencion-gobierno-entrega-control-de-dolares-a-banqueros>

The MP has intervened at the Administrative Office for Seized Goods (OABI) investigating reported abuses by employees.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/16/honduras-intervienen-oficina-administradora-de-bienes-incautados/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/16/jimenez-revela-que-altos-funcionarios-trafican-con-bienes-incautados-de-la-oabi/>

http://www.pbi-honduras.org/fileadmin/user_files/projects/honduras/files/Otras_Publicaciones/1709Publicaciones_PBIEE_20Relatos.pdf

18/02/18

MACCIH; HRDs; Violence; (Re)Elections - Repression; Hydroelectricity; and Elections at the UNAH

The Coalition against Impunity denounces the resignation by the MACCIH's spokesperson Juan Jiménez Mayor as "the culmination of a process of suffocation persistently conducted by OAS General Secretary Luis Almargo against the MACCIH (...) in collusion with the JOH regime."

The New York Times took up the recent event at the MACCIH citing among other people CNA's director Gabriela Castellanos saying: "This is the beginning of a political offensive against the fundamental pillars that are against corruption in Honduras". As possible reason for the recent attacks against MACCIH, the article names the investigation into the concession for Agua Zarca and the Berta Cáceres case.

The Wilson Center also comments on these developments, writing that the resignation "deals another serious blow to fledgling anti-corruption efforts in Honduras, the reputation of the OAS and, ultimately, that of the Government of Honduras."

ConfidencialHN reveals some more controversial things about the highly questionable MACCIH employee in Washington, Jacobo Domínguez Gudini. His contract has been published recently raising more questions.

MADJ interprets the MACCIH as another failed attempt to fight corruption

in Honduras highlighting that under the current situation a replication of what CICIG did in Guatemala seems impossible. According to the political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado, the "system of corruption is a smoothly running machine which is able to demolish those that could possibly threaten its normal functioning."

Just hours after Reporteros de Investigación officially requested the held-back report by the MACCIH, the OAS published it on its homepage. It contains information about "narco-functionaries", the Agua Zarca case and the IHSS.

The main Honduran press, meanwhile, concentrates on the dispute between Jiménez Mayor and Almargo.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2036-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-secretario-general-de-la-oea-y-joh-se-confabulan-para-estrangular-a-la-maccih>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/16/world/americas/honduras-corruption-panel.html>

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/mending-self-inflicted-wound-the-oas-and-honduras>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/17/empleado-que-trabaja-a-control-remoto-para-la-maccih-aprende-a-combatir-la-corrupcion-en-china/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/17/jacobo-dominguez-aprende-gobernanza-china-recibe-sueldos-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/17/conozca-contrato-jacobo-dominguez-pagado-fondos-la-maccih/>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/02/17/La-MACCIH-Otro-esfuerzo-fracasado-en-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupci%C3%B3n-en-Honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/17/sistema-corrupcion-una-maquinaria-bien-aceitada-funciona-bien-raul-pineda-alvarado/>

Pasos de Animal Grande offers an update on the case against the three members of the police force responsible for the attack against the human rights defenders and students in September 2017.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2039-caso-de-defensores-torturados-ministerio-publico-solicita-medidas-distintas-a-la-prision-para-policias-torturadores>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/16/oea-oculto-informe-sobre-narcofuncionarios-y-presunta-corrupcion-en-caso-des/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1153262-410/juan_jimenez_mayor-luis_almagro-pelea-cartas-twitter-maccih

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/17/almagro-manda-inspector-la-maccih-ante-denuncias-infiltracion-acoso/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1153250-466/%C3%A1lgido-pleito-entre-secretario-general-de-la-oea-luis-almagro-y-exvocero>

According to Casa Alianza, 59 Hondurans under 30 have been murdered in the first two months in Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/17/59-menores-de-30-anos-fueron-asesinados-en-los-dos-primeros-meses-de-2018/>

José Ramos, father of one of the victims of state repression during the post-electoral conflict, denounces that the MP stopped investigating the assassination of his son José David Ramos Lambert.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/17/padre-victima-protesta-choloma-denuncia-la-fiscalia-ha-frenado-la-investigacion-del-crimen-hijo/>

Criterio follows up with another article (see yesterday) on the indigenous Lenca resistance against a hydroelectric project in Reitoca, Francisco Morazán.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/17/reitoca-pueblo-heroico-pie-lucha-del-encarcelamiento-del-agua/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the first meeting at UNAH to decide on the electoral process for the student elections.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2037-inician-primeras-reuniones-para-consenso-de-reglamento-electoral-estudiantil-en-la-unah>

19/02/18

MACCIH - JOH; APJ; Surveillance; National Police; UNAH; Education; (Re)Elections - Transparency; and Who is Afraid of the MACCIH?

ContraCorriente offers an overview of the last days event in regards to the MACCIH.

Political analyst Víctor Meza stays firm that the MACCIH will continue its work in Honduras and believe that all the talk about a possible end only plays into the hands of powerful actors feeling threatened by its presence.

OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro continues to criticize Juan Jiménez Mayor saying that leaving the MACCIH as it had been would have meant maintaining impunity. He fails to say that it was Jiménez Mayor who demanded change in from of more autonomy and support, but Almagro failed to offer it.

The French ambassador Pierre Christian Soccoja gave an interview in regards to the MACCIH.

The US also comments on it.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/02/17/una-renuncia-esperada/>

<http://elpulso.hn/victor-meza-la-maccih-no-se-va-del-pais/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/18/mantener-la-maccih-estaba-mantener-la-impunidad-luis-almagro/>

<https://tiempo.hn/almagroasi-estaba-la-maccih-mantener-la-impunidad-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/embajador-de-francia-lucha-corrupcion-honduras/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1153494-410/oea-honduras-maccih-corrupcion-transparente-eua-impunidad->

Criterio took up the revelation by the New York Times that the MACCIH is investigating an NGO directed by JOH's mother-in-law.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/18/al-momento-dimision-jimenez-mayor-investigaba-una-ong-manejada-la-suegra-del-presidente-new-york-times/>

The Alliance for Peace and Justice (APJ) has been criticized on many occasions for its closeness to the JOH regime, now criticism comes from inside. The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (Asonog) announced that it has unanimously decided to withdraw from APJ as its close collaboration with the government is no longer compatible with Asonog's vision and institutional agenda.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/18/asonog-se-retira-la-apj-estar-aliada-al-gobierno/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/18/red-de-organizaciones-no-gubernamentales-se-deslindan-de-apj-por-rechazar-posturas-oficialistas/>

With the discussions around the Muzzle Bill and the regulation of Internet content in Honduras, Critreio reminds us that the JOH regime is in possession of software to spy on its citizens. Last week the Guardian uncovered such a sale, but already in 2015 it was made public that

Honduras had worked with the Italian company "Hacking Team" which among other things offered a system to listen to Skype conversations.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/18/espacio-cibernetico-honduras-esta-vulnerado-softwars-espias-antibots-honduras/>

La Prensa reports that the purging committee is currently preparing criminal cases against some 1000 members of the National Police Force from all levels.

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1153515-410/depuracion-policia-corrupcion-homicidio-ministerio_publico-depuracion-

Last September, the sociology student Luis Rivera Perdomo was brutally murdered and many observers linked it to the student protests. Now, the Honduran police captured a member of the Mara 18, who they believe murdered Rivera Perdomo.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/18/capturan-marero-supuesto-asesino-estudiante-sociologia-colonia-pedregal-julio-2017/>

According to the Education Secretariat, some 180'000 Honduran pupils are at risk of violence due to the location of their schools.

<https://tiempo.hn/180-mil-alumnos-en-riesgo-por-inseguridad-honduras/>

Today the political parties must present their report to the Clean Politics Unit on campaign spending. Apparently they are not ready.

