

01/04/18

HRDs; Berta - Trial, Agua Zarca; IACHR; Journalists; Violence; National Police - Repression; Corruption; an Animal Planet in Honduras

Miriam Miranda, coordinator of OFRANEH, denounced yesterday that once more the police persecuted her and threatened her with arrest.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/03/honduras-continua-el-acoso-policial.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande reproduces a speech held by MADJ coordinator and legal representative of Berta's family, Víctor Fernández. He held the speech on March 23 at the commemoration of Berta and the 25th anniversary of COPINH.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2082-victor-fernandez-sistema-criminal-salto-sus-propios-limites-y-perdio-el-control-con-el-crimen-de-berta-caceres>

The Special Prosecution Office for Ethnic Groups and Cultural Heritage expects a condemnation of Martiniano Domínguez Meza, the former mayor of Intibucá, for illegally granting the license for Agua Zarca to DESA.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2081-esperan-sentencia-condenatoria-contra-ex-alcalde-por-otorgar-ilegalmente-permiso-de-operaciones-a-des>

Honduran authorities claimed that tomorrow's visit by the IACHR Rapporteur for Honduras, Joel Hernández, is purely a matter of protocol. This is disputed by Honduran human rights organizations, which presented an official request to the IACHR at the end of last year. He will visit for three days and meet with human rights organizations.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/623-relator-de-la-cidh-visita-este-lunes-honduras>

ConexiHon published the chapter on Honduras in the yearly report by the IACHR Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression. Toby Hill reports for VICE on how the "U.S.-backed Honduran government wants to use Facebook to crack down on journalists".

[https://news.vice.com/en\\_ca/article/gymyaq/us-backed-honduran-government-wants-to-use-facebook-to-crack-down-on-journalists](https://news.vice.com/en_ca/article/gymyaq/us-backed-honduran-government-wants-to-use-facebook-to-crack-down-on-journalists)

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/624-cidh-crisis-politica-aumento-el-riesgo-para-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras>

Juan Jiménez Mayor, the former spokesperson of the MACCIH, denounces the murder of the young medicine student Silvia Vanessa Izaguirre Antúnez and demands that the crime against her does not rest unpunished. The former councilor of San Pedro Sula Diógenes Simón Aguilar Bonilla was murdered.

<https://tiempo.hn/jimenez-mayor-crimen-de-joven-doctora-no-debe-quedar-impune/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/exigen-justicia-durante-entierro-de-estudiante-asesinada-en-honduras.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/31/honduras-asesinan-en-nacaome-a-exregidor-de-la-alcaldia-sampedrana/>

Salvador Nasralla denounces the renewed repression of protesters by state security forces in Choluteca on Wednesday.

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-contra-manifestantes-en-choluteca/>

As on many occasions before, Marvin Ponce announces the imminent arrest of various congresswo/men...

<https://tiempo.hn/marvin-ponce-diputados-seran-capturados/>

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<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/31/documentalista-de-animal-planet-este-en-honduras/>

02/04/18

JOH - Corruption, Protest; Corruption; Indigenous Peoples; Tourism; and May the Best Candidate Win...

Edmundo Orellana lays out on which structures JOH bases his power and how this now results in a difficult situation regarding the reforms to the law regulating seizures of goods and properties. If he vetoes it, as demanded by the MACCIH and civil society groups, the congresswo/men of his party voting for the reforms could understand it as a sign of abandonment. Furthermore, the armed forces may also start thinking that he will abandon them over human rights violations. If he does not veto it, international pressure may rise.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/01/la-encrucijada-de-joh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/el-presidente-hernandez-no-tiene-mas-alternativa-que-vetar-la-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio-enrique-ortez.html>

A state employee in Comayagua was dismissed because she laid down a 'Fuera JOH' carpet (alfombra) during Easter Week.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/01/despediran-hondureno-por-hacer-alfombra-de-fuera-joh-en-comayagua/>

El Pulso reports on the propensity of San Pedro Sula mayors to corruption and the link to the company Sulambiente.

<http://elpulso.hn/sulambiente-mafias-paramilitares-y-el-largo-camino-del-rey-de-la-basura-en-san-pedro-sula/>

>From April 6-4, there will be a big gathering of Latin America's and the Caribbean's indigenous peoples in La Antigua, Guatemala. Its objective is to work out an action plan for implementing the rights of the indigenous peoples as part of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/01/guatemala-sera-sede-de/>

FOSDEH economist questions the economic benefit of tourism for Honduras and he warns of the blind promotion of it by the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/01/el-ilusionismo-economico-del-turismo-en-honduras/>

Tomorrow, the committee responsible for nominating candidates for the Attorney General election will meet and prepare the official call for candidates.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/junta-proponente-hara-el-martes-la-convocatoria-oficial-a-los-aspirantes-a-fiscal-general.html>

03/04/18

HRDs - Digital Security; IACHR; FoE; Journalists; Corruption - Congress, de Lobo, OABI; Violence - Education; Public Health; Garífunas; Dialogue; US; Fire Arms; and the Liberal Party - Quo Vadis?

I'd like to remind you about the online-survey that I am currently conducting for my Master dissertation at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS). I will investigate the digital communication patterns of Central American human rights defenders from a security perspective. Thank you to all that already participated. For those who have not, there is still time until Sunday, April 8, midnight Central-American time.

If you find the time to participate in the coming week, that would be great. Even more, if you also get a chance to share it with your Central American contacts, as the uptake there has been even lower. I understand if it is not possible. In that case, I'd appreciate a one-liner per e-mail just saying that a) you have no time, b) digital security is not a priority topic, c) you don't feel comfortable filling out an online survey on the topic, or d) other reasons. This would help me a lot already.

Spanish: <https://hrdonlinecommunication.limequery.com/852432?lang=es>

English: <https://hrdonlinecommunication.limequery.com/852432?lang=en>

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The IACHR Rapporteur for Honduras, Joel Hernández, has started his visit yesterday. He met with the Human Rights Secretariat and proposed a cooperation mechanism to advance human rights in Honduras.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/04/02/relator-de-la-cidh-muestra-interes-en-establecer-un-mecanismo-de-cooperacion-para-avanzar-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/relator-de-la-cidh-comienza-visita-a-honduras-con-reunion-con-funcionarios.html>

According to Criterio, Congress will re-start talks on the Muzzle Bill today - a bill pretending to regulate content on social media, but it is seen as an outright attack on freedom of expression.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/02/congreso-de-honduras-retomara-este-martes-segundo-debate-de-la-ley-mordaza-de-las-redes-sociales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/congreso-nacional-retomara-este-martes-discusion-de-ley-de-ciberseguridad.html>

UN General Secretary António Guterres approved a declaration promoting gender equity in journalism. The declaration contains 14 recommendations

for states to promote the participation of women in traditional and new media outlets.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/626-onu-aprueba-declaracion-sobre-igualdad-de-genero-en-medios-de-comunicacion>

Political analyst Víctor Meza posits that some sectors felt an early spring with the illegal reelection of JOH and used the circumstances to go on the offense against bodies fighting corruption in Honduras, such as the MACCIH, but also the CNA and the anti-corruption prosecutor at the MP. Meza ends his article with a plea for a counter-offensive. The Alliance for Peace and Justice (APJ) emitted a press release demanding no retreat in the fight against corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/02/la-hora-de-la-ofensiva/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/apj-insta-a-presidente-hernandez-vetar-reformas-a-la-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio.html>

According to El Tiempo, Congress will hand out funds again to its members for social projects - this funds were the target of the MACCIH investigation into corruption at Congress...

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-nacional-reactiva-los-cuestionados-subsidios-a-los-diputados/>

One of Rosa Elena de Lobo's lawyers demanded the return of seized properties to his client. According to the lawyer, the properties were bought in 1986, 2002, 2005 and 2010 and are outside of the period being investigated.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/02/piden-la-devolucion-de-los-bienes-confiscados-a-la-ex-primera-dama-rosa-de-lobo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/exprimera-dama-rosa-elena-bonilla-de-lobo-porfirio-lobo/>

ConfidencialHN continues to report on irregularities at OABI, the institution responsible for seizing goods and properties.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/02/funcionarios-de-oabi-estan-llevando-a-la-quebra-a-la-empresa-cuasa/>

The JOH regime lauded its security policy coming up to Easter Week, but according to ConfidencialHN, more than 50 people died during the week.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/02/mas-de-50-personas-murieron-de-forma-violenta-durante-feriado/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/02/fracaso-la-campana-de-seguridad-de-joh-para-la-semana-santa/>

A young boy was shot dead when he left his school yesterday in Suyapa, Tegucigalpa and in Olancho a teacher was shot while giving a class.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/02/le-quitan-la-vida-a-nino-en-escuela-de-tegucigalpa-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/muere-nino-que-resultado-herido-en-el-instituto-monsenor-caceres-de-la-aldea-suyapa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/matan-a-maestro-en-olancho/>

Radio Progreso warns about the use of "NGOs" in the privatization of the Honduran health system. The recent corruption investigation into the use of NGOs by congresswo/men to siphon off money should have raised more red flags.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4322-privar-o-privatizar-es-la-cuesti%C3%B3n-02-abril-2018>

Claudia Mendoza writes about the Garífunas in Honduras and their matriarchal culture.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/02/los-garifunas-la-cultura-matrifocal-de-honduras-que-lucha-contrasu-extermio/>

The pre-dialogue is about to go in its fourth round on Thursday.

<https://tiempo.hn/pre-dialogo-en-honduras/>

The Chargé d'affaires of the US embassy, Heide Fulton, returned from a four-months military service in Germany.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/02/regresa-fulton-a-honduras-despues-de-cumplir-mision-militar-en-alemania/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/02/vuelve-a-honduras-la-rascdfbvbmrtbcghjetymnesponsable-interina-de-la-embajada-de-ee-uu-en/>

Proceso Digital published a long article on the Fire Arms Regulation Bill.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/ley-de-arms-un-desafio-a-la-trasparencia-y-a-la-seguridad.html>

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<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/02/la-caida-del-partido-liberal/>

04/04/18

IACHR; Surveillance; FoE; Militarization; Berta - Trial; Political Prisoners; Femicide; Corruption - de Lobo, CAH, IHSS; MP - Elections; National Police; Violence - Education; US; Migration; Dialogue; and JOH's Regime in Numbers

El Libertador reports that the IACHR will investigate 22 of the post-electoral assassinations committed by state security forces.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2778-oea-investigara-muerte-de-22-hondurenos-en-protestas-antireeleccion>

Human rights organizations from the UK and Honduras wrote an open letter to the International Commerce Secretary of the UK, Liam Fox. They demand that the UK stops exporting spy ware to Honduras as was recently revealed by the Guardian.

<http://movimientom4.org/2018/04/carta-al-secretario-para-el-comercio-de-exterior-del-reino-unido-deben-suspender-las-exportaciones-de-equipos-para-intervencion-de-las-comunicacion-a-honduras/>

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

The Muzzle Bill violating freedom of expression online passed the second of three debates in Congress.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1165794-466/en-segundo-debate-pasa-la-ley-nacional-de-ciberseguridad>

The JOH regime continues to ignore demands to cancel the militarization program for small kids, "The Guards of the Fatherland".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/03/gobierno-de-honduras-se-niega-a-cancelar-programa-guardianes-de-la-patria/>

Giorgio Trucchi spoke with MADJ lawyer and representative of Berta's family, Víctor Fernández in light of the upcoming trial in June. Fernández comments on the recent arrest of former DESA president Roberto David Castillo, which took place on the second anniversary of Berta's

murder showing how calculated the Honduran state proceeds in this case.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/192005>

The IACHR Rapporteur for Honduras, Joel Hernández García, met with the National Committee for the Liberation of the Political Prisoners. Defensores en Línea portrays one of the political prisoners, Lourdes Johana Gómez Núñez, a 35-year old mother of four from Pimienta, Cortés.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/relator-de-la-cidh-escucha-situacion-de-presos-politico/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-heroina-de-pimienta-lourdes-la-presa-politica/>

Radio Progreso highlights the role of the JOH regime in the alarming number of femicides in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4323-la-violencia-mortal-contra-las-mujeres-y-la-complicidad-del-estado-03-abril-2018>

JOH decided to veto the reforms made to the law governing seizures of goods and properties.

His presidential secretary Ebal Díaz explained to the world his reasoning for vetoing the bill.

Libre congressman Jary Dixon emphasized the importance of the national and international pressure against this second impunity pact.

Furthermore, it is not a done deal yet and it has to be seen if it is a total or only a partial veto.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2777-joh-veta-pacto-de-impunidad-del-congreso-hondureno>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/03/conozca-las-razones-por-las-que-joh-veto-las-reformas-a-la-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/03/ebal-explica-motivos-de-joh-sobre-veto-de-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/03/diputado-asegura-que-opositores-impediran-reformas-en-ley-de-privacion/>

Former president Pepe Lobo reiterated that five people meeting at the Casa Presidencial conspired against his wife Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo to let her hang for corruption. Lobo even calls her a political prisoner. JOH does not comment on it.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2776-rosa-es-victima-de-los-5-jinetes-del-apocalipsis-pepe-lobo>

<https://tiempo.hn/porfirio-lobo-sosa-rosa-elena-de-lobo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/03/no-tengo-comentarios-alto-funcionario-se-niega-responder-a-las-acusaciones-de-pepe/>

The corruption case at the Honduran Bar Association (CAH) will go to trial.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/03/autorizan-juicio-contra-saqueadores-del-colegio-de-abogados-de-honduras/>

Today, another one of the IHSS corruption cases will go to trial.

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-ihss-supuesto-fraude/>

The UN Special Rapporteur for the Independence of Magistrates and Lawyers, Diego García-Sayán, demands transparent elections of Attorney Generals in the three Northern Triangle countries. In Honduras possible candidates may apply now.

The process will be overseen by CONADEH.

<http://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22911&LangID=S>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2083-inicia-la-carrera-para-la-eleccion-del-fiscal-general-y-adjunto-del-ministerio-publico>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/627-con-justicia-y-trasparencia-deben-elegir-fiscales-dice-experto-de-onu-a-guatemala-el-salvador-y-honduras>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/03/abren-proceso-para-postulaciones-a-fiscal-general1/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/conadeh-supervisara-funcionamiento-de-la-junta-proponente.html>

Reporteros de Investigación report on SEPOL, the online police statistics system.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/04/03/policia-valida-sus-estadisticas-con-17-instituciones-estatales/>

The police blames the murder of the teacher Erick Gualberto Banegas Ortiz, who was killed in class, on the victim, claiming that some years back he participated in the murder of someone...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/03/policia-hondurena-asegura-que-docente-ultimado-participo-en-un-crimen-hace-varios-anos/>

US president Trump threatened in a tweet to cut foreign aid to Honduras reacting to the yearly caravan of migrants from Central America to draw attention to the refugee crisis.