<https://tiempo.hn/partidos-politicos-en-honduras-2/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/18/partidos-mayoritarios-piden-mas-tiempo-para-presentar-estados-financieros/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/18/quien-teme-la-maccih/>

20/02/18

Campeñxs; Journalists; ZEDE; MACCIH; National Police; Armed Forces; Infrastructure; FoE; MP; Deforestation; Lawyers; IHSS; OABI; TPS; Migration; and Intensifying the Struggle

Yesterday morning, the young campesino leader of the CNTC, Samuel Martínez, was found dead in Tutule, La Paz. Criterio writes about "obscure circumstances". Martínez and a colleague are being criminalized for usurpation since 2010 and last year they were in prison for three months. COFADEH demands a thorough investigation.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/19/circunstancias-oscuras-fallece-dirigente-campesino-tutule-la-paz/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-exige-se-investigue-la-muerte-de-lider-campesino-de-la-paz/>

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) denounces that the Honduran authorities did not response to their inquiry regarding the recent attack against the journalist César Silva.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/578-autoridades-hondurenas-no-responden-a-organizacion-internacional-por-ataque-contra-periodista>

Giorgio Trucchi follows with another article on the possible eviction of

the inhabitants of the Isla Exposición in the Gulf of Fonseca due to the creation of a ZEDE. In an interview, one of its inhabitants, Lorenzo Aguilera, clearly states that only dead will they leave their island.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/191132>

The Spanish newspaper El País spoke with Juan Jiménez Mayor about his decision to resign from the MACCIH. He paints a dire picture about his work in Honduras, where "we confronted political parties not follow transparency practices, where control organisms do not do their job and where institutions are co-opted politically."

JOH, meanwhile, continues to claim that his government wants to strengthen the MACCIH...

Reporteros de Investigación reveals further problems with the controversial former MACCIH employee Jacobo Domínguez who continues to work for it in Washington. Together with two colleagues, he made various racist remarks.

El Heraldo spoke with Ana María Calderón Boy, the ad-interim spokesperson of the MACCIH.

Both Radio Progreso and Wilfredo Méndez hope that public calls for a UN-backed anti-corruption body will become louder once more.

https://elpais.com/internacional/2018/02/18/america/1518976789_091823.html

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/el-compromiso-es-fortalecer-la-maccih-ebal-diaz.html>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/19/grabacion-desde-uruguay-devela-gargantas-racistas-en-la-maccih-oea/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1153845-466/ana-mar%C3%ADa-calder%C3%B3n-vocera-interina-de-la-maccih-asumir%C3%A9-el-reto-con>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4253-luego-de-la-renuncia-del-vocero-de-la-maccih-cree-demanda-de-organismo-internacional-bajo-responsabilidad-de-la-onu>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/02/honduras-seria-ideal-que-la-marcha-de.html>

The Human rights prosecutor opened a case against the police official José Amílcar García Isidro for abuse of authority and torture against a minor in custody.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/19/inician-juicio-contra-policia-acusado-de-torturar-menores-infractores1/>

JOH ally and former head of the Armed Forces, Fredy Díaz Zelaya, was sworn in as the new Defense Secretary.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2719-general-fredy-diaz-sustituye-a-samuel-reyes-en-secretaria-de-defensa>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/juramentan-a-fredy-diaz-zelaya-como-ministro-de-defensa.html>

ConfidencialHN reveals irregularities around infrastructure deals given to the company Autopistas del Atlántico, S.A. (Adasa) in 2012.

Apparently, the law's firm involved in the deals has as a partner the Deputy Attorney General Rigoberto Cuéllar...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/19/sin-cumplir-requisitos-estado-hondureno-dio-a-multinacional-el-privilegio-de-construir-autopista/>

Joaquín Mejía Rivera highlights the legal repercussions of the Muzzle Bill.

<https://joaquinmejiarivera.blogspot.co.uk/2018/02/otro-ataque-la-libertad-de-expresion.html>

The Evangelical Confraternity started the reelection campaign for the

current Attorney General Oscar Armando Chinchilla.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/19/43836/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/confraternidad-evangelica-pide-un-periodo-mas-para-el-fiscal-general-oscar-chinchilla.html>

Juana Dolores Valenzuela reports on the deforestation in Omoa, Cortés and its deadly consequences.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/19/la-tragedia-mortal-omoa-nombre-deforestacion/>

A group of lawyers denounces the lack of transparency and evidence of nepotism in the coming elections of the new governing board of the Honduran Bar Association (CAH).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/19/denuncian-nepotismo-boicot-elecciones-junta-directiva-colegio-abogados/>

Reporteros de Investigación published a criminologist analysis of white-collar crime taking the IHSS as an example.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/19/la-vida-organica-de-grupos-invisibles-de-cuello-blanco-un-caso-del-ihss/>

New problems around the Administrative Office of Seized Goods (OABI) surface after its intervention by the MP.

<https://tiempo.hn/ventas-ilegales-bienes-incautados-denuncian-oabi-rosenthal/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-tambien-investigacion-oabi-dinero-incautado-ms-13/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/realizan-nuevas-acciones-de-secuestro-de-documentos-en-la-oabi.html>

The CNA announces new lines of investigations into "corruption networks" in various state dependencies.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-entregara-el-jueves-nuevas-lineas-de-investigacion-sobre-redes-de-corrupcion.html>

The JOH regime already starts preparing the ground if they fail to renew the Temporary Protection Status for Hondurans in the US - it is the oppositions fault...

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/19/ebal-diaz-criticas-la-oposicion-hacia-ee-uu-ponen-riesgo-tps/>

The Deputy High Commissioner of the UNHCR, Kelly Clements, will visit Mexico and Central America between February 25 and March 3.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/19/alta-comisionada-adjunta-acnur-visitara-mexico-guatemala-honduras/>

Radio Progreso calls out to the Honduran people not to lose hope and "to intensify the struggle against corruption, impunity and the dictatorship".

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4252-arreciar-la-lucha-19-febrero-2018>

21/02/18

HRDs; National Police; (Re)Elections - Repression, JOH; MACCIH; MP; Indigenous Peoples; Impunity Pact; Corruption; Orphans; EU; Canada; Coffee; and If You Are Unhappy and You Know it, Take Holidays

The Coalition of National Environmental Networks and Organizations of

Honduras (CONROA) denounces the brutal murder of the 16-year old human rights defender at the Santa Barbara Environmental Movement (MAS), Luis Fernando Ayala. Luis Fernando was forcefully disappeared last weekend and was found dead yesterday in Concepción Sur, Santa Barbara - both of his hands were cut off and his body showed signs of torture.

See Attachment

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/20/manos-amputadas-torturado-encuentran-cadaver-joven-ambientalista-desaparecido-santa-barbara-2/>

The following link shows the disturbing picture of Luis Fernando's mistreated body:

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/02/honduras-en-nuevo-acto-represivo-de.html>

Four human rights defenders and eight university students presented a complaint against the former police director Félix Villanueva for torture and mistreatment against them. This related to the repression against them in September 2017. Villanueva emitted arrest warrants against the students without the order of a public prosecutor.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/20/defensores-derechos-humanos-presentan-denuncia-exjefe-policia-felix-villanueva-video/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1154040-466/interponen-denuncia-contra-f%C3%A9lix-villanueva-exdirector-de-la-polic%C3%ADa-nacional-por-abuso>

Sandra Cuffe reports for The Intercept how "U.S.-Trained Police Are Hunting Down and Arresting Protesters Amid Post-Election Crisis in Honduras". She ends the article with a quote by COFADEH's Bertha Oliva saying that "[w]e're going to go back to the old days. (...) Things may get worse, because along with past practice, state security forces are now better trained and better equipped".

<https://theintercept.com/2018/02/20/honduras-election-protest-tigres/>

The white-washing of the electoral fraud in Honduras continues. JOH and his close ally Mauricio Oliva, the president of the Honduran Congress, were both nominated for high positions at the Forum of Presidents and Speakers of the Legislative Branches of Central America and the Caribbean Basin (Foprel).