JOH must be confused as just months ago, he was praised by Trump for voting, as one of only seven nations, against a resolution condemning the U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Ebal Díaz, JOH's presidential secretary, deplores that Trump doesn't recognize Honduras' efforts and he goes on to claim that Honduras has done everything with its own money...

There is a new book in English coming out on US policy in Honduras: "The Long Honduran Night - Resistance, Terror, and the United States in the Aftermath of the Coup".

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-threatens-foreign-aid-to-honduras-as-he-continues-focus-on-caravan-of-migrants/2018/04/03/bdd9ac92-3735-11e8-b57c-9445cc4dfa5e\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.2fd243a408d1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-threatens-foreign-aid-to-honduras-as-he-continues-focus-on-caravan-of-migrants/2018/04/03/bdd9ac92-3735-11e8-b57c-9445cc4dfa5e_story.html?utm_term=.2fd243a408d1)

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/yesterdays-favorite-honduras-whiplashed-by-trump-threats-to-cut-us-aid/2018/04/03/d48d85c2-376b-11e8-9c0a-85d477d9a226\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.1c6da603eaac](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/yesterdays-favorite-honduras-whiplashed-by-trump-threats-to-cut-us-aid/2018/04/03/d48d85c2-376b-11e8-9c0a-85d477d9a226_story.html?utm_term=.1c6da603eaac)

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/03/somos-un-pais-digno-y-trabajaremos-con-o-sin-trump-secretario-de-la-presidencia-hondurena/>

<https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/1226-the-long-honduran-night>

Oscar Estrada writes about the historic roots of Honduran migration to the US.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-migracion-ilegal-a-estados-unidos-es-culpa-de-estados-unidos/>

Pinu-SD also withdrew from the pre-dialogue.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/pinu-sd-se-retira-de-dialogo-convocado-por-la-onu.html>

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<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/item/4324-cuarenta-y-nueve-meses-despu%C3%A9s-%C2%BFqui%C3%A9n-es-el-presidente-de-honduras?>

05/04/18

Public Perception; Journalists; Political Prisoners; National Police - Violence; Forceful Disappearance; IACHR; Indigenous Peoples; Corruption - US, IHSS, de Lobo; Migration - US; Toll System; MP - Elections; IMF; and the River of Death - Part 2

ERIC will present next Tuesday, April 10, the results of its yearly survey on public perception of Hondurans.

See Attachment

Pasos de Animal Grande accuses the Honduran State of having lied to the IACHR regarding the case of the journalist Jairo López. In the annual report on freedom of expression by the IACHR, they state that Honduras informed them that Lopez had not denounced threats against him - in reality, he did so several times.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2085-estado-de-honduras-mintio-ante-la-cidh-en-caso-del-periodista-jairo-lopez>

"I am a political prisoner. I know why they have me imprisoned in this place." - Edwin Espinal, Day 73 in prison.

<https://freedwinespinallibertad.blogspot.ch/2018/04/i-am-political-prisoner-update-from-day.html>

<https://freedwinespinallibertad.blogspot.ch/2018/04/soy-presos-politico-noticias-desde-el.html>

The young man Jorge Espinal was beaten up by a police agent for writing 'Fuera JOH'. C-Libre lists more similar cases and calls 'Fuera JOH' the forbidden sentence in Honduras.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/censura/850-frase-prohibida-en-honduras-fuera-joh>

COFADEH denounces that after four months there is still no news of the forcefully disappeared Manuel de Jesús Bautista Salvador. He was arrested by the Military Police during the post-electoral crisis and has not been seen since.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/autoridades-aun-no-dan-respuestas-a-la-familia-del-desaparecido-manuel-de-jesus-bautista/>

Radio Progreso spoke with the IACHR commissioner Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño about her visit to Honduras to overview the human rights situation.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4328-relator%C3%ADa-de-la-cidh-conoce-situaci%C3%B3n-de-derechos-humanos-y-pide-a-ciudadan%C3%ADa-denunciar-violaciones>

The Indigenous Council in Llanos de Candelaria, La Paz, accuses its mayor Ramón Antonio Medina of abuse of authority. A water projected intended for them is built for the benefit of other communities. They have been denouncing this situation since 2015 without any governmental response.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/denuncian-a-alcalde-por-abuso-de-autoridad-en-aguanqueterique/>

Radio Progreso reminds us of an important episode in the fight against corruption and impunity in Honduras: a hunger strike by four young public prosecutors in April 2008.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4326-%E2%80%9CComo-esperando-abril%E2%80%9D-04-abril-2018>

The US Chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton calls JOH's decision to veto the reforms to the law regulating seizures of goods and properties "the right step".

Before Congress takes up the debate again, they will await a resolution on the matter by the Supreme Court as well as the Criminal Justice Commission.

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) warns that Congress tries to bypass the veto through the Supreme Court. They call it a "constitutional fraud".

CIPRODEH's director Wilfredo Méndez, meanwhile, calls the veto a farce for the benefit of the international community in light of the coming Americas Summit.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2783-fue-el-paso-correcto-con-el-veto-dice-ee-uu-a-juan-hernandez>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/04/congreso-pide-a-la-csj-que-en-90-dias-emita-opinion-sobre-reformas-a-la-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/04/cna-alerta-sobre-pretension-del-congreso-de-ratificar-constitucionalmente-las-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/04/veto-es-una-farsa-una-trama-presidencial-de-cara-a-la-cumbre-de-las-americas/>

The newest trial in the IHSS corruption case was postponed because the defendants' attorneys didn't show up in court.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/04/suspenden-juicio-a-implicados-en-corrupcion-en-el-ihss/>

The Inspector General of Courts at the Supreme Court of Justice announced that they will investigate the behavior of Vera Barahona, the judge trying the case of former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo. This is a reaction to a complaint by de Lobo's lawyer.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1166101-466/investigacion-juicio-caso-rosa-elena-bonilla-lobo>

The Latin-American Working Group (LAWG) published a report yesterday on the intersection of human rights, migration, corruption, and public security in Honduras and El Salvador."

<http://www.lawg.org/component/content/article/98/2015>

[http://www.lawg.org/storage/documents/Between\\_a\\_Wall\\_and\\_a\\_Dangerous\\_Place\\_LAWGEF\\_web.pdf](http://www.lawg.org/storage/documents/Between_a_Wall_and_a_Dangerous_Place_LAWGEF_web.pdf)

US Congresswoman Norma J. Torres comments on president Trump's tweet regarding the 'Ordeal of the Migrants', i.e. the migrant caravan: By abandoning the cause of democracy in Honduras, the Trump administration has helped to create the chaos we are seeing there now. Instead of blaming Mexico for a new wave of Central American migration, President Trump should look in the mirror."

WOLA calls the caravan the representation of a humanitarian, not a security problem.

<https://torres.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/torres-statement-trump-central-american-migration-comments>

<https://www.wola.org/analysis/migrant-caravans-highlight-humanitarian-problem-not-security-threat/>

The Superintendent for Concessions, Carlos Pineda, comments on the increase in both the highway toll and the airport tax. He presents "existing inflation in the US" as a reason.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/04/es-relativo-superintendente-de-concesiones-justifica-aumento-al-peaje-y-tasa-aeroportuaria/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2779-abuso-aumentan-tarifas-de-peajes-en-honduras>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/04/viajeros-nacionales-e-internacionales-deberan-pagar-mas-impuestos-por-uso-de-aeropuertos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/asalto-a-mano-armada-aumento-a-la-tarifa-de-peaje-tegucigalpa/>

The Association of Judges for Democracy (AJD) demands transparent and fair elections for the Attorney General.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/04/eleccion-de-fiscal-general-de-la-republica-tiene-que-ser-transparente-y-justa-asociacion-de-jueces/>

Radio Progreso reports on the IMF visit to Honduras this week. The article contains a critical analysis by FOSDEH economist Ismael Zepeda.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4327-gobierno-rinde-cuentas-a-fmi-a-cambio-de-seguir-recibiendo-apoyo-financiero-y-pol%C3%ADtico>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mision-de-fmi-estudia-indicadores-de-economia-hondurena-para-eventual-acuerdo.html>

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<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/04/03/rio-de-las-muertes-cien-cuerpos/>

06/04/18

HRDs - Digital Security, Persecution, National Police; Bajo Aguán; Mining; Berta - Agua Zarca; FoE; Migration - US; Dialogue; Domestic Violence; Congress; Penitentiary System; National Police; Extradition; Drug Trafficking; Israel; and Honduras During Semana Santa

A last reminder, the survey on digital security and HRDs is online

another 72 hours. If you find the time to participate if you have time to participate today or over the wekkend, that would be great. I am a bit short of 100 answers and I hope I can reach that.

I understand if it is not possible. In that case, I'd appreciate a one-liner per e-mail just saying that a) you have no time, b) digital security is not a priority topic, c) you don't feel comfortable filling out an online survey on the topic, or d) other reasons. This would help me a lot already.

Spanish: <https://hrdonlinecommunication.limequery.com/852432?lang=es>

English: <https://hrdonlinecommunication.limequery.com/852432?lang=en>

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COFADEH updates on the situation of Eduardo Urbina, who had to flee Honduras from political persecution last December and who fears extradition from Costa Rica. COFADEH denounces that they have presented proof to the MP that Urbina had left the country five days before the military truck was put on fire (they accuse him of that), but the MP still insists on Costa Rica extraditing him.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/eduardo-urbina-presos-politico-en-el-extranjero/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published an update on the trial against three police officials held responsible for the attack against human rights defenders and students on September 8, 2017. The Human Rights Roundtable holds, furthermore, the former police commissioner Félix Villanueva responsible.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2087-caso-08-de-septiembre-mesa-de-ddhh-espera-enjuiciamiento-para-ex-director-de-la-policia-preventiva>

Campesinxs from the Bajo Aguán denounce a new attempt by the Dinant Corporation together with state security forces to infiltrate their movement and destroy it.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/05/campesinos-del-bajo-aguan-denuncian-a-quimicas-dinant-y-militares-de-sembrar-evidencia-para-destruir-el-movimiento/>

MADJ denounces that employees of a mining project in Choluteca shot against inhabitants protesting against it.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/04/05/Mineros-disparan-en-contra-de-habitantes-que-rechazan-la-instalaci%C3%B3n-de-mina-en-Choluteca>

The trial against the former mayor of Intibucá, Martiniano Domínguez Meza, for the illegal approval of the Agua Zarca project continued yesterday.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/05/continua-juicio-contra-exalcalde-de-intibuca-por-caso-agua-zarca/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the congressional debate about the Muzzle Bill, which passed the second of three rounds of debates in Congress.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2086-sin-vuelta-atras-congreso-nacional-avanza-en-la-discusion-de-la-ley-sobre-ciberseguridad>

Democracy Now! spoke with Arturo Vizcarra, a volunteer with People Without Borders just returning from the caravan. The caravan is also a topic on the radio show Letters and Politics. They focus especially on Honduras and talk to US historian Dana Frank. There are more reactions coming from the US to president Trump's tweets on the caravan. The LA Times Editorial Board writes that "[h]ad the president [Trump] paused to think about the ramifications of reducing aid to Honduras, he might have realized that it would only serve to further destabilize the country, adding more impetus for people to flee." "The migrants traveling through Mexico on the now-famous "refugee caravan" have filmed a video featuring what the group referred to as a "general statement" about who they are, what they want, and why they are on the move."

[https://www.democracynow.org/2018/4/5/caravan\\_of\\_central\\_american\\_migrants\\_holds](https://www.democracynow.org/2018/4/5/caravan_of_central_american_migrants_holds)

<https://kpfa.org/episode/letters-and-politics-april-5-2018/>

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-immigration-trump-mexico-caravan-20180403-story.html>

<https://splinternews.com/the-migrants-on-the-refugee-caravan-filmed-this-powerfu-1825015645>

UN representative in Honduras, Igor Garafulic, announces that the pre-dialogue will include in its fourth round next Tuesday the heads of the political parties in Congress to push forward a binding agreement. At the same time, the Nationalist president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, continues to denounce the possibility of a dialogue with the faculty to decide about binding matters. Oliva even calls it unconstitutional. It needs repeating that the political opposition emphasized throughout the process that they will only participate if the decisions coming out of the dialogue under international mediation are binding. Similar things can be heard from the president of the National Party Central Committee, Reinaldo Sánchez. The Liberal Party now also threatens to withdraw from the process.

The political analyst sees a possible dispute between the Nationalist president and his congresswo/men on the horizon.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/05/predialogo-subes-escalon-y-llegara-hasta-el-congreso-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/05/presidente-del-parlamento-tuitea-no-se-delegaran-facultades-legislativas-al-dialogo-nacional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/es-incorrecto-quitarse-funciones-constitucionales-al-congreso-dice-reinaldo-sanchez.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/05/honduras-partido-liberal-amenaza-con-retirarse-de-la-mesa-del-dialogo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/partido-liberal-amenaza-con-retirarse-de-las-mesas-de-dialogo.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/05/contradicciones-cachurecas-ponen-en-riesgo-gobernabilidad-del-pais-analista/>

The Network of Human Rights Defenders in La Paz expressed its concern about the increase in domestic violence in the community San José, La Paz.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/red-de-defensores-de-la-paz-preocupados-por-aumento-de-violencia-domestica-en-el-municipio-de-san-jose/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/receptividad-en-autoridades-de-tutule-en-colaborar-con-la-red-de-defensores-de-la-paz/>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez will present a draft bill in Congress to cut subsidies to congresswo/me which they are supposed to use for social programs. She emphasized that congresswo/men are here to legislate not manage funds.

This is a reaction to the distribution of 50'000 Lempiras for every congresswo/men (25'000 for their deputies) before Semana Santa.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/05/doris-gutierrez-solicitar-la-derogacion-de-los-subsidios-destinados-a-los-diputados/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/05/antes-de-semana-santa-diputados-recibieron-subsidios/>

<https://tiempo.hn/doris-gutierrez-activada-caja-chica-cn/>

The JOH regime restricts the possibility for family members to bring food to inmates.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/05/sistema-penitenciario-comienza-a-prohibir-ingreso-de-alimentos-para-privados-de-libertad/>

<https://tiempo.hn/restringen-ingreso-de-alimentos-para-privados-de-libertad-en-carceles/>

The Security Secretariat presents regularly the "success" of the Honduran police. Yesterday, they claimed that in the first three months of 2018, the police arrested no less than 21'000 people, the majority of them, 13'126, were arrested for "otras faltas"...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/05/policia-dice-que-arresto-unas-21-mil-personas-en-3-meses-estan-presos-o-libres-por-falta-de-pruebas1/>

The Security Secretariat announces that it has received ten new arrest warrants for subjects wanted by the US for drug trafficking. Yesterday 30 years ago, Honduras extradited Ramón Matta Ballesteros accused of participating in the murder of a DEA agent. The extradition took place without a legal basis and caused protests.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/05/policia-tiene-listas-diez-ordenes-de-captura-contra-extraditables/>

<https://tiempo.hn/policia-hondurenos-extraditables-captura/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-cumple-30-anos-de-la-extradicion-de-ramon-matta-a-eeuu/>

According to the lawyer representing the Rosenthal family, the holding company Inversiones Continental Panamá (ICP) will sue the Honduran State for \$1 billion for "arbitrarily" seizing goods of the companies belonging to the Rosenthal family. Its family members are accused of links to drug trafficking.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/05/holding-con-sede-en-panama-demandara-al-estado-de-honduras-por-1-000-millones-por-caso-rosenthal/>

JOH announced that he will assist the 70th anniversary of Israel and that he will light a torch - the first time another head of state does this.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/presidente-de-honduras-sera-primer-lider-extranjero-honrado-en-dia-de-la-independencia-en-israel.html>

Radio Progreso highlights some of the things that could be seen during Semana Santa travels, e.g. the failure of JOH's security policy not able to stop 74 deaths, 55 of which murders; or signs of protests against the electoral fraud in November 2017.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4329-las-huellas-de-semana-santa-05-abril-2018>

07/04/18

Bajo Aguán; Militarization - Education; Corruption - Congress, MACCIH, de Lobo; Political Prisoners; Labor Rights; Penitentiary System; Transport Sector; and Commemorating Longino Becerra

On Thursday, campesino organizations warned of imminent threats by the

state security forces in the Bajo Aguán. Now, human rights organization denounce that the armed forces are illegally holding the young campesino Ariel Chávez. His father Gregorio Chávez was murdered in 2012, presumably by guards of the Dinant Corporation.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/06/45712/>

JOH claims that thanks to the soldiers in the street, the Honduran economy grew by 4.8%... He said this during the celebration of the 87th anniversary of the Honduran Air Force (FAH).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/06/joh-asegura-que-gracias-a-militarizacion-crecio-la-economia-en-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/06/joh-felicita-a-la-fuerza-aerea-por-contribuir-en-reduccion-de-la-violencia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fah-seguira-potenciandose-para-beneficio-del-pais-y-combate-del-crimen-organizado-promete-hernandez.html>

This month, Radio Progreso commemorates the hunger strike of 2008 by four young public prosecutors which initiated a first wave of anti-corruption struggle. On the occasion, they speak with one of the participants, the lawyer Víctor Fernández who now is part of MADJ.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4331-resistencia-de-la-poblacion-es-un-acto-de-dignidad-frente-a-un-modelo-corrupto-y-violento>

The TSC gave the members of Congress 30 days to use the funds from the Departmental Development Fund of the periods 2006-2010, 2010-2014 and 2014-2018 and present proof of it. This procedure is part of the widely denounced Impunity Pact because it shifted the responsibility from the MP to the TSC. During its three-year investigation into the use of the funds, it is not allowed to take legal action against the congresswo/men. In a second investigation involving congresswo/men, seven of them presented themselves at the MP. Its anti-corruption unit UFECIC is investigating them for the falsification of documents, abuse of authority and more.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/06/tsc-emplaza-a-diputados-para-que-presenten-liquidacion-del-fondo-departamental/>

<https://tiempo.hn/diputados-ministerio-publico-fe-de-erratas/>

The Parliamentarian Front in Support of the MACCIH and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) signed an agreement to strengthen the anti-corruption struggle in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/06/parlamentarios-que-apoyan-la-maccih-y-ndi-firman-acuerdo-para-fortalecer-lucha-anticorrupcion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/diputados-que-apoyan-la-maccih-y-ndi-firman-acuerdo-para-fortalecer-lucha-anticorrupcion.html>

De Lobo's lawyer failed with his legal complaint against the judge Vera Barahona and she will continue trying the case.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/06/desestima-recurso-contras-controvertida-jueza-por-caso-de-ex-primeradama/>

<https://tiempo.hn/inadmisible-declaran-recusacion-contras-jueza-que-conoce-el-caso-de-ex-primeradama/>

Radio Progreso published a portray of Lourdes Johana, the only female political prisoner of the post-electoral crisis.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4335-lourdes-johana-%E2%80%9Cmujer-de-alas-no-de-jaulas%E2%80%9D>

The president of the teachers union Colepedagogosh denounces the intervention of Fusina members at schools leading to the harassment of students.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/06/docente-cuestiona-intervencion-y-abuso-de-policias-hacia-estudiantes/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/06/abuso-policia-y-fusina-irrumphen-en-centro-educativo-y-acosan-a-estudiantes/>

The labor union STIBYS denounced that the company Embotelladora La Reina did not comply with a judicial sentence in favor of the workers. The labor struggle has international dimensions because it involves also Walmart.

Another international company with business in Honduras, Fyffes, announces that it was granted the Fair Trade USA certification. This is very troublesome as Fyffes is currently involved in a months long labor dispute including direct threats to labor representatives.

I added separate links to articles on this issue.

<https://tiempo.hn/walmart-en-medio-de-conflicto-entre-embotelladora-la-reina-y-stibys/>

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/fyffes-honduras-melon-producer-granted-fair-trade-usa-certification-300625113.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4182-obreros-de-bananera-en-honduras-cumplen-m%C3%A1s-de-20-d%C3%ADas-de-huelga>

<http://www.radiotemplor.org/?p=10753>

160 inmates were transferred from La Tolva in El Paraíso to the prisons Pozo I and I in Santa Barbara. The speaker of Fusina speaks of a "rotation" which is also linked to a riot which was reported on Thursday.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/06/autoridades-penitenciarias-realizan-intercambio-de-privados-de-libertad/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/06/privados-de-libertad-de-la-tolva-se-amotinan-exigiendo-visitas-conyugales/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva now wants Congress itself to be the final arbiter of the dialogue...

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/04/06/la-mejor-salida-para-el-dialogo-es-que-la-decision-sea-tomada-en-el-cn-oliva/>

The transport sector threatens with strike actions as a reaction to the announced toll rise.

<https://tiempo.hn/amenazan-con-paro-de-transporte-por-aumento-de-peajes/>

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<http://defensoresenlinea.com/longino-becerra-una-herencia-sin-miedo-escrita-en-medio-del-terror/>

08/04/18

Political Prisoners; Bajo Aguán; Israel; Toll; National Police; Transport Sector; and Hondurans' Way of the Cross

COFADEH went to check on the political prisoners after the surprise

transfer of inmates on Friday from La Tolva to El Pozo. According to them, both Edwin Espinal and Raúl Álvarez are still held in La Tolva.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/presos-politicos-edwin-espinal-y-raul-alvarez-siguen-en-la-tolva/>

Campesinxs in the Bajo Aguán demand the liberation of the coordinator of the Agrarian Platform of the Aguán, Ariel Chávez. He was detained by Xatruch forces on Friday (see also yesterday).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/07/detienen-a-dirigente-campesino-en-el-valle-del-aguan-honduras/>

Meretz, a left wing party in Israel, "called on Saturday for Israel to rescind an invitation to the president of Honduras to light a torch at the country's 70th anniversary of independence, saying that the Central American nation was a corrupt, human rights violator and that having him at the ceremony would dishonor the country."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/meretz-head-calls-to-uninvite-honduras-president-from-independence-day-ceremony/>

Presidential Secretary Ebal Díaz claims that the rise for toll is irreversible and goes back to legal obligations.

This can be seen as a reaction to the announcement by the transport sector to take actions against the price rise.

Criticism also comes from the former vice-minister of Industry and Commerce, Juan José Cruz.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/07/la-medida-es-irreversible-alto-funcionario-justifica-severo-aumento-al-peaje/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/aumento-al-peaje-es-para-realizar-nuevas-inversiones-justifica-ebal-diaz.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/transportistas-de-carga-amenazan-con-medidas-de-presion-por-aumento-al-peaje/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/economia/6-economia/incremento-del-peaje-sera-fuerte-y-representara-un-costo-adicional-al-consumidor.html>

A young police agent shot himself, presumably by accident, with his own gun.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/07/policia-se-mata-cuando-manipulaba-pistola-de-reglamento/>

El Tiempo reports that 3000 members of the transport sector have been murdered in Honduras in the last 10 years.

<https://tiempo.hn/en-los-ultimos-anos-han-sido-asesinados-unos-3000-dirigentes-del-transporte/>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4336-viacrucis-del-migrante-07-abril-2018>

<https://tiempo.hn/exdiputada-hondurena-caravana-de-migrantes-frontera-ee-uu/>

09/04/18

Berta - Agua Zarca; Children's Rights, Journalists; Dialogue; Electric Energy; Economy; and Burying the Forgotten Ones

The trial against the former mayor of Intibucá, Martiniano Domínguez

Meza, will continue on April 13. He is accused of illegally granting permission to the Agua Zarca project.

[http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1167080-410/excalde-agua\\_zarca-honduras-represa](http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1167080-410/excalde-agua_zarca-honduras-represa)

Radio HRN published an article on violence against children and other violations of their rights. In the last eight years, 7148 children were murdered in Honduras.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/04/08/mas-de-medio-centenar-de-ninos-son-asesinados-mensualmente-en-honduras/>

The Military Police claims to have captured the murderer of the journalist Igor Padilla, who was assassinated in early 2017.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/08/arrestan-a-implicado-en-el-asesinato-del-periodista-igor-padilla/>

The head of parties in Congress will meet with a team of the pre-dialogue on Tuesday morning.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/08/jefes-de-bancada-integraran-comisiones-para-abordar-temas-en-predialogo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cn-confirma-reunion-con-mesa-de-predialogo-el-martes-a-las-10-00-de-la-manana.html>

According to the consulting company Manitoba Hydro International, losses of electric energy were reduced by 4% last year.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/08/honduras-aseguran-que-eeh-redujo-perdidas-en-mas-del-cuatro-por-ciento/>

Today, El Salvador takes up negotiations again with Honduras and Guatemala to join their customs' union.

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

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<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/07/sepultan-38-cadaveres-olvidados-en-cementerio-humanitario1/>

10/04/18

HRDs; Political Prisoners; Mining; FoE; Israel; Femicide; Dialogue; Reelection; Migration - US; JOH; Judicial Power; Toll System; Penitentiary System; Corruption; El Tiempo; and Political Euthanasia

As part of the trial against the three police officials accused of

ordering the attack against human rights defenders and students in September 2017, the MP asked the human rights defender Carlos Del Cid to present his statements at their offices. These statements were directed at the police commissioner Leonel Saucedo and the former commissioner Félix Villanueva, i.e. they hold the leadership of the National Police Force responsible for the human rights violations.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2089-defensor-de-derechos-humanos-declara-en-el-mp-contra-ex-comisionado-de-la-policia-felix-villanueva>

An international human rights delegation arrived yesterday in Honduras to find out more about the situation of the political prisoners.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/delegacion-internacional-de-ddhh-conoce-situacion-de-los-presos-politicos/>

A forum on mining and human dignity organized by Asonog and MADJ concluded yesterday that the inhabitants of Azacualpa, Copán suffer from systematic human rights violations.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/foro-concluye-que-pobladores-de-azacualpa-copan-son-victimas-de-violaciones-sistematicas/>

Human Rights Watch took up the Honduran discussion about the controversial Muzzle Bill pretending to regulate content on social media. They ask Congress to reject the bill, which was already approved in two (and not just one as HRW writes) out of three rounds.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/04/09/honduras-cybersecurity-bill-threatens-free-speech>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/632-hrw-ley-de-ciberseguridad-debe-ser-rechazada-por-congreso-hondureno>

JOH's intended participation as the first foreign leader in Israel's annual Independence Day caused a controversy. An opposition politician demanded to cancel his presence due to the human rights violations in Honduras (see also yesterday).

Then the president of the Israeli parliament said that he won't attend the ceremony if JOH was presence.

As a result, JOH now won't travel to Israel.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/diputada-israeli-pide-retirar-invitation-a-herandez/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/09/israelitas-se-dividen-por-la-presencia-de-joh-ante-a-violaciones-a-ddhh-en-honduras/>

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/171910-180409-honduras-president-will-not-attend-israeli-independence-day-ceremony>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/presencia-de-juan-hernandez-crea-controversia-en-israel/>

Contra Corriente published a new article on femicide in Honduras with a focus on Silvia Vanessa Izaguirre, the recently murdered medical student. The article, furthermore, highlights the failure to stop femicide by JOH and his militarist approach to security.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/04/09/los-femicidios-oscurecen-el-panorama-hondureno/>

There is ongoing confusion about the dialogue and where it will take place. Nasralla claims that the pre-dialogue has not been transferred to Congress.

At the same time, Congress' president Mauricio Oliva announced that he formed three congressional commissions headed by the three biggest parties to participate in the dialogue.

Oliva created the commission in anticipation of what results may come from the pre-dialogue...

The dialogue also causes friction inside the Liberal Party.

Pasos de Animal Grande published a critical summary of the discussions around the (pre-)dialogue so far.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/09/nasralla-niega-que-predialogo-pase-al-parlamento-de-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/09/nombran-comisiones-para-discutir-alcances-del-predialogo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/mauricio-oliva-pone-la-agenda-del-dialogo-que-se-discutira-en-el-congreso/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nombraran-tres-comisiones-especiales-para-transparentar-el-dialago-nacional/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/relacion-entre-luis-zelaya-y-elvin-santos-se-fisura-cada-vez-mas/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2088-falta-de-voluntad-politica-presagia-fracaso-de-dialogo-nacional-en-honduras>

The Venice Commission (the European Commission for Democracy through Law) found in a new report for the OAS that the presidential reelection is not to be considered a human right.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/hasta-que-hernandez-logro-su-proposito-oea-se-pronuncia-en-contra-de-la-reeleccion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/el-derecho-a-la-reeleccion-no-es-un-derecho-humano-en-si-concluye-comision-de-venecia/>

Criterio published a press release by Witness for Peace highlighting the role of the US in pushing Central Americans to seek refuge in the US. Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle, meanwhile, takes up the statement by president Trump on aid to Honduras to contemplate who benefited from it.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/violencia-provocada-desde-el-estado-hondureno-obliga-a-sus-ciudadanos-a-buscar-asilo-en-estados-unidos-witness-for-peace/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/una-pequena-discrepancia-con-trump/>

Gustavo Zelaya wrote an OpEd on the "violence by the Juan Hernández government".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/la-violencia-del-gobierno-de-juan-hernandez/>

The MP emitted arrest warrants against all members of the now defunct Judiciary Commission including its president Jorge Rivera Avilés. Criterio writes about 600 cases of corruption its members are supposed to be linked to.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/09/presentan-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-miembros-del-extinto-consejo-de-la-judicatura/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/45761/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1167489-466/por-m%C3%A1s-de-600-delitos-de-corrupci%C3%B3n-requieren-a-exmiembros-del-consejo>

The transport sector held a first strike action yesterday to protest against the toll rise.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/09/transportistas-pesados-paralizan-labores-por-exagerado-cobro-de-peaje/>

According to ConfidencialHN, there are two new tuberculosis cases in the El Pozo prison.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/09/reportan-dos-nuevos-casos-de-tuberculosis-en-carcelel-pozo/>

ConfidencialHN reports on irregularities at the National Children's Trust (Pani).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/09/desde-el-pani-se-drenaron-multimillonarias-cantidades-de-dinero-sin-justificacion-honduras/>

The former employees of El Tiempo wrote a public letter to the three state powers denouncing the long wait to have their case resolved.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/09/empleados-de-diario-tiempo-emplazan-a-titulares-de-los-tres-poderes-del-estado-para-que-les-paguen-sus-prestaciones/>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4337-eutanasia-pol%C3%ADtica-09-abril-2017>

11/04/18

MADJ; Femicide; Impunity; Mining; UNAH; Corruption; Public Perception; TIGRES; Dialogue; Transport Sector; EEH; Israel; and the River of the Dead - Part Three

MADJ denounces the murder of the lawyer Carlos Hernández. He just

recently represented the mayor of Arizona, Tela, Arnoldo Chacón, who together with four MADJ member is being criminalized for protesting against a hydroelectric project.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/04/10/Asesinan-a-abogado-de-alcalde-de-Arizona-acusado-por-defender-el-r%C3%ADo-Jilamito-en-Atl%C3%A1ntida>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/10/asesinan-a-un-abogado-en-tela-se-desconocen-las-causas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/a-su-bufete-llegan-a-matar-a-abogado-en-tela.html>

On April 26, 2013, Honduras officially recognized the crime of femicide. In these five years, at least 2300 women died violently, while the MP only investigated 17 of them and only once successfully...