This is especially noteworthy, as Mauricio Oliva is currently investigated for corruption.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/02/20/mauricio-oliva-juan-orlando-herandez-asumiran-altos-cargos-foprel/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/20/la-macch-lo-investiga-corrupcion-mauricio-oliva-recibira-presidencia-pro-tempore-foro-regional/>

María Soledad Pazo, the representative of the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras, and Juan Jiménez Mayor, the recently resigned spokesperson of the MACCIH, highlight the collaboration of their two institutions. Jiménez Mayor denounces that the OAS representative Claudia Barrientos infiltrated his communication.

The OAS reacts to revelations of racism inside the MACCIH (see yesterday) and announces investigations.

This demand was back-up by a group of Lenca and Garífuna women visiting the offices of the MACCIH demanding the exit of the employees accused of racist comments.

Edmundo Orellana fears that the OAS will give the MACCIH a new spin away from investigation high-level corruption.

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/videos/2092267714347349/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/20/denuncian-misteriosa-infiltracion-de-funcionaria-de-la-oea-en-chat-familiar-de-jimenez-mayor/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1154028-466/jim%C3%A9nez-mayor-denuncia-intromisi%C3%B3n-en-su-whatsapp-por-parte-de-la-representante>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/20/oea-anuncia-investigacion-de-su-mision-en-honduras-por-denuncia-de-racismo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/20/honduras-exigen-salida-funcionarios-la-macch-comentarios-racistas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/20/manos-amputadas-torturado-encuentran-cadaver-joven-ambientalista-desaparecido-santa-barbara-2/>

Pasos de Animal Grande writes about "invisible hands" guaranteeing that Oscar Fernando Chinchilla will get a second mandate as Attorney General.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2040-se-mueven-manos-invisibles-para-sostener-por-un-segundo-mandado-al-fiscal-general-de-la-republica>

"The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), has initiated the preparation of her next thematic report on criminalisation and attacks against indigenous peoples defending their rights under human rights treaties and the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples."

<http://unsr.vtaulicorpuz.org/site/index.php/en/news/notes/217-call-for-input>

The Supreme Court accepted a challenge by the MP against the so-called Impunity Pact.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/20/csj-admite-recurso-contr-reforma-a-ley-de-presupuesto/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/csj-admite-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-interpuesto-por-el-mp-contr-reforma-a-ley-de-presupuesto.html>

ConfidencialHN highlights another case of corruption involving the Administrative Office for Seized Goods (OABI). OABI was this week also in the headlines for being investigated by the MP.

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) reacts to criticism and its magistrate Juan Pineda says that they will present soon results in the case of the corrupt congresswo/men, the so-called Red de Diputados.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/20/corrupcion-en-oabi-costo-a-empresa-productora-de-ocra-mas-de-un-millon-de-lempiras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/20/tribunal-de-cuentas-jura-estar-listo-para-investigar-red-de-diputados/>

Yesterday, Wendy Funes presented the study "The Situation of Honduran Orphans due to Femicide". According to official statistics, 8% of Honduran children are orphans.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/20/presentan-estudio-ninez-huerfana-honduras/>

EU ambassador Alessandro Palmero met with Honduran vice-president María Antonia Rivera.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-y-ue-ratifican-esfuerzos-de-cooperacion-y-fortalecimiento-de-acuerdo-comercial.html>

Canada announced to support the UN Human Rights Office in the coming five years with \$3 million.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/canada-anuncia-apoyo-a-proyecto-de-ddhh-en-honduras.html>

Honduran coffee growers protest outside of the Honduran Coffee Institute

(Ihcafé) against their economic situation.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/20/cafetaleros-hondurenos-protestan-por-grave-crisis-economica-que-estan-sufriendo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/19/para-olvidar-crisis-politica-empresario-pide-a-hondurenos-vacacionar/>

22/02/18

HRDs; (Re)Elections - Repression, Protests, US; Human Rights; Garífunas; MP; FoE; Transparency; MACCIH; National Police; Corruption; OABI; Liberal Party; Congress; Penitentiary System; Forced Displacements; Basic Goods; and Montesquieu Died in Tegucigalpa's Streets

Lino Hernández, treasurer at the SITRASTAR labor union, announced to resign from his position after weeks of harassment and persecution which included a death threat.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/dirigente-sindicalista-denuncia-persecucion-y-amenazas-a-muerte/>

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4256-por-amenazas-a-muerte-renuncia-sindicalista>

The Opposition Alliance announced protests this Friday and Sunday. Friday's protest will take place outside the headquarters of the Armed Forces where they demand the freedom of the political prisoners and denounced the 36 assassinations by state security forces. Sunday's protest will then take place outside of the "maximum security" prison El Pozo.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/21/oposicion-protestara-en-cuartel-militar-y-carcel-el-pozo-por-presos-politicos-y-muertos-en-protestas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mel-zelaya-protesta-pozo-presos-politicos-elecciones-honduras/>

Protesters in Choloma trying to block a highway were evicted by the police.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/policia-desaloja-a-seguidores-de-la-alianza-que-se-habian-tomado-la-carretera-en-choloma.html>

Sandra Cuffe's The Intercept article on the US training for Honduran security forces responsible for the repression has been translated to Spanish.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/21/policia-entrenada-ee-uu-esta-cazando-arrestando-los-manifestantes-medio-la-crisis-post-electoral-honduras/>

According to the newest report by Amnesty International, the levels of insecurity in Honduras remain high and a "generalized impunity" continues to weaken the trust in the authorities and the judicial system. The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations also denounce the human rights situation in Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/amnistia-internacional-dice-que-niveles-de-inseguridad-en-honduras-son-altos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/comunicado-de-denuncia-y-solidaridad/>

OFRANEH reports on a recently published study investigating "economic, social, and environmental impacts of cruise tourism". The study, which also includes Garífuna communities in Trujillo, finds that the "ability

of the local population to provide for necessities and obtain sufficient food worsened, corruption increased, and there were substantial negative environmental impacts".

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/02/21/estudio-efectuado-en-comunidades-de-cristales-y-rio-negro-trujillo-indica-que-cruceros-no-ha-generado-mejoria-en-los-ingresos-del-pueblo-garifuna/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0261517717302418>

This August, the election process for the Attorney General will start. El Pulso gives an overview and concentrates on the potential of Óscar Chinchilla's reelection.

The Evangelical Confraternity already spoke out in favor of Chinchilla. Libre congressman Rasel Tomé explains this position as a support for the JOH regime, because Chinchilla failed to go after the illegal reelection bid by JOH.

Further criticism comes from Libre congressman Jary Dixon, calling the election a distraction from the electoral fraud and state violence.

Luis Zelaya, the president of the Liberal Party, announced to participate "pro-actively" in the election. At the same time, they won't participate in the election of the State Prosecutor's Office (PGR).

<http://elpulso.hn/oscar-chinchilla-podria-ser-reelecto-como-fiscal-general/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/21/confraternidad-evangelica-quiere-reeleccion-del-fiscal-porque-no-ha-perseguido-al-oficialismo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/como-acto-politico-califica-rasel-tome-peticion-de-iglesia-evangelica-de-reelegir-al-fiscal-general.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/21/jari-dixon-libre-no-negociara-ni-participara-en-eleccion-de-fiscal/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/21/partido-liberal-participara-en-la-eleccion-del-fiscal-general-de-honduras/>

Journalism in the Americas has a good overview in English on the Muzzle Bill, on its setup as well as its potential to violate freedom of expression.