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/04/10/en-cinco-anos-1-sentencia-por-femicidio-y-17-casos-investigados/>

Radio Progreso proposes several important steps to end impunity for

human rights violations in Honduras, such as a possible reactivation of the Honduran case at the International Criminal Court or the use of two US laws, the US Torture Victim Protection Act of 1991 and the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act of 2017.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4342-a-paso-firme-y-en-alianza-contra-la-impunidad-10-abril-2018>

Several communities in El Negrito, Yoro, met last Sunday to find out more about mining activities in their area. At the end of the meeting, they spoke out against mining projects in their communities. Also last weekend, 16 communities in Florida, Tela reaffirmed their decision from four years ago not to allow mining projects in their area.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4341-comunidades-de-el-negrito-yoro-afirman-que-no-permitir%C3%A1n-proyectos-mineros>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4340-sector-florida-tela-dio-ratific%C3%B3-no-a-la-miner%C3%ADa>

The critical and renowned scholar Leticia Salomón was fired from UNAH without any warning and in an "act of authoritarianism and disregard". Other scholars at the UNAH denounce her dismissal.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/10/destituyen-a-leticia-salomon-de-la-unah/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/separan-a-directora-de-investigacion-cientifica-en-medio-de-ambiente-de-contrarreforma-universitaria.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/investigadores-universitarios-en-contra-del-despido-de-leticia-salomon.html>

The International Human Rights Federation (FIDH) highlights in a new report the detrimental effects of corruption on democracy and access to fundamental rights.

[http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/corrupcion\\_final.pdf](http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/corrupcion_final.pdf)

ERIC published its yearly report on public perception in Honduras, highlighting for example that 6 out of 10 Hondurans believe that electoral fraud took place last November and that a majority of Hondurans believe the reelection to be illegal.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4343-bolet%C3%ADn-sondeo-de-opini%C3%B3n-p%C3%BAblica-2017>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/10/estudio-del-eric-sj-revela-que-gobierno-de-joh-esta-mas-cerca-del-fracaso/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hondurenos-confian-en-fiscalia-y-macch-para-investigar-corrupcion-e-impunidad.html>

A new base in El Progreso, Yoro for the TIGRES special forces cost more than 70 million Lempiras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/10/nueva-base-de-tigres-cuesta-70-millones-de-lempiras-a-hondurenos1/>

El Pulso offers an overview of the current discussions regarding the (pre-)dialogue, with a focus on the Opposition Alliance. They will meet on April 15 for a general assembly to decide on their future. ConfidencialHN presents the setup of the three congressional commissions (electoral matters, economic and social matters, and constitutional matters and consultations) to follow up on what comes out of the dialogue. Congress' president Mauricio Oliva inaugurated this "new step" in the dialogue process in the absence of both Libre and Pinu representatives. Meanwhile, the two former presidential candidates, Salvador Nasralla and Luis Zelaya, claim that the pre-dialogue has not shifted to Congress, but Congress only discusses the binding character of the results.

Later on, Zelaya announced that he also will withdraw from the pre-dialogue because the National Party opposes binding results and an international mediator.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-situacion-de-la-alianza-en-el-dialogo-y-la-asamblea/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/10/nombran-comisiones-para-darle-seguimiento-a-temas-de-predialogo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/10/parlamento-de-honduras-inaugura-nueva-etapa-del-predialogo-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/10/luis-asegura-ser-junto-a-nasralla-la-piedra-en-el-zapato-de-politicos-tradicionales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/10/salvador-nasralla-retira-sus-representantes-del-pre-dialogo-y-anuncia-su-estadia-en-la-alianza-de-oposicion/>

The JOG regime threatens to evict the protest on the CA5 North Highway by the transport sector against the rise in toll.

Later on, the protest was suspended after an agreement was found. Even the business lobby says that the toll rise came at a "inconvenient moment".

According to El Tiempo, the increase will benefit the private company COVI by more than 550 million Lempiras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/10/amenazan-con-desalojar-violentemente-toma-de-carretera-ca5-norte/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/10/fusina-amenaza-con-desalojar-toma-del-transporte-pesado/>

<https://tiempo.hn/transportistas-suspenden-protestas-y-no-pagaran-peaje-durante-varias-horas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/10/consideran-que-aumento-del-peaje-ocurrio-en-el-momento-inoportuno/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covi-mas-de-550-millones-de-lempiras-dejo-el-negociazo-del-peaje-en-carreteras/>

El Pulso challenges the numbers presented by the Electric Energy Company (EEH) which claims that it cut the loss of electric energy in its grid by 4%.

<http://elpulso.hn/eeh-maquilla-sus-numeros-no-logro-el-4-de-reduccion-de-perdida/>

In an attempt to save face, JOH claims he won't attend the independence celebrations in Israel because of his attendance at the Americas Summit.

Of course, a week ago when he boasted about being the first foreign leader to light a torch at the celebrations in Israel, he was not aware of an upcoming Americas Summit...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/10/justifican-ausencia-de-joh-en-israel-tiene-que-ir-a-cumbre-de-las-americas/>

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<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/04/09/el-rio-de-la-muertes-cien-muertes-en-un-solo-punto/>

12/04/18

HRDs; Political Prisoners; Militarization; Public Perceptions; National Police; Congress; Dialogue; Corruption; MACCIH; and "Subsidies" for Congresswo/men

The Coalition against Impunity launched the campaign "I Defend" to

inform about the importance of human rights defenders in Honduras who work under dangerous conditions.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/04/11/coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-lanza-campana-yo-defiendo/>

The struggle to free the political prisoners in Honduras is a global one exemplified by a community meeting in Elmvale, Ottawa. "150 people packed the Elmvale community hall on Sunday afternoon in response to an appeal by a local farm family to help secure the release of political prisoners in Honduras."

<http://aware-simcoe.ca/2018/04/small-rural-community-takes-on-repressive-honduras-dictatorship/>

In an interview with Giorgio Trucchi, the representative of the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras, María Soledad Pazo, speaks about their report on the post-electoral violence and human rights violations. She emphasized the need for thorough investigations and to demilitarize public security.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/hay-que-desmilitarizar-la-seguridad-publica-maria-soledad-pazo/>

The yearly survey on public perceptions in Honduras by ERIC inspired several articles. Radio Progreso highlights several aspects, among them that 78.4% of Hondurans believe that the electoral process of 2017 weakened instead of strengthened democracy in Honduras or that 75.6% believe that the economic situation of Honduras is bad or very bad, but 85.45% reject extractive projects and privatization. Reporteros de Investigación held an interview with ERIC coordinator Ismael Moreno about their findings.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4344-valoraciones-sobre-el-sondeo-de-opini%C3%B3n-p%C3%BAblica-11-abril-2018>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/04/11/el-60-por-ciento-de-simpatizantes-del-partido-nacional-creen-que-las-elecciones-debilitaron-la-democracia/>

JOH inaugurated the new Criminal Investigation School in Comayagua.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/11/joh-inaugura-escuela-de-investigacion-criminal-contrarrestara-el-delito/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/inauguran-escuela-de-investigacion-criminal-en-comayagua.html>

Nincy Perdomo published her most recent parliamentarian chronicles. She also published an article focusing on Augusto Cruz Asensio, one of the congressmen accused of corruption by the MACCIH, and the role of minority parties.

<http://elpulso.hn/vetos-bronceados-acuerdos/>

<http://elpulso.hn/vamos-aph-espejos/>

Luis Zelaya explains that with the withdrawal of Salvador Nasralla from the pre-dialogue, there is no sense in continuing to talk. Nasralla, meanwhile, announced that he would participate in the extraordinary assembly of the Opposition Alliance on April 15.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/11/luis-zelaya-tilda-de-sin-sentido-el-predialogo-con-el-retiro-de-salvador-nasralla/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/11/nasralla-se-retira-del-predialogo-y-anuncia-su-asistencia-en-asamblea-de-libre/>

ConexiHon reports on the new report by the FIDH on corruption and its nefarious effects on democracy and fundamental rights (see also yesterday).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/633-corrupcion-deniega-acceso-a-derechos-fundamentales-denuncia-la-fidh>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/11/la-corrupcion-deniega-el-acceso-a-los-derechos-fundamentales-fidh/>

Criterio writes that Luiz Antonio Guimarães Marrey could become the new head of the MACCIH.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/11/45855/>

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<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/11/el-dulce-aroma-de-los-subsidios/>

13/04/18

Constitution; Journalists; Violence - Children; US; Dialogue; Corruption - Judicial Power, Health Secretariat, COVI, Congress; Israel; UNAH; Education; IMF; Extradition; Peru; and One of the President's Men

Trump style, the Honduran president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, tweeted

the following: "I believe it is time to think about the need for a comprehensive reform of the Constitution. Should a group of civilian elaborate a proposal? Or authorize Congress to do so and present a referendum?"

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/12/presidente-del-parlamento-considera-que-llego-la-hora-de-profundas-reformas-constitucionales/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2791-oliva-pide-consenso-sin-condiciones-mezquinas-para-reforma-constitucional>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mauricio-oliva-deja-entrever-necesidad-de-reformar-la-constitucion.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on widespread persecution of journalists in Ocotepeque for reporting on police misconduct.

C-Libre denounces how a municipal judge in Comayagua criminalizes the journalist Luis Almeyda. The judge accuses him of inciting hatred for reporting on a violent eviction of street vendors.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2092-comunicadores-sociales-de-ocotepeque-denuncian-hostigamiento-policial-en-el-ejercicio-de-la-profesion>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/intimidacion/851-producto-de-su-labor-informativa-periodista-es-increpado-por-juez-municipal>

El Pulso speaks with Coiprodén's director Wilmer Vásquez about the still very high murder rate of children and young adults and how these official numbers may still underestimate the real problem due to a lack of transparency from state institutions.

<http://elpulso.hn/13300-ninos-ninas-y-adolescentes-victimas-de-ejecuciones-extrajudiciales-en-los-ultimos-20-anos/>

AP writes about the former head of the Southern Command and then Trump's White House chief of staff, US General John Kelly, and his Honduran friends. AP emphasizes his role in presenting a rosy picture of Honduras: "Kelly's upbeat assessment for lawmakers was typical of his stance toward Honduras and its leaders during the more than three years he led the South Florida-based U.S. Southern Command. He praised Honduran political and security officials for making strides fighting

corruption and protecting human rights even as media headlines and U.S. government reports continued to link the country's security forces to murders and corruption."

<https://apnews.com/b12f818d601a40a188337bfb80ee723c/Amid-corruption-concerns,-Gen.-Kelly-made-allies-in-Honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/12/general-john-kelly-viejo-amigo-de-honduras-pese-a-denuncias-de-abusos/>

CIPRODEH's Wilfredo Méndez critically comments on the ongoing pre-dialogue. He believes that the JOH regime continues to show a lack of political will and he wonders if the UN accompanying this process does not see through it.

<http://elpulso.hn/wilfredo-mendez-este-gobierno-no-tiene-la-pretension-de-resolver-un-problema-de-corte-democratico/>

InSight Crime writes about the upcoming Eighth Summit of the Americas and its focus on corruption. They expect a "heavy dose of hypocrisy" from the participating governments representatives, highlighting the case of Hondurans and Guatemala where "elites are openly confronting anti-corruption efforts".

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/leaders-beset-graft-scandals-talk-corruption-regional-summit/>

The former members of the defunct Judiciary Council will appear in front of the court today accused of some 600 corruption charges.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/12/exconcejales-de-la-judicatura-a-punto-de-ir-a-la-carcel-por-corrupcion/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) presented an investigation at the MP against 329 people involved in stealing 56 million Lempiras from the Health Secretariat. This case is linked to the company ASTROPHARMA.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/12/cna-presenta-mas-lineas-de-investigacion-ante-ministerio-publico1/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/12/cna-entrega-a-ufecic-nuevos-expedientes-de-corrupcion-relacionados-con-empresa-astropharma/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-presenta-nueva-denuncia/>

Libre congressman Juan Ramón Flores Buezo presented a bill to derogate the contract with COVI, the company behind the toll stations. He believes that that bribes were involved in facilitating the contract.

<https://tiempo.hn/contrato-con-covi-en-la-mira-de-diputados-creen-que-hubo-coimas/>

Congress eliminated the subsidies for congresswo/men which caused an outcry before the Easter Week when every congresswo/men received 50'000 Lempiras and their deputies another 25'000.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/aprueban-eliminar-subsidios-a-los-diputados-propietarios-y-suplentes.html>

59 Honduran congresswo/men approved the transfer of the Honduran embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/12/torpezsdeqwpolitica-honduras-pedira-traslado-de-embajada-de-tel-aviv-a-jerusalendgd/>

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-nacional-embajada-de-honduras-a-jerusalen/>

The Latin American Social Science Council (CLASCO) emitted a press release with Leticia Salomón who suffered from an arbitrary dismissal at UNAH.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/12/clacso-se-solidariza-con-leticia-salomon/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/consejo-latinoamericano-de-ciencias-sociales-se-solidariza-con-leticia-salomon.html>

Three state secretaries (Education, Security and Human Rights) intend to jointly intervene at 53 schools in reaction to widespread insecurity. Teachers protested outside Congress for a right to retire under the former legal framework which allowed retirement after 50.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/educacion-seguridad-y-ddhh-daran-proteccion-a-53-centros-educativos.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/12/maestros-de-honduras-exigen-jubilacion-con-vieja-legislacion/>

An IMF delegation finished a ten-day visit to Honduras and presented their findings yesterday.