<https://knightcenter.utexas.edu/blog/00-19317-press-advocates-warn-social-networks-and-honduran-digital-media-could-be-censored-if-c>

The Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) presented the newest report of Transparency International in Honduras. The JOH regime got only 28 out of 100 possible points. It lost 12 positions in the ranking.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/21/honduras-es-un-pais-altamente-corrup-to-transparencia-internacional/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/21/honduras-sigue-hundiendose-la-corrupcion-segun-informe-transparencia-internacional/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2721-gobierno-de-honduras-se-hunde-mas-en-abismo-de-corrupcion-revela-ti>

The controversies at the MACCIH take a new turn and now also include the UN as the former MACCIH employee Julio Arbizú will present a complaint for harassment against OAS functionaries at the UN Human Rights Council.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1154560-466/la-maccih-arriba-a-su-segundo-a%C3%B1o-sumida-en-la-controversia>

The purging committee announced that it will present a final list of candidates for heading the new Bureau for Police Disciplinary Matters (Didapol).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/21/depuradores-buscan-quien-dirigira-asuntos-internos-policiales/>

Spain fails to extradite the Honduran businessman José Santos Arias Chicas who is involved in the failed Ciudad de Ángel housing scheme.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/21/por-falta-de-voluntad-no-extraditan-a-implicado-en-estafa-habitacional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/caso-ciudad-del-angel-arias-chicas-no-puede-ser-extraditado-a-honduras-por-falta-de-presupuesto.html>

After this week's raids of the offices of the Administrative Office of Seized Goods (OABI), Congress' secretary, the National congressman Tomás Zambrano, announced a revision of the Deprivation of Dominion Bill (Ley de privación de dominio).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/21/parlamento-hondureno-analizara-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

El Pulso spoke with Enrique Ortéz Sequeira, the former TSE magistrate of the Liberal Party, about the current situation of the Liberal Party and possible divisions between their congresswo/men.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-pl-no-participara-en-la-eleccion-del-procurador-general-ortez-sequeira/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1154538-466/luis-zelaya-aparentan-ser-liberales-pero-son-nacionalistas>

ConfidencialHN presents the setup of all the 36 congressional commissions.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/21/parlamento-integra-36-comisiones-ordinarias-y-especiales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-nacional-nombra-36-comisiones-ordinarias-y-especiales/>

According to Chaco de la Pitoreta, "only sick minds in the government could think of trying to solve a crisis of social injustice in the Aguán with building another prison."

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/shortcodes/vimeo/item/4255-otro-pozo-para-honduras>

Reporteros de Investigación shines a light on forced displacement through violence taking place in Honduras.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/21/casi-46000-hondurenos-huyeron-de-honduras-buscando-proteccion/>

More than 25 products belonging to the basket of basic goods have seen price increases in the first two months of 2018.

<https://tiempo.hn/canasta-basica-aumenta-honduras-2018-salario-minimo/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/20/montesquieu-murio-en-una-calle-de-tegucigalpa/>

23/02/18

MADJ; Berta - Agua Zarca; Femicide; National Police; Impunity Pact; CNA; MACCIH; Mining; (Re)Elections - Dialogue; Political Opposition; MP; HR; Violence; and the Corrupt Honduran Narco Dictatorship

Once more in the recent weeks, MADJ suffers repression and intimidation by state security forces. The house of MADJ member and former mayoral candidate in Arizona, Atlántida, Luis García, was raided by agents of the National Police Force and the Bureau of Police Investigation (DPI). García was not at the house, because after continuous harassment by the

DPI, he felt forced to leave the department some days back. His wife, meanwhile, was arrested during the raid.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/02/22/ALERTA-Grave-situaci%C3%B3n-de-riesgo-para-el-MADJ-nuevo-allanamiento-y-detenci%C3%B3n-de-liderazgos-en-Atl%C3%A1ntida>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/apresan-mujer-porque-su-esposo-particip%C3%B3-en-protestas-contra-joh>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2043-policia-nacional-y-la-dpi-detienen-a-defensora-de-ddhh-del-madj>

The trial against the former sub-secretary at SERNA, Dario Roberto Cardona Valle, was postponed was more to late April. He is accused of illegally handing out the environmental license for Agua Zarca.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/22/justicia-hondurena-dilata-juicio-oral-publico-funcionario-otorgo-ilegalmente-la-licencia-del-proyecto-agua-zarca/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/para-abril-programan-juicio-oral-para-exviceministro-cardona.html>

Reporteros de Investigación published an investigative report by Wendy Funes on femicide. This is part of a bigger report recently published on the situation of orphans due to femicide.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/22/el-pueblo-occidental-con-pena-de-muerte-para-las-mujeres/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/22/presentan-estudio-sobre-ninez-huerfana-por-femicidios-en-honduras/>

A few weeks ago, the AP revealed links between the head of the Honduran police José David Aguilar Morán and drug traffickers. As a result, the police legal department went after the AP. "The Associated Press filed legal papers on Thursday objecting to an attempt by top Honduran police officials to obtain phone records to try to identify sources behind a story detailing allegations of police corruption."

<https://apnews.com/a46c203c33854c81856512dac3756cac>

<http://www.elnuevoherald.com/noticias/estados-unidos/article201621774.html>

While the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court admitted an appeal by the MP against the Impunity Pact, it dismissed two appeals by the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) and the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). According to the magistrates, the parties "have no direct personal nor legitimate interest to present an appeal". As the impunity pact would safeguard corrupt congresswo/men from investigation, one wonders what a direct personal and legitimate interest for the CNA would be...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/desestiman-recursos-presentados-por-cna-y-asj-por-controvertida-ley-de-presupuesto/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/declaran-inadmisibles-recursos-de-inconstitucionalidad-presentados-contr-pacto-de-impunidad/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sala-de-lo-constitucional-declara-inadmisible-dos-recursos-de-inconstitucionalidad-sobre-reforma-a-ley-del-presupuesto.html>

The same CNA announced yesterday that there are in total "six corruption networks operating in the country". El Libertador also highlights this irony, that the CNA denounces corruption networks while at the same time the Supreme Court protects them...

The CNA highlighted high officials in the JOH regime and the National congressmen Rolando Dubón and David Chávez as being part of a corruption network.

Dubón negates this.

And so does Chávez.

And former ENEE director Roberto Martínez Lozano as well. He goes even further and threatens to go after the CNA and Salvador Nasralla.

The CNA also mentions, once more, the former first lady Rosa de Lobo.

Salvador Nasralla challenges JOH to go after the highlighted functionaries and congressmen.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/cna-denuncia-que-6-redes-de-corrupcion-operan-en-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2724-paradoja-mientras-cna-denuncio-hoy-redes-de-corrupcion-corte-las-protegio>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/oficina-anticorrupcion-senala-a-prominentes-nacionalistas-de-pertenecer-a-red-de-corrupcion-estatal/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1154908-410/cna-redes-corrupcion-funcionarios-ministerio_publico

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/diputado-reta-que-lo-parta-un-rayo-si-ha-participado-en-corrupcion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dubon-bueso-al-cna-me-molesta-he-tenido-una-imagen-irreprochable/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/diputado-niega-acusaciones-y-denuncia-supuesta-coaccion11/>

<https://tiempo.hn/david-chavez-al-cna-nada-nada-teme/>

<https://tiempo.hn/roberto-lozano-cna-los-cachiros-empresa-nacional-energia-electrica-enee/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/roberto-martinez-pide-pruebas-y-anuncia-procedera-criminalmente-contr-el-cna-y-salvador-nasralla.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2722-magistrados-diputados-y-funcionarios-forman-red-de-corrupcion-en-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/corrupcion-cna-implica-ex-primera-dama/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-investigacion-honduras-cna/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/nasralla-pide-a-hernandez-proceder-contr-ladrones-senalados-por-el-cna/>

Sociologist Eugenio Sosa fears a possible collision between OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro and JOH agreeing to have the MACCIH go after only the small fish.

The most recent column by Edmundo Orellana also hints at this.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/sociologo-no-descarta-posible-complot-entre-joh-y-almagro/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2723-honduras-la-maccih-y-el-crimen-organizado>

ConexiHon reports on the Copal Abajo community in Choluteca and their struggle against a mine by Águila Dorada, a Canadian-financed company.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/582-comunidad-copal-abajo-da-60-dias-para-que-minera-canadiense-se-retire>

In a press release, the Opposition Alliance rejects the proposal by the UN exploratory mission. They lament the narratives built up in their report intended to give legitimacy to the JOH regime. Furthermore, they reject the proposed dialogue for not containing the possibility of a mediation leading to binding outcomes.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/alianza-rechaza-propuesta-de-dialogo-planteado-por-mision-exploratoria-de-la-onu/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/22/alianza-oposicion-no-acepta-dialogo-no-incluye-mediacion-resultado-no-vinculante/>

<https://tiempo.hn/alianza-de-oposicion-onu-dictadura/>

El Pulso interviewed Aristides Mejía, a close ally of Salvador Nasralla, about the MACCIH, the political opposition and the stability of the JOH regime.