<https://tiempo.hn/mision-del-fmi-la-economia-hondurena-continua-comportandose-de-manera-satisfactoria/>

Honduras received a new request for an extradition to the US.

<https://tiempo.hn/csj-confirma-aumentara-la-lista-de-hondurenos-extraditados-a-ee-uu/>

JOH met with the new Peruvian president Martín Vizcarra.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1168537-410/presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-reunion-presidente-peru>

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<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/12/sos-un-pendejo-de-mierda-marvin-ponce-amenaza-con-tirar-otro-vaso-al-aire/>

<https://tiempo.hn/marvin-ponce-nuevamente-protagoniza-escandalo-en-un-foro-televisivo/>

14/04/18

COPINH; Political Prisoners; MACCIH; HRDs - Protection, UNAH; Journalists; JOH - Constitution, Israel; Garífunas; Corruption - Judicial Power, ENEE; Drug Trafficking; Insecurity - Schools; Dialogue; Brazil; and Political Theater with Migrants

COPINH denounces that two supposed police agents raided a house of one

of its leaders, Liliam López, last Wednesday without a court order. The Honduran authorities claim not to know anything about it.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2792-honduras-supuestos-policias-allanan-casa-de-dirigente-indigena>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2096-alerta-policias-allanan-sin-orden-judicial-casa-de-la-coordinadora-de-mujeres-del-copin>

Radio Progreso portrays Norma Ordoñez. Two out of her three sons are held as political prisoners in El Pozo.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4351-el-reloj-de-norma-se-convirti%C3%B3-en-calendario>

Some days ago, Criterio claimed that the Brazilian Luiz Antonio

Guimaraes Marrey has been proposed as the new head of the MACCIH. This now has been confirmed by OAS' Secretary General Luis Almagro. The same day, the Nationalist-controlled Congress sent their report which calls for the declaration of the MACCIH as unconstitutional to the Supreme Court.

The G-16 presents various requests to the JOH regime regarding the MACCIH and the anti-corruption struggle. Honduras should resolve the problem around the unconstitutionality claim, it should review the reforms of the Budgetary Bill known as the Impunity Pact, it should speed up the approval of the Efficient Collaboration Bill promised for two years already, and it should revise the Secrecy Law.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/13/confirmada-noticia-de-criterio-luiz-guimaraes-marrey-sera-vocero-de-la-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/oea-propone-nuevo-portavoz-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/13/nacionalistas-van-en-serio-con-declarar-inconstitucional-la-maccih/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/congreso-envia-antecedentes-sobre-inconstitucionalidad-de-la-maccih-al-poder-judicial.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/g-16-sugiere-a-honduras-resolver-pronto-recursos-contramaccih-y-ley-de-presupuesto.html>

Civil society organizations elected their representatives for the Protection Council as part of the HRDs Protection Law. 62 organizations were present and they elected Eva Sánchez and Dina Meza as deputies. The two main representatives are Donny Reyes and Jesica Sánchez, the two former deputies.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2095-organizaciones-de-ddhh-nombran-representantes-ante-consejo-de-proteccion>

Defensores en Línea continues to report on the case of the student and social activist Eduardo Enrique Urbina Ayala who had to flee from the JOH regime and asked for asylum in Costa Rica.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/eduardo-urbina-el-estudiante-de-historia-deberia-estar-en-clases/>

C-Libre criticizes that the deputy director of prosecutors at the MP, Loany Patricia Alvarado, declared as null a request for information on public interest grounds by journalist Wendy Funes. The request was regarding a complaint filed in 2011 after an attack on women journalist on December 13, 2011 by the presidential guards.

Reporteros de Investigación published an e-mail by the US embassy which asks them to sign an "integrity commitment".

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/obstruccion-informativa/853-sub-directora-general-de-fiscalias-niega-informacion-de-interes-publico-a-periodista-y-parte-interesada-de-caso>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/04/12/embajada-de-estados-unidos-pide-a-reporteros-de-investigacion-firmar-compromiso-por-la-integridad/>

JOH feels the need to clarify that the proposal by Congress' president Mauricio Oliva should not be considered as a constituent assembly (see yesterday). JOH emphasized "the need to act prudently to give confidence to international capital".

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/13/f34juan-orlando-hernandez-aclara-que-propuesta-del-presidente-del-legislativo-no-es-una-hconstituyentevsw/>

Just as with Oliva's proposal above, JOH also felt the need to clarify that the question of the location of Honduras' embassy in Israel is a "very sensitive topic" and that it lies in the responsibility of the executive power.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/13/tras-mocion-de-cambiar-embajada-a-jerusalen-joh-aclara-que-esa-competencia-es-del-ejecutivo/>

ContraCorriente portrays a Garífuna community in the Rivera Hernández neighborhood in San Pedro Sula and their approach to deal with violence.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/04/12/entre-polvo-balas-y-pobreza-resiste-comunidad-garifuna-en-la-rivera-hernandez/>

The MP demands prison sentences for corruption for the six former members of the defunct Judiciary Council. But they can await their trial in freedom.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2794-fiscalia-hondurena-pide-carcel-para-exconcejales-judiciales>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/13/ministerio-publico-pedira-que-manden-a-la-carcel-a-exconcejales-por-corrupcion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/en-libertad-se-defenderan-exmiembros-del-consejo-de-la-judicatura/>

Radio Progreso dedicates an article to the findings on corruption by the public perception survey by ERIC.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4350-corrupci%C3%B3n-tal%C3%B3n-de-aquiles-del-gobierno-de-joh>

El Pulso reports on the role change of Miguel Aguilar. The former president of ENEE's labor union, STENEE, opposed the privatization of ENEE. Now, he defends the privatization and El Pulso highlights how this could be linked with financial stakes he has in the new privatized company EEH. The current president of STENEE announced that they are gathering evidence to file a complaint at the MP for corruption against Aguilar.

<http://elpulso.hn/miguel-aguilar-de-lider-sindical-a-magnate-de-la-energia-electrica/>

"The second seizure of a coca plantation in Honduras within a year shows drug gangs are seeking to cut costs and turn the small Central American state into a producer rather than a transit hub for U.S.-bound cocaine, authorities said on Tuesday."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-honduras-drugs/honduran-coca-raid-signals-shift-to-cocaine-production-authorities-say-idUSKBN1HH3JQ>

ConfidencialHN spoke with school director Nelson Cálix about the growing insecurity in and around schools.

The same day, a 14-year old student was shot dead close to her school in Comayagüela.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/13/crisis-politica-y-asedio-de-pandillas-disparo-violencia-contra-estudiantes/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/13/matan-a-colegiala-durante-operativos-de-seguridad-en-tegucigalpa/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/asesinan-estudiante-del-central-a-pocos-metros-de-llegar-al-colegio.html>

Salvador Nasralla visited the UN in Honduras to officially announce that he won't participate any longer in the pre-dialogue. He then asked the UN representative Igor Garafulic to continue trying to solve the political crisis in Honduras by asking JOH to hold new elections this year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/onu-puede-ayudar-sugiriendo-al-gobierno-que-debe-haber-elecciones-este-ano-dice-nasralla.html>

JOH tries to forge closer ties with Brazil (coup president to coup

president) and the latter promised to support Honduras' attempt at the presidency of the UN General Assembly.

[http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1168800-410/honduras-brasil-relacion\\_bilateral-encuentro\\_hernandez\\_temer](http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1168800-410/honduras-brasil-relacion_bilateral-encuentro_hernandez_temer)

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<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/immigration/2018/04/12/honduran-ambassadors-march-caravan-migrants-mexico-called-political-theater/511071002/>

<http://elpulso.hn/el-padre-melo-donald-trump-parecer-representar-el-corazon-racista-de-los-estadunidenses-que-votaron-por-el/>

15/04/18

Bajo Aguán; MILPAH; Mining; HRDs; MACCIH; Penitentiary System; Dialogue; Political Opposition; Spain; and Honduras According to JOH

COFADEH published an alert regarding the recent arrest of MUCA leader

Lázaro Peralta by the Military Police.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-capturan-a-dirigente-del-muca-en-el-aguan/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/14/policia-militar-captura-a-dirigente-del-muca-en-el-aguan/>

The indigenous Lenca organization has documented some 40 conflicts all linked to their defense of the commons and their right to self-determination.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4353-defensa-de-los-bienes-comunes-14-abril-2018>

Criterio reports on the ongoing conflict in Azacualpa, Copán, fuelled by the mining company Minerales de Occidente S.A, which belongs to Aura Minerals.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/14/empresas-mineras-aura-minerals-y-minosa-generan-conflicto-al-desenterrar-cuerpos-en-la-union-copan/>

This week, the Coalition against Impunity officially launched the "I Defend" campaign. Here are short video portraits of 13 Honduran human rights defenders.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMyJOh0Jpz4&list=UUduuSqf3saVGGeaWXdNN5QQ>

Criterio published the content of the press release by the G-16 on the MACCIH and the lacking anti-corruption effort by the JOH regime (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/14/g-16-pide-transparente-eleccion-del-fiscal-general-y-la-aprobacion-de-leyes-anticorrupcion/>

A bus transferring inmates had an accident leaving some 20 inmates injured.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/14/51689/>

El Tiempo spoke with UN representative Igor Garafulic about the state of the dialogue. He reiterated the need of the presence of all three main political parties and that Congress should advance the legal requirements for the dialogue, i.e. the possibility of an international mediator whose decisions are legally binding.

<https://tiempo.hn/igor-garafulic-dialogo-no-avanzara-si-no-participan-los-tres-principales-actores-politicos/>

The Opposition Alliance against the Dictatorship will hold a general assembly today about its own future and the participation in the dialogue.

<https://tiempo.hn/manana-domingo-se-realizara-la-asamblea-general-de-la-alianza-en-tegucigalpa/>

The Spanish Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Latin America and the Caribbean, Fernando García Casas, will visit Honduras next week.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/secretario-de-cooperacion-internacional-de-espana-visitara-honduras-la-proxima-semana.html>

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<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/14/joh-presume-supuestos-logros-de-su-gestion-en-viii-cumbre-de-las-americas1/>

16/04/18

Political Opposition; Dialogue; Violence - UNAH; Spain; and Smart Cows

The Opposition Alliance against the Dictatorship held a general assembly

yesterday. The three parties to the Alliance, Libre, Pinu and Salvador Nasralla decided to maintain the Alliance with its principal goal to "have the will of the people respected and get rid of the dictatorship imposed by Juan Orlando Hernández".

New mobilizations were announced which should culminate to a national strike.

Nasralla promised that he would never betray the Alliance.

Libre congresswo/men present at the assembly promised to give the pre-Easter subsidies they received to the families of murdered protesters.

In a further resolution, they spoke out in support of Honduran migrants.

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle accompanied the assembly with a well-meaning, but critical comment.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/04/honduras-asamblea-nacional.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/15/asamblea-del-partido-libre-acuerda-paros-progresivos-hasta-el-gran-paro-nacional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-jamas-traicionar-alianza/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/15/tras-airados-reclamos-diputados-de-libre-donan-subsidio-a-parientes-de-los-fallecidos-por-crisis-poselectoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/15/asamblea-de-libre-decide-apoyar-la-caravana-del-migrante/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/15/primer-regla-de-etica-mensaje-a-la-asamblea-de-libre/>

A further topic during the general assembly was the dialogue. Libre leader Rafael Alegría believes that currently there is no real dialogue in place, but rather a farce of a dialogue between citizens and organizations close to the regime.

Hugo Noé Pino reiterated the need for an international mediator.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/en-este-momento-lo-que-existe-es-un-remedo-de-dialogo-dice-exdiputado-alegria.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/se-necesita-un-mediador-internacional-para-que-dirija-el-dialogo-asegura-hugo-noe-pino.html>

According to the Violence Observatory, 114 university students have been murdered in Honduras since 2010.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/04/15/unos-114-universitarios-han-sido-asesinados-desde-2010-al-primer-trimestre-de-2018/>

The Spanish Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Latin America and the Caribbean, Fernando García Casas, will also meet with COPINH during his Honduras visit.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/secretario-estado-espanol-conocera-manana-proyectos-cooperacion-en-honduras.html>

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<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-llama-vacas-a-todos-los-lideres-y-dirigentes-de-libre/>

17/04/18

Surveillance; Repression; Electoral Reform; Dialogue; Militarization; Armed Forces; National Police; Nasralla; UNAH; and Lena Goes to Court

Pasos de Animal Grande requests information from the Defense Secretariat

on the recent purchase of communication interception devices from the UK.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2097-solicitan-informacion-a-la-secretaria-de-defensa-sobre-compra-de-equipo-al-reino-unido-de-intercepcion-en-comunicaciones>

The police repressed soccer fans with tear gas at a game in Comayagua after they started chanting "Fuera JOH". Witnesses denounced the indiscriminate use of tear gas including against minors and seniors.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/854-durante-encuentro-deportivo-policias-gasean-a-aficionado-por-gritar-fuera-joh>

Deputy magistrate at the TSE, Marco Ramiro Lobo, announced that they are working on a draft for a new electoral law.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/16/preparan-borrador-para-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://tiempo.hn/anuncian-la-creacion-de-un-borrador-para-una-nueva-ley-electoral/>

UN representative Igor Garafulic told the press yesterday that the international community will fund the dialogue and offered technical experts to accompany the process.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/16/la-comunidad-internacional-asumira-costos-del-dialogo-nacional/>

After the murder of another young student, Génesis Janette Colindres, the JOH regime reacted by sending the Military Police there. Its press speaker said that they are currently "protecting" 50 schools in Tegucigalpa and Comayagüela.

Meanwhile, teachers and family members demanded justice for Génesis outside of the Supreme Court.

ConexiHon published an OpEd by the retired teacher José de Jesús García on the violence in Honduras' school.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/16/honduras-policia-militar-refuerza-seguridad-del-colegio-vicente-caceres/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/16/docentes-y-padres-de-familia-exigen-justicia-por-muerte-de-centralistas/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/635-incontenible-la-violencia-en-los-centros-educativos>

A member of the Armed Forces who presumably was part of a criminal gang was shot dead in a failed robbery.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/16/51778/>

The purging committee announced the firing of some 70 police agents.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/unos-70-policias-seran-cancelados-por-faltas-a-la-institucion-confirma-depuradora.html>

Salvador Nasralla apparently contemplates forming a new anti-corruption party.

This and further statements caused disbelief in the political opposition.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/16/nasralla-promete-luchar-contra-la-corrupcion-en-nuevo-partido-politico1/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-vamos-a-formar-una-nueva-fuerza-politica-y-vamos-a-partir-de-cero/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/16/esas-actuaciones-de-salvador-nasralla-mas-parecen-un-boicot-contra-libre-manuel-zelaya/>

Criterio published an OpEd by Thelma Mejía in solidarity with Leticia Salomón, who was recently fired from UNAH. She ends her OpEd citing a recent letter by CLACSO: "We embrace all women who fight every day to build first class, democratic and engaged public universities reflecting the realities of our countries and the change our societies need."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/16/leticia-salomon/>

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<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1169681-466/juan-barahona-y-lena-guti%C3%A9rrez-a-audiencia-de-conciliaci%C3%B3n>

18/04/18

FoE; Journalists; LGBT; Hydroelectricity; MP - Election; MACCIH; Militarization - Education; Public Health; Corruption - ENEE, CNA; Extraditions; Drug Trafficking; Political Opposition; IMF; Deportations; UN; and Chasing the Dragon

CONexiHon reports on a welcome decision by the Special Prosecutor for

the Defense of the Constitution. It decided that the Article 335-B of the reformed Penal Code is unconstitutional. Human rights organizations and journalists have denounced the article for violating the freedom of expression.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/637-es-inconstitucional-responde-fiscalia-de-defensa-de-la-constitucion-ante-recurso-de-c-libreaz>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the delegate of CONADEH, Yaritza Rodríguez, threatens to take legal actions against the journalist and director of Radio Marcala, Carlos Galeas, for reporting on irregularities in the election of Rodríguez as municipal commissioner.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2098-delegada-de-conadeh-amenaza-con-querellar-a-director-de-radio-marcala>

Expediente Público published an article on the difficulty of living as a trans woman in Honduras, a country that has lacked for a long time a legal framework to protect them and now fails to enforce it. Furthermore, there is no political will to support a cultural change recognizing sexual diversity. Between 2004 and 2017, 277 members of the LGBT community have been murdered, a third of them trans women and only in 22% of the cases, the murder went to trial.

<http://www.expedienteabierto.org/ea/index.php/ep/item/14-la-muerte-rodea-a-la-comunidad-transexual-en-honduras>

According to Criterio, the Special Prosecutor for Ethnic Affairs and Cultural Heritage is currently investigation eight hydroelectric projects denounced by indigenous Lenca communities.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/17/fiscalia-de-etnias-investiga-concesion-de-ocho-proyectos-hidroelectricos/>

The Coalition against Impunity will present a constitutional challenge today against the nominating committee for the Attorney General and their deputy. According to the coalition, the participation of the Alliance for Peace and Justice (APJ) in this committee is illegal. The Supreme Court ruled in November 2016 that the APJ does not represent civil society in Honduras, but exactly for this they were nominated for the their position in the committee.

According to the head of the nominating committee, the five final candidates for the Attorney General position may already be known on May 27.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2099-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-impugnara-actuaciones-de-la-junta-de-proponentes-para-la-eleccion-del-fiscal-general>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/nomina-de-candidatos-a-fiscal-general-podria-estar-en-el-congreso-el-27-de-mayo/>

The Due Process Law Foundation (DPLf) published a report on the ideal profil of the new head of the MACCIH.

<http://www.dplf.org/es/resources/cual-es-el-perfil-idoneo-para-liderar-la-mision-de-apoyo-contra-la-corrupcion-y-la>

The president of a parents organization, Andrés Martínez, demands violence prevention programs rather than the militarization of schools.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/para-disminuir-violencia-solicitan-al-gobierno-programas-alternativos-de-prevencion/>

The president of the IHSS labor union, Sitraihs, denounces that the institution is still in crisis and that the intervention committee failed to produce meaningful results. He especially criticizes their lack of communication.

The president of the Honduran Medical Association (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, denounces that the JOH regime on purpose weakens the health sector to prepare the ground for more privatization.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/denuncian-prolongacion-de-crisis-en-el-ihss/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/17/junta-interventora-del-seguro-social-sigue-haciendo-compras-directas-de-emergencia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/para-justificar-la-privatizacion-el-gobierno-esta-quebrando-el-sector-salud-suyapa-figueroa/>

A criminal court specialized in corruption cases emitted an arrest warrant against the former Education Secretary José Alejandro Ventura because he did not appear for his trial.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/emiten-orden-de-captura-contra-exsecretario-de-educacion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/emiten-orden-de-captura-para-exministro-alejandro-ventura.html>

ConfidencialHN uncovered a new case of corruption going back to 2014 involving the private company Semeh and the then state company ENEE.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/sin-tener-contrato-suscrito-con-la-enee-semeh-se-agencio-de-160-millones-de-lempiras1/>

The new coordinator of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) publicly comes out in support of its executive director Gabriela Castellanos.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/nuevo-coordinador-de-asamblea-del-cna-ratifica-apoyo-a-gabriela-castellanos/>

A presumed Honduran drug trafficker was arrested in Guatemala and extradited to the US.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/el-rojo-tambien-es-conocido-en-su-pais-por-ser-el-contador-de-hector-emilio-fernandez-rosa-alias-don-h-otro-presunto-narcotraficante-ya-extraditado/>

"Authorities in Honduras recently discovered another coca farm in a traditional organized crime stronghold, further contributing to suspicions that criminal groups have been experimenting with drug production in a country that has previously been known solely as a transit corridor."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/honduras-finds-another-coca-farm-organized-crime-stronghold/>

Just a week after its general assembly, the Opposition Alliance against the Dictatorship will hold an emergency meeting this Saturday regarding its future.

This is a reaction to Nasralla's announcement contemplating to found a new party.

The political analyst Arístides Mejía believes that the party only serves to consolidate Nasralla's voter base and he would still be part of the Alliance.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/zelaya-convoca-a-la-cupula-de-la-alianza-tras-confesiones-de-nasralla/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-dice-que-salvador-nasralla-practicamente-abandono-la-alianza-de-oposicion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/aristides-mejia-justifica-que-nasralla-creara-partido-para-consolidar-votos-no-para-salirse-de-alianza.html>

ConfidencialHN criticizes that the JOH regime sells out its people to please the IMF.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/honduras-debedcebsbtnsybavra-sacrificar-a-la-poblacion-para-alcanzar-nuevo-acuerdo-con-el-fmi-fondo-monetario-internacional/>

Honduras may be elected on June 5 to preside the UN General Assembly...

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/embajadora-de-honduras-presenta-sus-prioridades-para-la-asamblea-general.html>

Deportations back to Honduras have increased by over 14% compared to the three first months of 2017.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/deportacion-de-hondurenos-aumenta-en-14-4-en-primeros-cuatro-meses-del-ano.html>

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<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/17/con-nombre-rimbombante-ministerio-publico-realiza-operativos-en-hondurasdw/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/operacion-dragon-iv-ataca-al-crimen-organizado-narcomenudeo-y-corrupcion.html>

19/04/18

HRDs - National Police; Zacate Grande; Mining; FoE; Corruption - Congress, Impunity Pact; MACCIH; MP - Election; Political Opposition; ENEE; Transport Sector; Spain; and Names Written in Blood

The Guardian put together a list of all the 197 assassinated

environmental defenders counted by Global Witness. "Honduras remains the most dangerous country to be a defender, with more killings per capita than anywhere else."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2017/jul/13/the-defenders-tracker>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces intimidation tactics by the National Police against members of the Ágape Church. The church founded some years ago the International Ecumenic Human Rights Observatory and one of its members, the human rights defender Carlos del Cid, was attacked together with other HRDs and students back in September 2017 by the police. Three police officials now face trial and the intimidation has to be seen in this light.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2101-en-este-plan-maquivelico-podrian-estar-los-oficiales-enjuiciados-policias-hacen-video-de-iglesia-agape>

ADEPZA celebrated its 18th year of struggle and resistance on April 14. 8 years into their existence, they founded the community radio station La Voz de Zacate Grande.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/zacate-grande-resiste-y-vive/>

Two weeks ago, on April 1, security guards of the of the Los Lirios mine in El Triunfo, Choluteca shot against community members. MASSVIDA, an alliance of dozens of social movements and human rights organizations in the south of Honduras, denounces that the mine intends to exploit 1800 hectares of land, affecting 20 communities in El Triunfo and Namasigue. The mining company ignored a town hall meeting back in 2016 rejecting mining activities in their area.

Radio Progreso presents El Negrito, Yoro as an example of a community-organized struggle to defend their natural resources. Four years ago, the municipality of El Negrito bringing together over 50 communities decided in a town hall meeting to declare their territory free of mining. Coming May 4, they will commemorate and reaffirm this decision.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4355-minera-se-impone-con-violencia-en-el-triunfo-choluteca>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4357-el-negrito-yoro-ejemplo-de-lucha-organizada-en-defensa-de-los-bienes-naturales>

index reports on media freedom of lack thereof in Honduras. "Journalists reporting on corruption and violence in Honduras regularly deal with violence and the risk of death for their work — including investigative journalist Wendy Funes, a nominee for Index on Censorship's 2018 Freedom

of Expression Award for Journalism — while perpetrators often go unpunished."

<https://www.indexonensorship.org/2018/04/media-freedom-in-honduras-the-noose-is-tightening/>

C-Libre announced to file legal complaints against all congresswo/men found to be involved in illegal activities, be it the violations of legal procedures or the falsification of documents.

One case is the approval of the Article 335-B of the reformed Penal Code. Two days ago, the MP found that the congresswo/men committed fraud in accepting these unconstitutional reforms.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/18/denunciaran-penalmente-ante-el-ministerio-publico-a-diputados-que-han-cometido-fraudes-constitucionales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/18/ministerio-publico-reconoce-que-el-congreso-cometio-fraude-en-la-aprobacion-de-ley-mordaza/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/fiscalia-para-la-defensa-de-la-constitucion-reitera-que-articulo-335-b-es-inconstitucional.html>

The Constitutional Chamber dismissed a complaint by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) against the reforms made to the Budget Bill resulting in the so-called Impunity Pact.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/18/los-magistrados-asignados-a-la-sala-determinaron-desestimar-el-recurso-del-cna-porque-no-hay-razones-de-fondo-y-de-forma-para-que-la-norma-pueda-ser-reformada/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/declaran-sin-lugar-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-del-cna-sobre-fe-de-erratas-a-ley-de-presupuesto.html>

The Foreign Relations and International Cooperation Secretariat reacted with a cryptic press release to OAS' proposal to nominate Luiz Antonio Guimaraes Marrey as the new head of the MACCIH.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/18/gobierno-de-honduras-aun-no-responde-sobre-el-vocero-de-la-maccih/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-dice-que-recibio-notificacion-sobre-maccih-el-10-de-abril.html>

El Pulso spoke with Odir Fernández, the head of the investigative unit at the CNA, about the upcoming election of the Attorney General, their needed profile and why the presence of the MACCIH makes this election different to the previous ones.

Andrés Pérez, a legal expert at the MACCIH, also comments on the upcoming election.

The two men did not speak about the problem with the nominating committee which, according to the Coalition against Impunity, is unconstitutional (see also yesterday).

<http://elpulso.hn/odir-fernandez-nunca-han-actuado-para-elegir-al-fiscal-general-y-adjunto-desprovistos-de-los-compromisos-del-padrinazgo-politico/>

<http://elpulso.hn/un-ministerio-publico-independiente-y-tecnicamente-competente-sugiere-la-maccih/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2100-junta-de-proponentes-debe-resolver-peticion-de-la-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-sobre-nulidad-de-actuaciones>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/colision-contra-la-impunidad-presenta-recurso-de-nulidad-contra-junta-de-proponentes.html>

Luis Zelaya dismissed the rumors spread by the main media outlets that Salvador Nasralla may lead the Liberal Party into the next elections. Manuel Zelaya perceives Nasralla's announcement to think about founding a new party as weakening the possibility to get rid of the JOH regime.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/18/luis-desestima-candidatura-de-nasralla-por-no-tener-militancia-liberal/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/nasralla-no-puede-liderar-candidatura-en-el-pl-porque-no-tiene-militancia-advierte-luis-zelaya.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/18/zelaya-dice-que-si-quiere-puede-ir-a-la-reeleccion-aunque-es-improcedente/>

The labor union STENEE published an open letter to the Honduran people.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2797-pronunciamento-del-stenee-a-nuestros-afiliados-y-al-pueblo-hondureno-en-general>

The transport sector once more protested against their ongoing suffering from violence and crime.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/18/violencia-paraliza-el-transporte-publico-en-tegucigalpa/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/por-inseguridad-transporte-urbano-de-la-capital-se-paraliza.html>

Radio HRN reports on Spanish development cooperation in Honduras. The last four years, Spain spent some 153 million Euros and the budget for the next four years is even higher.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/04/18/cooperacion-espanola-asciende-a-mas-de-cuatro-mil-millones-de-lempiras/>

Radio Progreso names those responsible for the murder of Honduran citizens during the post electoral crisis: Defense Secretary, General Fredy Santiago Díaz Zelaya; Security Secretary, General Julián Pacheco Tinoco; Head of the Armed Forces, Brigadier General René Orlando Ponce Fonseca; Former Head of the Armed Forces, Major General Francisco Isaías Álvarez Urbina; Former General Director of the National Police, Police Commissioner Félix Villanueva Mejía; General Director of the National Police, Police Commissioner José David Aguilar Morán; and Head of the Military Police, Colonel Óscar Reyes Paz.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4354-los-nombres-sangrientos-18-abril-2018>

20/04/18

HRDs - UNAH; Berta - Agua Zarca; (Re)Elections - CSJ, Repression; Political Prisoners; UNAH; Corruption - CNA; MACCIH; Extractivism; Public Health; Congress; Penitentiary System; Forced Disappearance; and Honduras' South - Between Destruction and Popular Struggle

There are numerous important article in today's news roundup and I

recommend reading or at least skimming all of them.