<http://elpulso.hn/aristides-mejia-la-alianza-con-salvador-nasralla-y-luis-zelaya-se-dio-al-dia-siguiente-de-las-elecciones/>

Radio Progreso offers an overview of the (re)election campaign of the Attorney General.

Jorge Yllezcas Oliva says that he supported a reelection of Oscar Chinchilla, but after the most recent report by the CNA on corruption networks (see above), he fears that the MP has not done enough and wonders what good another five years of Chinchilla would do.

Libre congressman Jari Dixon says something similar, the the reelection of a Attorney General who turned a blind eye on so many corruption cases shouldn't even be on the table.

The highly controversial Deputy Attorney General Rigoberto Cuéllar, meanwhile, will step down.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/~rprog/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4257-campa%C3%B1a-para-reelegir-al-fiscal-causa-eco-en-medio-de-cr%C3%ADticas-por-altos-niveles-de-impunidad>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/22/este-informe-no-creo-seguir-apoyando-reelijan-oscar-chinchilla-jorge-yllezcas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/22/no-se-puede-estar-hablando-la-reeleccion-fiscal-general-ha-dejado-pasar-muchos-casos-corrupcion-jari-dixon-herrera-video/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/cuellar-dice-se-va-de-la-gestion-publica-y-senala-haber-desvirtuado-acusaciones-en-su-contra.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/ministerio-publico-presume-logros-frente-al-cuestionado-fiscal-adjunto/>

Radio HRN informs about diplomatic visits to the newly reestablished Human Rights Secretariat.

There was also a meeting with the LGBTI community.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/secretar%C3%AD-de-ddhh-recibe-apoyo-de-pa%C3%ADses-amigos-y-sociedad-civil-para-garantizar-derechos>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/secretaria-de-ddhh-y-comunidad-lgtb-buscan-mecanismos-de-articulaci%C3%B3n-para-impulsar>

On Monday, a young man died in the crossfires between the National Anti-Extortion Force (FNA) and Maras. His father demands justice.

<https://tiempo.hn/fna-pandilla-18-fuerza-nacional-antiextorsion-video-de-herido/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/22/padres-de-joven-ultimado-durante-enfrentamiento-exigen-justicia/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/21/corrupta-narco-dictadura-hondurena/>

24/02/18

Berta - Commemoration; LGBTI; FoE; Corruption; Impunity Pact; Transparency; (Re)Elections - UN; Drug Trafficking; National Police; Public Health; Labor Rights; US; Coffee; and Please No Guns on Holidays

The coming Saturday on March 3, two years after her assassination, the Spanish city Barcelona will commemorate Berta Cáceres.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/23/barcelona-rinde-tributo-bertha-caceres/>

Anarella Vélez writes about freedom of expression in Honduras from the perspective of women.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/579-las-mujeres-y-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-la-honduras-pos-golpe-electoral>

The LGBTI community together with other human rights organizations are currently preparing a Gender Identity Bill with the aim of reasserting the rights of some 1600 transgender people in Honduras.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/23/ley-de-identidad-de-genero-busca-reivindicar-derechos-a-mas-de-1600-personas-transexuales/>

More (former) officials react to the newest revelations by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) about corruption networks (see yesterday) with claiming their innocence.

InSight Crime published an article on the CNA report. They find that it "provides further evidence that domestic institutions in Honduras lack the ability to effectively combat corruption, underscoring the importance of independent bodies like the MAACIH in tackling graft in the Central American nation." But there is also a problem with the CNA as journalist Sandra Cuffe explains: "The CNA is so full of powerful business and political interests that it's almost hard to think of an institution worse positioned to do any kind of impartial investigation into corruption networks in Honduras".

The former human rights secretary highlights how the resignation by the MACCIH spokesperson Juan Jiménez Mayor is further evidence "that the combat against corruption and impunity in Honduras is almost a utopian dream".

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/23/exfuncionaria-reta-oficina-anticorrupcion-a-comprobar-sus-acusaciones/>

<https://tiempo.hn/exfuncionaria-de-salud-acusada-cna/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/report-highlights-need-independent-anti-graft-body-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/23/desmontar-estructuras-corrupcion-e-impunidad-honduras/>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez criticizes the decision by the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court to dismiss two of three appeals to the Impunity Pact. With this decision they further the MACCIH.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/23/en-la-corte-de-justicia-todos-cantan-el-mismo-son-y-funciona-a-medida-de-quien-dirige-la-orquesta/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/guti%C3%A9rrezla-institucionalidad-est%C3%A1-comprada-y-funciona-la-medida-de-quien-dirige-la>

Radio Progreso comments on the most recent report by Transparency International which sees Honduras losing 12 ranks. For Radio Progreso this is further evidence for "the wall of corruption and impunity" built up high in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4258-el-muro-de-la-corrupcion-e-impunidad-23-febrero-2018>

ConfidencialHN published the four-page report by the UN exploratory mission on their findings and recommendations. Already yesterday, I linked to articles mentioning the disappointment with the report by the political opposition. One main point of criticism is the mission's failure to nominate a mediator.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/23/onu-pide-a-hondurenos-que-escojan-al-mediador-para-solventar-crisis/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/onu-reafirma-que-dialogo-depende-de-voluntad-interna.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/onu-elude-designar-mediador-del-dialogo-y-lo-deja-en-el-aire.html>

Another Honduran, Roberto de Jesús Soto García, pleaded guilty to drug trafficking in a US court.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/23/hondureno-roberto-de-jesus-soto-se-declara-culpable-en-corte-de-ee-uu-por-cargos-de-narcotrafico/>

More than 100 police officials celebrated publicly their rise inside the National Police. JOH thanked them for saving lives, which in this post-electoral crisis seems rather cynical...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/23/policia-nacional-realiza-ceremonia-de-ascenso-para-144-oficiales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/140-ascensos-en-la-policia-nacional-de-honduras/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1155086-410/joh_polic%ADa_honduras_ayudado_salvar_vidas_

While the Armed Forces and the National Police benefit from rising budgets, the Finance Secretary Rocío Tábora said yesterday that there won't be more money for health. She then goes on to say that the Health Secretariat may just save some money to give more funds to the regional hospitals.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/23/mientras-joh-fortalece-a-la-policia-y-ffaa-rechazan-asignar-mas-recursos-para-salud/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/finanzas-no-destinara-mas-recursos-a-salud-y-le-sugiere-trabajar-con-lo-que-tienen.html>

Chiquita Brands announced that they will nominate a commission to help with the week-long strike by its employees.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/chiquita-brands-nombra-comision-para-solucionar-conflicto-con-obreros-en-la-lima.html>

US "Ambassador Nikki Haley will travel to Honduras and Guatemala February 26 - March 1 to underscore the United States' strong ties and partnership with those countries. Ambassador Haley will meet with government and civil society leaders to highlight U.S. partnerships in the region focusing on anti-corruption and counternarcotic efforts. In addition, she will engage with communities affected by the international drug trade, violence, and human trafficking."

<https://translations.state.gov/2018/02/23/media-advisory-ambassador-nikki-haley-travels-to-honduras-and-guatemala/>

<https://tiempo.hn/embajadora-estados-unidos-nikki-haley-honduras-guatemala/>

El Pulso spoke with the president of the Union of Coffee Cooperatives,

Dagoberto Suazo, about both the climatic and economic conditions of Honduran coffee production.

<http://elpulso.hn/dagoberto-suazo-existe-mucha-gente-que-se-beneficia-de-que-el-productor-no-tenga-acceso-al-financiamiento/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-desarme-general-por-feriados-en-honduras/>

25/02/18

MACCIH; (Re)Elections - Protests, OAS, JOH, Report; Bajo Aguán; MP; Education and Health; IMF; and a Tour of Shame Through Honduras' Health System

Radio Progreso asks the obvious but still important question: What will happen to the MACCIH? It has been a weak since the announced resignation of Juan Jiménez Mayor and a lot of things are still unclear. Jiménez Mayor highlighted that the Impunity Pact played a central role in his decision to resign. Security analyst Victor Meza already says goodbye, at least to Jiménez Mayor and his close collaborators.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4262-%C2%BFqu%C3%A9-va-a-pasar-con-la-maccih?-24-febrero-2018>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/24/exjefe-anticorrupcion-sale-de-honduras-y-afirma-que-pacto-de-impunidad-provoco-su-caida/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/24/adios-amigos/>

Hondurans took to the streets yesterday to demand the release of the political prisoners and to remind the world about the electoral fraud which took place there last November. The second protest for today at the "high-security" prison El Pozo was canceled. Manuel Zelaya denounces that JOH prohibited family visits for the inmates and blamed the Opposition Alliance for it. The JOH regime continues to criminalize the protests. Luis Suazo, Security Sub-Secretary, calls them "illegal and irresponsible" and once more claims that the political opposition is linked to the Maras. Presidential Minister Ebal Díaz claims the same thing. And the National Defense and Security Council goes so far as to claim that the (now cancelled) protest against the political prisoners in Honduras outside El Pozo was a plan to free dangerous criminals... Of course, the main press jumped on this.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2726-pueblo-a-pie-y-carros-cruzan-tegucigalpa-en-nutrida-caravana-de-insurreccion>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/24/alianza-cancela-protesta-pozo-redaccion-criterio-redaccioncriterio-hn-tegucigalpa-coordinador-la-alianza-oposicion-la-dictadura-expresidente-hondu/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2728-alianza-cancela-planton-en-el-pozo-para-evitar-tortura-a-privados-de-libertad>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/24/colaboradores-de-joh-aseguran-que-mel-y-nasralla-estan-aliados-con-mareros/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/24/protesta-la-alianza-pozo-promover-alianzas-grupos-criminales-gobierno/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/nasralla-solo-reiterara-a-los-mareros-que-sigue-siendo-su-amigo-ebal-diaz.html>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1155398-410/mel_zelaya-salvador_nasralla-buscan-liberar-peligrosos-reos-denuncia-seguridad

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1155369-466/mel-zelaya-y-salvador-nasralla-buscan-liberar-a-peligrosos-reos-denuncia-seguridad>

Salvador Nasralla denounces that the whole story about the MACCIH serves to distract from the electoral fraud and helps consolidate the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/24/la-oea-la-onu-quieren-distraer-lo-del-fraude-consolidar-poder-juan-hernandez-salvador-nasralla/>

In Costa Rica, civil society calls on its government to take a stand against the dictatorship in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/internacionales/2725-prensa-de-costa-rica-publica-carta-pidiendo-romper-trato-con-dictadura-de-joh>

"Report from La Voz de los de Abajo, CODEPINK and Marin Task Force on the Americas Human Rights Observation Delegation during Honduran Elections 2017"

[https://hondurasresists.blogspot.co.uk/2018/02/delegation-report-from-november.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+HondurasResists+\(Honduras+Resists\)](https://hondurasresists.blogspot.co.uk/2018/02/delegation-report-from-november.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+HondurasResists+(Honduras+Resists))

The Agrarian Platform of the Aguán Valley denounces that some 250 police agents and soldiers intimidated the families of the Empresa Asociativa Campesina de Producción Unidos Lucharemos in Saba, Colón. They threatened them with eviction.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/02/honduras-plataforma-agraria-del-valle.html>

Libre congressman and lawyer Jari Dixon Herrera tells the story of Attorney General Oscar Fernando Chinchilla going back to 1998 when he first met him. He especially highlights the closeness between Chinchilla and JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/24/oscar-fernando-chinchilla/>

Due to the "success" of the police purge, JOH proposes purging the Education and Health Secretariat as well...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/24/joh-quiere-intervenir-secretarias-de-salud-y-educacion/>

El Libertador denounces a "unemployment policy" in the public sector by the JOH regime to please the IMF.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2727-politica-de-desempleo-del-gobierno-busca-compensar-gastos-excesivos>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/24/proponen-tour-de-la-verguenza-a-diputados-para-que-conozcan-crisis-hospitalaria/>

26/02/18

Political Prisoners; (Re)Election - Repression; Campesinxs; Corruption; UN; US; Infrastructure; Agriculture; IACHR; Employment; Renewable Energy; and Honduras vs. Ecuador

The Inspector General of the National Police Force, Olin Cerrato, denies that there are political prisoners in Honduras. This is a reaction to the recently formed civil society alliance on the topic which has so far documented 22 cases.

while denying the existence of political prisoners, the JOH regime also goes after those protesting for their freedom (see also yesterday). Salvador Nasralla denounces that the Security Secretariat denigrated the Opposition Alliance for wanting to protest outside El Pozo.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/25/jefe-policial-niega-existencia-de-presos-politicos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/25/movilizacion-hacia-el-pozo-era-para-respaldar-a-los-11-presos-politicos-nasralla1/>

The Central-American Claretian Missionaries emitted a press release in Panamá denouncing state violence and the human rights violations in Honduras. They send their solidarity to the Honduran people and promise to continue to observe what is happening in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/25/honduras-nada-justifica-las-muertes-la-represion-menos-cuando-derecho-protestar/>

Defensores en Línea denounces acts of intimidation by the National Police against campesinos which are part of the CNTC in El Triunfo, Cortés. In two months, the National Police sought out the community 15 times with up to six patrol cars provoking fear and intimidation in the population.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-nacional-intimida-a-campesinos-de-potrerrillos-cortes/>

El Pulso spoke with Salvador Nasralla about the newest report on corruption by the National Anti-Corruption Council. He believes that many politicians and functionaries have not yet been mentioned, even though the political opposition has denounced acts of corruption by them. Furthermore, some of these cases already came up in 2015 and the MP has failed to act ever since.

<http://elpulso.hn/salvador-nasralla-faltan-muchos-nombres-de-ladrones-yo-los-he-denunciado-en-su-momento/>

El Heraldo held an interview with María Soledad Pazo, the representative of the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras. She highlights the importance of the MACCIH and the links between corruption and human rights violations. She also mentions a soon-to-be-released report on the post electoral human rights violations and she raises concerns about the Muzzle Bill pretending to regulate internet content.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1155588-466/cuanto-m%C3%A1s-corrupci%C3%B3n-hay-m%C3%A1s-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos>

The Foreign Relations Secretary María Dolores Agüero is excited about the "most important visit from the US in recent years" speaking about the US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley. And never leaving out a chance to attack the political opposition, the JOH regime claims that Salvador Nasralla and Manuel Zelaya try to destroy "the special relationship" between Honduras and the US.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/25/honduras-planteara-en-la-agenda-de-enviada-de-eeuu-el-tema-del-tps/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-hablara-sobre-ampliacion-del-tps-con-embajadora-de-eeuu-en-la-onu.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/25/salvador-y-mel-quieren-destruir-relacion-especial-entre-honduras-y-eeuu/>

According to a new article by Radio Progreso, the company Concesionaria Vial Honduras S.A. de C.V. (COVI Honduras) denies compensation payment to more than 50 families affected in communities in Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Cortés for the construction of the so-called Logistic Corredor, the highway CA-5.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/~rprog/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4263-empresa-concesionaria-niega-indemnizaci%C3%B3n-a-familias-afectadas-con-proyecto-de-ampliaci%C3%B3n>

Otros Mundos and others have produced an interesting documentary about the nefarious consequences of the spread of mono-culture agriculture in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica.