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Goods news from Costa Rica: The High Commission of the UN for Refugees in Costa Rica has granted refuge to the Honduran student Eduardo Urbina who has been held in jail in that country due to an extradition request from the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/19/costa-rica-otorga-refugio-a-eduardo-urbina-manana-saldra-libre/>

Charges against six former councilors (regidores) from San Francisco de Ojuera were formalized. They all are accused of conducting an irregular

consultation to push through the Agua Zarca project.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/procesan-a-seis-exregidores-implicados-en-caso-de-berta-caceres/>

The Supreme Court admitted four legal complaints against the TSE for having declared challenges against the electoral results null on December 28.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/19/justicia-de-honduras-admite-recursos-de-amparo-contras-las-elecciones-de-2017/>

<https://tiempo.hn/admiten-recursos-resultados-elecciones-2017/>

Rel-UITA published a recent video interview with CPFADDEH's Bertha Oliva on the post-electoral repression.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-cofadeh-denuncia-crisis-de-derechos-humanos-post-fraude-electoral/>

An international human rights delegation organized by the Alliance for Global Justice and La Voz de los de Abajo finished a ten-day visit to Honduras. Their main focus was the situation of the 21 political prisoners.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/delegacion-internacional-investiga-la-situacion-de-los-presos-politicos-arrestados-en-la-crisis-post-electoral-y-la-de-sus-familiares/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/19/delegacion-internacional-constata-que-en-honduras-si-hay-presos-politicos/>

The Constitutional Chamber declared the expulsion of the university students unconstitutional. Last year, the Honduran state repressed and criminalized protesting students going so far as to expel over 24 of them. Now it seems, they may be allowed to return to finish their studies. UNAH students protested at the main campus in Tegucigalpa after the news broke that a female student had been sexually violated in an UNAH bathroom. The police violently evicted the protest using tear gas. It is as if the state security forces still have not learned their lesson...

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/644-declaran-inconstitucional-reglamento-estudiantil-de-la-unah>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/19/unah-protesta-por-agresion-sexual-termina-en-enfrentamiento/>

<https://tiempo.hn/estudiantes-policias-enfrentan-unah/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounces that the Constitutional Chamber reinforced corruption by rejecting their appeal to the Impunity Pact (see also yesterday) on very shaky grounds. The chamber said the CNA, the official state anti-corruption body, had no legitimate interest to go after the Impunity Pact....

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/19/sala-de-lo-constitucional-fortalece-el-pacto-de-impunidad-cna/>

Two days ago, the JOH regime reacted with a cryptic press release to the OAS' nomination of Luiz Antonio Guimarães Marres as the new head of the MACCIH. According to OAS' Secretary General, Luis Almargo, they had already sent the nomination on March 10. The JOH regime pretends that they only received it on April 10. According to various observers, the Honduran reaction means that they won't accept the nomination. Both Salvador Nasralla and Manuel Zelaya spoke out in support of the MACCIH. The former denounces a campaign to by corrupt politicians to disappear it, the latter calls for a supportive protest outside of the MACCIH today at 4pm.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/gobierno-dice-que-recibio-notificacion-sobre-maccih-el-10-de-abril.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/incierto-rumbo-de-la-maccih.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-los-politicos-corruptos-estan-desapareciendo-a-la-maccih/>

Radio Progreso spoke with Pedro Landa about the extractivist development model and its rejection by the Honduran people as shown in the newest edition of the public perception survey by ERIC.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4358-con-enga%C3%B1os-y-chantajos-gobierno-busca-implantar-proyectos-extractivos-denuncia-ambientalista>

According to the former COHEP president Juliette Handel, the Judicial Power prohibited that the University Hospital (HEU) is not allowed to charge for its services.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/19/prohiben-al-hospital-escuela-cobrar-servicios-a-los-pacientes/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2799-logro-social-eliminan-cobros-a-pacientes-del-hospital-escuela>

Nincy Perdomo published the newest installment of her parliamentarian chronicles. In it she cites the Nationalist congressman David Chávez talking about the need to move the Honduran embassy in Israel to Jerusalem because "there are gay parades" in Tel Aviv...

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-tertuliascomplices/>

CONADEH expressed its concern about the crisis of the Honduran penitentiary system.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/19/defensor-del-pueblo-esta-preocupado-por-crisis-en-el-sistema-penitenciario/>

Yesterday 30 years ago, Roger Samuel González Zelaya was forcefully disappeared and has never been heard of since. Friends, family and human rights organization commemorated him in a march. Sergio Rivera wrote an open letter to him.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/643-roger-gonzalez-30-anos-obteniendo-silencios-por-respuestas>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ni-olvido-ni-perdon-a-30-anos-de-la-desaparicion-de-roger-gonzales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/19/a-30-anos-de-su-desaparicion-escriben-carta-a-roger-gonzales/>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4356-sur-hondure%C3%B1o-entre-destrozos-y-lucha-ciudadana>

21/04/18

LGBT; HRDs - UNAH, Shelter Cities; Journalists; MACCIH; Corruption - Judicial Power; Electoral Reforms; Repression; Public Health; IMF; Religion; Education; Mayors; and Nine Million Hondurans

El Tiempo reports that a homosexual man was murdered in San Pedro Sula.

<https://tiempo.hn/hallan-el-cadaver-de-un-homosexual-en-san-pedro-sula/>

The trial against the three police officials held responsible for the attack against HRDs and students last September continued yesterday.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2104-videos-ratifican-las-torturas-que-altos-oficiales-de-policia-aplicaron-a-defensores-de-ddhn-y-estudiantes>

COFADEH's Bertha Oliva participated in a forum on the protection of human rights defenders in the region. One approach are the so-called Shelter Cities promoted by the Dutch government and one of which is in Costa Rica.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coordinadora-de-cofadeh-participo-en-foro-sobre-proteccion-de-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-en-la-region/>

The Honduran journalist Wendy Funes won the Freedom of Expression Journalism Award 2018 from Index on Censorship.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2103-periodista-wendy-funes-ganadora-de-premio-libertad-de-expresion-2018-de-index-on-censorship>

<https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2018/04/indexawards2018-index-announces-2018-freedom-expression-awards-winners/>

Two former MACCIH employees, Julio Arbizu and Daniel Urrutia, denounced in an interview with CNN the existence of an impunity pact between JOH and OAS' Secretary General Luis Almagro.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/20/exfuncionarios-de-la-maccih-denuncian-supuesto-pacto-de-impunidad-entre-almagro-y-hernandez/>

<https://edition.cnn.com/videos/spanish/2018/04/20/maccih-oea-luis-almagro-corrupcion-juan-orlando-denuncia-julio-arbizu-daniel-urrutia-intvw-aristegui.cnn>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-la-maccih-tuvimos-que-luchar-con-el-90-de-la-corrupcion-de-la-misma-oea-exjuez-urrutia.html>

About a week ago, the MP presented arrest warrants against the former members of the defunct Judiciary Council. All in all, they are accused more than 600 acts of corruption. Its president, who is also the former president of the Supreme Court, Jorge Rivera Avilés, is accused of 131 cases of abuse of authority and 60 cases of embezzlement of public funds.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2801-191-delitos-enfrenta-expresidente-de-poder-judicial-hondureno>

Radio Progreso criticizes that the organizing committee of the dialogue prioritizes electoral reforms over the human rights violations.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4369-junta-de-convocantes-priorizan-reformas-electorales-en-mesa-de-di%C3%A1logo>

In the meantime, the repression continues. C-Libre lists two new repressed public protests, one on April 18 in Marcovia, the other on April 19 in Tegucigalpa.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/855-continua-represion-hacia-protestas-en-honduras>

Two days after the Constitutional Chamber ruled that the University Hospital is not allowed to charge for medical services (see also yesterday), it continues to do so.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/20/hospital-escuela-sigue-cobrando-a-pacientes-a-pesar-de-prohibicion-judicial/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/20/direccion-del-hospital-escuela-justifica-cobro-a-pacientes-por-servicios-que-reciben/>

FOSDEH wrote an open letter to IMF's director Christine Lagarde. They

denounce that the Honduran governments failed to make good use of the almost \$21 billion (from 2000-2018) for the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/20/fosdeh-lamenta-en-carta-al-fmi-que-honduras-dilapido-504-mil-millones-para-reducir-pobreza/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/20/la-carta/>

Radio Progreso contemplates the role of religion and especially the Catholic and Evangelical churches in Honduras and how the importance seems to shift from the former to the latter.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4364-sondeo-sociedad-y-religi%C3%B3n-20-abril-2018>

Public school director Roberto Zelaya denounces that he was suspended for political reasons. In March he temporarily had to close the school to be fumigated against mosquitoes. The Education Secretariat claims he closed the school, because he wanted to participate in the primaries for Libre.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/20/suspenden-por-tres-meses-a-director-de-colegio-capitalino-denuncia-persecucion-politica-por-ser-libre/>

The former mayor of Sulaco, Yoro was found guilty of illicit association. He was also accused of three murders, but the judge decided that there was not enough proof.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/20/por-el-delito-de-asociacion-ilicita-declaran-culpable-a-exalcalde-de-sulaco-yoro/>

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<http://www.proceso.hn/salud-y-sociedad/5-salud-y-sociedad/honduras-supera-los-nueve-millones-de-habitantes.html>

22/04/18

Militarization; Political Prisoners; Sexual Violence; MACCIH; Corruption; ZEDes; Electoral Fraud; Political Opposition; and Returning to the Constitutional Order

A very worrisome statement was made by the coup general Romeo Vásquez

Velásquez. He spoke out in favor of a returned to forced military service...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/21/romeo-vasquez-es-partidario-de-volver-al-servicio-militar-oligatorio/>

<https://tiempo.hn/romeo-vasquez-sobre-servicio-militar/>

COFADEH dedicates its weekly editorial to the political prisoners in Honduras with a special focus on Edwin Robelo Espinal and Raúl Álvarez, two life-long activists and Edwin is even supposed to benefit from special protective measures granted by the IACHR.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-prisioneros-y-perseguidos-politicos/>

ContaCorriente reports on sexual violence against women in Honduras with a focus on a recent case at the UNAH and how its authorities (mis-)handled it.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/04/20/peligro-inminente/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/04/20/universitarias-entre-cifras-y-discursos/>

The Constitutional Chamber will announced this coming week if the agreement on which the MACCIH was formed was constitutional. Wilfredo Méndez, director of CIPRODEH, told Criterio about a recent encounter with Julio Arbizu, the former MACCIH employee who together with Daniel Urrutia denounced an impunity pact between JOH and Luis Almargo. Méndez finds their statement credible.

<https://tiempo.hn/esta-semana-desde-la-csj-se-conocera-si-sigue-o-no-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/21/en-peru-te-amenazan-pero-en-honduras-te-matan-julio-arbizu-video/>

The TV channel HCH claims that two reelected congresswo/men and a former state official from the National Party will be arrested the coming week for corruption.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2803-honduras-tres-figuras-de-gobierno-seran-encarceladas-la-proxima-semana>

OFRANEH reports on the most recent developments regarding the ZEDEs. JOH mentioned them at the recent OAS summit in Lima, Peru, praising them as "protected employment zones".

El Libertador denounces a recent US State Department report which ratified the JOH regime and white-washed the recent electoral fraud.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2802-ee-uu-ratifica-imposicion-de-joh-en-presidencia-de-honduras>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1171055-410/los-votantes-eligieron-juan-orlando-hernandez-informe-derechos-humanos>

The planned meeting between Manuel Zelaya and Salvador Nasralla did not take place. In a press conference, Zelaya said that the Opposition Alliance will continue and that he would like to have Nasralla being part of it.

Nevertheless, the differences between the two seem to persist.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/21/exigen-a-nasralla-que-rectifique-conducta-dubitativa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-la-alianza-continua-porque-es-de-partidos-politicos-y-no-de-personas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/21/se-agudizan-diferencias-entre-mel-zelaya-y-salvador-nasralla/>

A group of Honduran academics published a call to the return to the constitutional order and freedom. They find Honduras to have fallen from a "managed democracy" (before the coup d'état) to an "authoritarian democracy" and finally into a dictatorship with the electoral coup.

See Attachment

23/04/18

Violence - Youth; Tasa de Seguridad; Dialogue; Political Opposition; and Living with Hope

Radio HRN reports on an increase in the violence against the young in

Honduras. Based on findings by Casa Alianza, they report that every 24 hours, two Hondurans under 23 are murdered. The regime, meanwhile, reacts overwhelmingly with force instead of prevention. Only 5% of the funding coming from the tasa de seguridad is being used for violence prevention.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/04/22/recrudece-la-cifra-de-jovenes-asesinados-en-honduras/>

The aforementioned tasa de seguridad was just prolonged "indefinitely" according to the presidential secretary Ebal Díaz.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1171380-466/indefinida-queda-vigencia-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad-en-honduras>

El Pulso published the results of a survey by Neuro Marketing on the public's perception on the dialogue and its (non-)participants.

<http://elpulso.hn/percepcion-del-dialogo-nacional-y-sus-actores-pulso-instantaneo-abril-2018/>

Salvador Nasralla reiterated yesterday that he continues to consider himself as part of the Opposition Alliance.

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez explains that the different views held by the political parties which are part of the Opposition Alliance go back to different ideological standings. She speaks of the need for a joint political identity.

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-sigo-en-alianza/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/posiciones-ideologicas-de-mel-y-nasralla-son-la-causa-de-las-discrepancias-en-la-alianza-segun-doris-gutierrez.html>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4370-vivir-con-esperanza-21-abril-2018>

24/04/18

Berta - Agua Zarca; Repression; Bajo Aguán; MACCIH; Political Opposition; Dialogue; Transparency - USAID; MP - Election; Electric Energy; Organized Crime; Forest Fires; Public Health; Education; CONADEH; and a New Identity...Card

A court in Siguatepeque declared the former mayor Martiniano Domínguez

innocent. He was accused of having illegally granted the permission to build Agua Zarca. COPINH denounces this ruling highlighting that the court allowed a questionable town hall meeting in 2013 as proof that the project was allowed to go forward. There are many problems with this argument, the most obvious one: the permission was already granted in 2011...