<http://movimientom4.org/2018/02/documental-monocultura-la-expansion-de-los-monocultivos-en-america-latina/>

Margarette May Macaulay was elected as the new president of the IACHR.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/25/margarette-may-la-nueva-presidenta-la-cidh/>

The Labor Secretariat claims that the coming summer season will lead to the creation of at least 10'000 temporary jobs.

<https://tiempo.hn/10-mil-empleos-temporada-veraniega/>

El Heraldo reports on the Honduran state's support for the renewable energy sector and its growing cost.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1155550-466/contratos-de-energ%C3%ADa-limpia-drenan-finanzas-de-la-enee>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-lizzy-flores-competira-la-presidencia-la-onu/>

27/02/18

HRDs; MADJ; UNAH; Journalists; IACHR; Tolupanés; Berta - Commemoration; National Police; Corruption; MACCIH; IHSS; MP; (Re)Elections - Dialogue; US; Congress; Transport Sector; TPS; Drinking Water; Infrastructure; and Honduran Funerals

Human rights defender and director of CIPRODEH, Wilfredo Méndez, denounces that armed men intercepted him in a work visit to La Ceiba. They threatened him several times pointing a weapon at him. Further threats were directed against human rights defender Joaquín Mejía and his family. He and his family are receiving death threats by phone.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/hombres-armados-interceptan-y-amenazan-al-director-ejecutivo-de-ciprodeh>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2044-hombres-armados-interceptaron-y-amenazaron-a-wilfredo-mendez-director-de-ciprodeh>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/amenazas-intimidatorias-para-familia-de-defensor-de-derechos-humanos>

MADJ member Aquilina Guerra Mejía was released after three days in prison. MADJ denounces that she was treated like a criminal and that her husband already had to flee the country due to state persecution. MADJ's leader Martín Fernández is currently in Colombia at the sessions by the IACHR (see below) where he denounced this persecution which is part of the post-electoral repression.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/libertad-definitiva-para-aquilina-guerra-integrante-del-madj/>

The Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) ordered UNAH authorities to hand out the demanded information about the hate campaign launched against the students last year during the student protests.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/586-iaip-ordena-a-la-unah-entregar-informacion-negada-por-julieta-castellanos>

Four journalists were persecuted by an unknown car when leaving the Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat (SAG) following them until the arrival at the TV station.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/periodistas-son-v%C3%ADctimas-de-persecuci%C3%B3n-al-salir-de-instituci%C3%B3n-p%C3%ABlica>

The Coalition against Impunity together with CEJIL appeared yesterday in front of the IACHR in Bogotá to denounce the violent situation Honduras is going through since the electoral fraud in November 2017. Proceso Digital reports on the session from the perspective of the JOH regime.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2047-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-ante-la-cidh-estado-de-honduras-debe-comprometerse-a-parar-el-uso-excesivo-de-la-fuerza-y-la-persecucion-contra-lideres-y-lideresas>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sociedad-civil-denuncia-ante-la-cidh-la-situacion-de-violencia-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/26/denuncian-hernandez-ante-la-cidh-aumentar-la-concentracion-poder/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2046-mas-de-30-muertes-impunes-y-18-requerimientos-contra-manifestantes-contrastan-el-quehacer-de-los-operadores-de-justicia>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2045-estado-de-honduras-debera-responder-ante-la-cidh-por-graves-violaciones-a-los-derechos-humanos-en-el-contexto-post-electoral>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/honduras-destaca-en-la-cidh-responsabilidad-y-oportuna-investigacion-en-casos-de-ddhh.html>

The MP announced that Carlos Roberto Luque Varela was sentenced for 45 years in prison for the murder of the three Tolupán leaders María Enriqueta Matute, Armando Fúnez Medina and Ricardo Soto Fúnez in August 2013.

<http://elpulso.hn/condenan-a-45-anos-a-asesino-de-indigenas-tolupanes/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/condenan-a-45-anos-de-carcel-a-responsable-de-triple-asesinato-de-lideres-de-tribu-tolupan.html>

Both El Libertador and El Heraldo report that Leonardo DiCaprio will assist the commemoration of Berta on March 3 in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2730-dicaprio-visitaria-honduras-en-conmemoracion-de-muerte-a-berta-caceres>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/entretenimiento/1155824-466/leonardo-dicaprio-visitar%C3%ADa-honduras-en-aniversario-de-muerte-de-berta-c%C3%A1ceres>

The purging committee informed yesterday that that the US Department of Justice is investigating the leadership of the Honduran police to refute the revelations by the AP of links between the newly nominated head of the police José David Aguilar Morán and drug trafficking.

To highlight the collusion of powers in Honduras, it is worthwhile to read the article by El Tiempo in which the president of the Journalist Association Honduras (CPH), Dagoberto Rodríguez, does not protect his fellow journalist but rather claims that Aguilar Morán has a right to know the source behind the AP story, i.e. violating journalists right to protect their sources...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/26/depuradores-buscan-desestimar-denuncia-de-agencia-ap-sobre-vinculos-de-jefe-policial-con-narcos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/director-de-la-policia-tiene-derecho-a-saber-quien-brindo-la-informacion-a-la-ap-cph/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) felt obliged to emit a press release clarifying that discovering and investigating the six corruption networks was not part of a communication strategy to present its director Gabriela Castellanos as a candidate for the position of Attorney General...

The CNA highlights in its public letter that they have presented almost 70 lines of investigations since 2014 and the MP failed to prosecute the cases involving public figures.

Of course, the attacks against the CNA by the JOH regime and its allies only serve to divert the attention of the CNA's finding. To stop that, the former presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, demands that those highlighted in the report step down in order not to interfere the investigations.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/26/cna-reitera-caso-presentado-las-pruebas-determinan-la-responsabilidad-los-denunciados/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2731-involucrados-en-corrupcion-son-o-han-sido-funcionarios-afirma-cna>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/26/luis-lamenta-que-la-justicia-encubra-a-las-mafias-enquistadas-en-el-nacionalismo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/partido-liberal-senalados-por-el-cna/>

The Liberal Party also demands more power to the MACCIH through a motion by one of its congresswo/men.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/26/partido-liberal-mocionara-congreso-nacional-se-amplien-poderes-la-maccih/>

The MP will demand the maximum penalty of 20 years for Mario Antonio Rojas Rodríguez for money laundering in the IHSS case. The trial will continue on March 7.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/26/mp-solicitara-pena-maxima-contramario-rojas-por-lavado-de-activos-en-el-ihss/>

The civil society close to the JOH regime also wants Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla to run for a second term.

There are more voices coming from the National Party going in this direction as well.

The Democracy without Borders Foundation calls for the election of a new and independent Attorney General.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/26/organizaciones-afines-al-gobierno-piden-chinchilla-se-quede-periodo-mas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/plataforma-ciudadana-solicita-al-fiscal-chinchilla-un-segundo-mandato-y-pide-mayor-apoyo-al-mp.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/democracia-sin-fronteras-pide-al-cn-eleccion-de-un-fiscal-independiente.html>

Salvador Nasralla once more challenges the JOH regime to take up a binding dialogue.

The Honduran Foreign Relations Secretary María Dolores Agüero, meanwhile, announced to ask the UN for technical assistance to install a dialogue.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/26/nasralla-pide-al-gobierno-de-honduras-que-se-proceda-con-el-dialogo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/no-perder-mas-tiempo-para-el-dialogo-clama-nasralla-y-propone-a-mujica-garzon-o-gonzalez.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/26/pediran-a-la-onu-que-reimpulse-el-dialogo-nacional-en-honduras/>

OFRANEH wonders if the idea of human rights will survive the era of US Foreign Secretary Rex Tillerson.

JOH, meanwhile, is looking forward to meet the US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, and he concedes that her visit is also about Israel. After the visit had been announced some observers said that Haley is visiting Guatemala and Honduras for their support to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/02/26/sobreviviran-los-derechos-humanos-en-la-era-de-rex-tillerson/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/visita-de-nikki-haley-fortalecera-la-relacion-entre-honduras-y-eeuu-presidente-hernandez.html>

As Congress is back in session, Nincy Perdomo restarted publishing her Parliamentary Chronicles.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-022021-2018/>

Taxi driver held a warning strike yesterday to protest against the "excessive abuses" by the Honduran Institute for Terrestrial Transport (IHTT).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/26/para-frenar-abusos-excesivos-taxistas-exigen-reformas-en-ley-de-transporte/>

The former Honduran chancellor Guillermo Pérez Cadalso believes that the announced visit of the US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, will be a good opportunity to talk about the Temporary Protective Status of Hondurans in the US.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/26/honduras-debe-aprovechar-visita-de-nikki-haley-para-hablar-del-tps-excanciller/>

SANAA threatens to cut the water for those with unpaid bills in the Central District.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/26/sanaa-anuncia-cortes-masivos-para-morosos-en-distrito-central/>

ConfidencialHN continues to cover all the irregularities around the infrastructure deal with the consortium Autopistas del Atlántica, S.A. (Adasa). According to their calculations, the Honduran State paid them 256'799 Lempiras per day (!) between October 7, 2016 and June 30, 2017 as part of a Guaranteed Minimum Yearly Tax (IMAG).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/26/adasa-se-quedara-con-33-mil-millones-al-finalizar-concesion-en-2042/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/02/26/los-funerales-honduras/>

28/02/18

Solar Energy; IACHR - State Repression, Women's Rights; HRDs; Journalists; (Re)Elections - Dialogue, Repression; MACCIH; HR; Violence; National Party; Monetary Policy; US; and Follow the Money

After a court decision, the inhabitants of the different communities in Namasigüe protesting against the solar energy project Los Prados must now fear being evicted from their peaceful protest camp. Furthermore, an additional six inhabitants are being criminalized for the protest.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/587-abuso-judicial-dictan-desalojo-forzoso-para-pobladores-en-un-campamento-de-los-prados>

"192 repressed protesters and some 1257 detentions. 1 disappeared detained person, 38 assassinated and 76 victims of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. 393 people hurt and injured during the protests, many of them with life-long health consequences. 105 persons displaced by political persecution, 15 journalists attacked and 89 people criminalized, 24 of them preventively incarcerated and considered as political prisoners. 73 human rights defenders suffered threats and other attacks. Absolute impunity of those responsible for these crimes." The Coalition against Impunity presented these horrifying numbers yesterday at the IACHR. They hope that it represents a first step to ending impunity.

In a press conference held after the session, Marcia Aguiluz of CEJIL denounces that the Honduran government does not recognize the events in the post-electoral crisis as human rights violations.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4265-una-coalici%C3%B3n-de-la-esperanza-27-febrero-2018>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-cejil-asegura-que-honduras-no-reconoce-violaciones-a-derechos/>

In another session at the IACHR, a group of women's rights organization from Central America denounced the situation of sexual and reproductive rights of women in the region.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/27/mujeres-centroamerica-se-unen-ante-la-cidh-denunciar-la-situacion-la-region/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mujeres-de-centroamerica-se-unen-ante-la-cidh-para-denunciar-la-situacion-en-la-region/>

In a press conference, the Human Rights Roundtable demands prison sentences for the police officers accused of attacking a group of human rights defenders and students on September 8, 2017.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2048-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-exige-carcel-para-oficiales-de-policia-torturadores-de-defensores>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mesa-de-ddhh-exige-sanciones-correspondientes-contra-policias-que-atacaron-a-defensores-y-estudiantes/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/588-policias-agresores-deben-ir-a-prision-exige-mesa-de-ddhh>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that Congress added another layer to impede critical journalists to cover their work. Soldiers around Congress stop journalists from doing their work.

"Index on Censorship spoke with [Honduran journalist Dina] Meza at an event at the Law Society in conjunction with the Peace Brigades International in London. The meeting was held for lawyers and free speech advocates to discuss with Meza the state of freedom of expression and conditions for journalists in Honduras."

Reporteros de Investigación published a long interview with journalist and producer of the TV program Perro Amarillo (Yellow Dog) Milton Benítez.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2049-los-cercos-de-la-informacion-en-el-congreso-nacional-violentan-la-libertad-de-prensa>

https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2018/02/media-freedom-honduras-index-speaks-dina-meza/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=social-pug

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/27/la-soledad-del-perro-amarillo/>

Manuela Zelaya and Salvador Nasralla met yesterday with the UN representative Igor Garafulic to discuss the possibility of a dialogue. Their conversation was cut short because public security forces started

to repress activists from the political opposition protesting outside the UN building.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/27/alianza-oposicion-suspende-dialogo-representante-la-onu-gaseada-militares-manifestantes/>

<https://tiempo.hn/reunion-la-alianza-oposicion-funcionarios-la-onu-se-cancela-enfrentamiento/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/27/representante-la-onu-honduras-condena-represion-militar-policia-manifestantes/>

The body of one of the victims of state repression during the electoral crisis, Anselmo Villareal, was exhumed.

Rodolfo Cortés Calderón writes about "assassinations, political prisoners, militarization and environmentalism in Santa Bárbara" linking it to the post-electoral crisis. Last week in Santa Bárbara the 16-year old MAS activist Luis Fernando Ayala was found brutally murdered.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/27/exhuman-cuerpo-de-hondureno-asesinado-por-fuerzas-de-seguridad/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/191307>

Radio Progreso speaks with security analyst Víctor Meza about the MACCIH and its enemies.

Nationalist congressman Antonio Rivera, meanwhile, promised that the Effective Collaboration Bill will be ready before Easter. This bill was deemed highly important by the MACCIH for its work and the Nationalist-led Congress postponed it several times.

Salvador Nasralla denounces that the MACCIH is only allowed to arrest 'cats' because the corrupt system in Honduras does not allow for more.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4264-los-enemigos-de-la-maccih-son-m%C3%BAltiples-y-dispersos-geogr%C3%A1ficamente-sostiene-v%C3%ADctor-meza>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/27/diputado-oficialista-reconoce-que-se-requiere-de-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/la-maccih-solo-encarcela-gatos-porque-asi-lo-permite-la-corrupcion-en-el-pais-salvador-nasralla.html>

Karla Cueva praises the protection mechanism for human rights defender which soon will have its own investigation unit...

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/mecanismo-de-proteccion-de-ddhh-en-honduras-sera-unico-en-latinoamerica-con-unidad-investigativa-ministra-cueva.html>

"Two of the most violent cities in the world are in Honduras. How can everyday life be in a place practically consumed by violence? To what extent is it possible to have a "normal" life when insecurity dictates your day to day?"

<http://radioambulante.org/en/audio-en/no-country-for-young-men>

National Party activists demanded that public employee not belonging to the National Party will be fired.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/27/partido-nacional-amenaza-la-escoba-azul-los-empleados-publicos-no-pertenezcan-filas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/27/activistas-azules-piden-barrida-de-empleados-opositores-del-gobierno/>

FOSDEH fears that the change in how to govern the exchange rate may lead to an influx of US Dollars with unknown origin.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/27/cambio-manejo-divisas-los-bancos-hondurenos-estarian-adquiriendo-dolares-origen-desconocido/>

JOH met with US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley.
She thanked him for Honduras help with Venezuela.
El Tiempo also published snippets about the MACCIH, TPS and the current political crisis in Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/27/embajadora-de-ee-uu-en-la-onu-se-reune-con-joh-para-hablar-un-poco-de-todo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/embajadora-ee-uu-felicita-hernandez-apoyo-la-democracia-venezuela/>

<https://tiempo.hn/presidente-hernandez-habla-del-tps-narcotrafico-dilogo-embajadora-haley/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hernandez-dice-identifica-un-terreno-comun-para-seguir-trabajando-con-eeuu.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/csj-mp-maccih-y-embajadora-haley-abordan-lucha-anticorrupcion.html>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/02/26/estado-invirtio-mas-en-policia-y-militares-que-en-suninez/>