<https://copinh.org/2018/04/copinh-informa-martiniano-dominguez-declarado-inocente/>

Radio Progreso portrays Luis Melara, a 26-year old from El Progreso who protested against the electoral fraud and had a tear gas bomb explode in front of his face on November 30, 2017. He was not given adequate medical care and now, with the help of his father and other supporters, he was able to go to Spain in the hope to save his eyesight.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/~rprog/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4372-una-bomba-lacrimogena-arrebat-su-ojo-no-sus-sueños>

Three campesino leaders belonging to MUCA were released after six days in prison. The Agrarian Platform denounced their arrest on flimsy grounds as a further attempt to criminalize and intimidate the movement.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/04/honduras-lideres-campesinos-del-muca.html>

ConfidencialHN raises another possible problem regarding Luis Almargo's dealings with the MACCIH. Apparently money for the MACCIH has been used to pay, in dollars, public prosecutors at the Special Unit against

Corruption and Impunity (UFECIC) creating a two-tier system of prosecutors.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/23/los-dolares-de-la-corrupcion-oea-pagaria-fiscales-para-combatir-la-impunidad-en-honduras/>

The back and forth inside the Opposition Alliance continues. ContraCorriente spoke with a young Libre leader about his fear that this "political show" turns attention away from the more pertinent questions such as the situation of the political prisoners and the calls for justice for the victims of state violence.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/04/22/los-muertos-y-presos-quedan-ignorados-ante-show-politico-de-la-alianza-segun-militante-de-libre/>

The UN representative Igor Galafulic suspended, temporarily, the dialogue. He told the press that he hoped the political opposition would return to the table and the dialogue could continue.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/23/ante-ausencia-de-la-oposicion-naciones-unidas-suspende-temporalmente-dialogo-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/garafulic-dice-dialogo-esta-suspendido-y-llama-a-oposicion-a-acercarse-para-solucionar-problemas.html>

USAID is about to sign two Memorandums of Understanding with the IAIP and the TSC to improve transparency, accountability and access to public information in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/23/ee-uu-firmara-acuerdos-con-el-iaip-y-tsc-para-mejorar-la-transparencia-y-acceso-a-la-informacion/>

Hugo Noé Pino, the former president of the Honduran Central Bank and political analyst, denounces that the application process for the Attorney General is rigged which helps to explain why up until now only one person applied. Edmundo Orellana Mercado, the first Attorney General of Honduras, agrees. Tomorrow, the Alliance for Peace and Justice will hold a forum with national and international experts on the role of the Attorney General and their needed profile.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/23/proceso-de-escogencia-del-fiscal-general-es-manipulado-por-eso-nadie-se-postula/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/23/abogados-no-se-postulan-para-cargo-de-fiscal-general-porque-no-hay-confianza-en-la-junta-proponente/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/23/expertos-internacionales-debatiran-sobre-la-importancia-de-la-eleccion-de-un-nuevo-fiscal-general-en-honduras/>

Back in 2015, two companies applied to take over the newly privatized part of the Honduran electric energy system, the Canadian state company Manitoba Hydro International and the Energy Honduras Consortium (EEH) funded by at least 51% Colombian money. Later on, Manitoba withdrew its offer and EEH got the contract. Manitoba, meanwhile, was awarded a project to supervise the promised goals by EEH. El Pulso now raises some question regarding Manitoba's work.

<http://elpulso.hn/monitoba-hydro-el-historial-dudoso-de-la-empresa-que-cerfica-los-numeros-maquillados-de-eeh/>

The MP held a conference yesterday on the fight against gangs and organized crime. The US chargé d'affaires, Heide Fulton, also took part.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/23/a-traves-de-conferencias-buscan-prevenir-el-crimen-en-el-triangulo-norte-centroamericano/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-tiene-el-interes-de-erradicar-las-maras-y-pandillas-dice-embajadora-fulton.html>

More than 48% of Honduras' land is covered by forests. According to Radio Progreso, the forest area is under constant pressure by yearly wildfires and failing government responses.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/~rprog/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4374-incendios-forestales-y-falta-de-pol%C3%ADticas-gubernamentales-acaban-con-los-bosques-en-honduras>

According to UNAH's dean Francisco Herrera, the University Hospital will forgo 30 million Lempiras per year due to the Supreme Court's ruling that they are not allowed to charge for medical services.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/04/23/el-heu-dejara-de-percibir-30-millones-de-lempiras-al-ano-por-suspension-de-cobros-por-servicios/>

Radio HRN reports that there are currently 28'000 unemployed teachers in Honduras.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/04/23/existen-unos-28-mil-docentes-desempleados-a-nivel-nacional/>

CONADEH presented its yearly report to Congress.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/ombudsman-entrega-al-congreso-informe-sobre-ddhh-en-honduras-2017.html>

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<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/23/joh-pide-al-parlamento-implementar-un-nuevo-sistema-de-identificacion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/23/hernandez-pone-la-emision-de-nueva-tarjeta-de-identidad-en-la-agenda-del-supuesto-dialogo/>

25/04/18

HRDs - National Police; Berta - Agua Zarca; Journalists; Militarization; MP - Elections; Repression - Impunity; MACCIH; Corruption - Lobo, CNA; ADEPZA; CONADEH; Labor Rights; Public Health; ID Card; TPS; Israel; and the Story of Lena and Juan

The M4 Movement denounces attacks against human rights defenders of two

of its member organization. Celso Guillén, community leader in Guadalupe, Colón and member of OFRANEH was detained by the police as part of a criminalization campaign against him. Already last year he had been detained twice in less than 48 hours. At the same time, Ángela Murillo, member of MADJ, has been threatened and fears having to leave her her community.

<http://movimientom4.org/2018/04/alerta-honduras-defensores-comunitarios-de-ofraneh-y-madj-criminalizados/>

Pasos de Animal Grande wonders who is paying the bill for the impressive defense team of the three police officials accused of being responsible of the attack against human rights defenders and students on September 8, 2017.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2105-quien-paga-las-cuentas-tres-abogados-permanentes-y-posiblemente-dos-mas-incorporados-para-defender-a-altos-mandos-policiales-torturadores>

COPINH published a press release reacting to the absolution of the former mayor of Intibucá, Martiniano Domínguez Meza. He was accused of illegally granting the permit to build Agua Zarca, but the court decided on flimsy ground to declare him innocent (see also yesterday). COPINH presents this as further proof of the structural impunity in Honduras which especially affects indigenous peoples.

<https://copinh.org/2018/04/el-copinh-ante-la-impunidad-de-martiniano-dominguez-meza/>

According to CONADEH, 15 Honduran journalists suffered forceful displacements in 2017.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/04/24/15-comunicadores-salieron-de-honduras-en-2017-ante-peligro-por-sus-coberturas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/alrededor-de-15-comunicadores-sociales-victimas-de-desplazamiento-forzado-en-honduras.html>

The Honduran Patriotic Alliance (APH) continues to push for the reintegration of a mandatory military service. They are about to present a bill to Congress.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/alianza-patriotica-propondra-en-el-cn-retornar-al-servicio-militar-obligatorio-vocacional.html>

The Coalition against Impunity will hold a public forum this morning at 8:30am in Tegucigalpa on the election of the Attorney General and the struggle against corruption and impunity in Honduras.

<https://joaquinmejiaivera.blogspot.co.uk/2018/04/foro-eleccion-del-fiscal-general-y-la.html>

Radio Progreso asks what Attorney General Oscar Chinchilla is waiting for to finally start prosecuting those responsible for the post-electoral assassinations and violence. To support him in the investigation, they present three reasons why the leadership of the military and police is directly responsible for the human rights violations.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4375-%C2%BFqu%C3%A9-est%C3%A1-esperando-se%C3%B1or-fiscal-general-%C3%B3scar-chinchilla?-24-abril-2018>

The MP announced in a press release that it won't comment on the constitutional challenge against the MACCIH. The former head of the MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor, claims that they did not pay an extra salary to members of the UFECIC. Some media outlets reported this yesterday (see yesterday's news roundup).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/24/ministerio-publico-no-opinara-sobre-recurso-contras-el-convenio-de-la-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-se-abstiene-de-opinar-sobre-recurso-contrala-creacion-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/24/jimenez-mayor-aclara-que-no-hay-salario-extra-para-fiscales-de-ufecic/>

<https://tiempo.hn/juan-jimenez-mayor-es-falso-lo-de-los-bonos-cuiden-a-la-ufecic/>

After his wife, another close person to former president Pepe Lobo is being investigated for corruption; the wood magnate Guillermo Noriega from San Pedro Sula.

<http://elpulso.hn/guillermo-noriega-magnate-de-la-madera-y-amigo-intimo-de-pepe-lobo-es-investigado-por-la-fiscalia/>

Gabriella Castellanos, director of the CNA, announced yesterday that they are following various leads regarding corruption at the Health Secretariat.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/24/jubilo-en-el-cna-aseguran-que-hay-lineas-de-investigacion-por-corrupcion-en-salud/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-insiste-en-cinco-grandes-redes-de-corrupcion-en-salud-integrada-por-700-personas.html>

ConexiHon takes the recent anniversary of the human rights organization ADEPZA as an opportunity to write about the human rights situation on and around the peninsula Zacate Grande.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/646-adepza-celebra-su-18-aniversario-entre-el-encierro-judicial-y-asedio-militar>

CONADEH's newest yearly report is now accessible online.

<http://app.conadeh.hn/descargas/INFORME%20ANUAL%20COMPLETO%202017.pdf>

The Labor Court of the Judicial System ordered the reintegration of 380 employees at the ENEE.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/24/ordenan-reintegrar-380-empleados-en-la-empresa-publica-de-electricidad/>

The labor union at the IHSS, Sitraihss, announced a protest for today. They denounce a new bill pushing for the privatization of public health services. Employees at the Mario Mendoza hospital continue their strike demanding that the hospital directorate will be replaced accusing them of abuse of authority. Lastly, the Citizens Convergence will meet with the MP to denounce that the University Hospital still charges for their services even though the court declared this unconstitutional.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/24/sindicato-del-seguro-social-protestara-manana-por-decreto-que-privatiza-los-servicios/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/24/por-incumplimiento-del-gobierno-sigue-el-paro-en-hospital-mario-mendoza/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/24/hospital-escuela-sigue-haciendo-cobros-a-pacientes-pese-a-sentencia-de-la-corte-que-lo-prohibe/>

<https://tiempo.hn/heu-sigue-realizando-cobros-indiscriminados-a-pacientes-a-pesar-de-fallo-de-la-csj/>

According to the member of the National Party, Fernando Anduray, the new identity card announced by JOH may cost more than \$40 million (see also yesterday).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/24/mas-de-40-millones-de-dolares-podria-costar-nueva-identidad-a-hondurenos/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1172106-466/honduras-tiene-la-identidad-m%C3%A1s-anticuada-de-toda-centroam%C3%A9rica>

Some 60'000 Hondurans await a decision in the US regarding their Temporary Protection Status (TPS).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/24/60-mil-hondurenos-a-la-espera-de-la-ampliacion-del-tps/>

JOH met with Israel's Tourism Minister, Yariv Levin.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/04/24/honduras-e-israel-trabajaran-juntos-en-turismo-agricultura-y-educacion/>

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<http://elpulso.hn/lena-gutierrez-y-juan-barahona-llegan-a-un-acuerdo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/24/juan-barahona-y-lena-gutierrez-concilian/>

26/04/18

HRDs - MP; Journalists; MACCIH; Corruption - de Lobo, Cardinal Rodríguez, CNA; MP - Election; Transparency; Migration - TPS; Education - US; and the Rebellion of Weariness

CEJIL and COFADEH welcome the decision by Costa Rica to officially

recognize Eduardo Urbina as a refugee. Eduardo, a Honduran student, had to flee Honduras after being criminalized and persecuted by the Honduran state during the post-electoral crisis.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/costa-rica-reconoce-como-refugiado-a-joven-hondureno-criminalizado/>

Human rights defenders denounce the lack of priority given by the human rights office at the MP for the Protection Mechanism for HRDs.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2106-segun-organizaciones-fiscalia-de-derechos-humanos-el-gran-ausente-en-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion>

The Honduran journalist Dina Meza was nominated by Fortune as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders.

<http://fortune.com/longform/worlds-greatest-leaders-2018/#dina>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/04/25/periodista-hondurena-entre-los-50-mejores-lideres-del-mundo/>

Honduras dropped one position in the Press Freedom Ranking of Reporters without Borders, from 140 to 141 out of 180 countries.

Mauricio Ortega, director-owner of Noti Omia and correspondent for Radio HRN and Sinprodoh TV, denounces receiving death threats on Facebook. The journalist Carlos Roberto Flores suffered attacks and obstruction of work by the Honduran police. Yesterday morning, he reported on an accident fully identified as a reporter when a police agent told him to stop threatening to take his camera.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2107-vergonzoso-lugar-para-honduras-en-clasificacion-mundial-de-libertad-de-prensa-2018-de-rsf>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/amenazas/857-periodista-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte-a-traves-de-mensaje-de-facebook>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/impedimento-informativo/858-policia-nacional-obstruye-labor-informativa-de-periodista>

Radio Progreso reports on the uncertain future of the MACCIH summarizing some of the debates of the last days. Radio Progreso and the political analysts they interview all agree that the campaign to get rid of the MACCIH continues at full-throttle.

The Liberal congressman Mauricio Villeda believes that a failure of the MACCIH in Honduras would mean a failure of the Inter-American system. The donor countries, meanwhile, demanded an audit of their funds which went to the MACCIH.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4378-futuro-incierto-tiene-misi%C3%B3n-contra-la-corrupci%C3%B3n-e-impunidad-en-honduras>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/25/si-la-maccih-fracasa-el-sistema-interamericano-tambien-mauricio-villeda/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/donantes-pedir-an-auditoria-a-oea-por-uso-de-fondos-de-la-maccih.html>

The Constitutional Chamber denied a petition by Rosa Elena de Lobo's lawyer asking for access to copies of the investigation against her by the MP's anti-corruption body, UFECIC.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2806-niegan-modificacion-de-datos-del-juicio-a-exprimera-dama-hondurena-2>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/inadmisible-recurso-de-habeas-data-interpuesto-a-favor-de-exprimera-dama-rosa-elena-bonilla.html>

ConfidencialHN reports on the newest developments around the corruption allegations against the Honduran cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/25/oscar-rodriguez-un-cardenal-mentiroso-e-hipocrita-asi-lo-desnuda-la-viuda-de-valladares/>

According to the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), every 49 out of 100 Lempiras spent in the health sector is being siphoned off due to corruption.

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-salud-desviados-por-los-corruptos/>

The Coalition against Impunity held a conference yesterday on the election of the Attorney General. They demand a public debate about the election and denounce that the nominating committee has been formed without accountability and transparency.

Defensores en Línea publishes the intervention made by COFADEH's general coordinator, Bertha Oliva.

The political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado believes that the Alliance for Peace and Justice (APJ) is working towards the reelection of Óscar Chinchilla supporting the agenda of the JOH regime.

According to human rights scholar Joaquín Mejía Rivera, international standards don't recommend the reelection of Attorney Generals.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/25/coalicion-contr-la-impunidad-demanda-un-debate-sobre-la-eleccion-del-nuevo-fiscal/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2108-eleccion-de-fiscal-general-y-adjunto-debe-incluir-personas-idoneas-para-combatir-la-impunidad>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/eleccion-del-fiscal-general-retos-y-desafios/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/25/la-apj-esta-sintonizada-en-el-proyecto-del-ejecutivo-para-la-continuidad-del-fiscal-oscar-chinchilla-raul-pineda-alvarado/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/25/estandares-internacionales-senalan-que-no-debe-haber-reeleccion-del-fiscal-general/>

The Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) presented its annual report yesterday.

<https://tiempo.hn/acceso-a-la-informacion-publica-la-mitad-de-instituciones-del-estado/>

The Honduran population in Spain increased by 27.7% last year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-27-7-aumento-poblacion-de-hondurenos-en-espana-en-2017.html>

24 US Democratic Senators demanded from the Trump administration the prolongation of TPS for Hondurans.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/senadores-democratas-piden-al-gobierno-trump-ampliar-proteccion-a-hondurenos.html>

USAID granted 69 million for two education programs in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-dara-69-millones-de-dolares-a-honduras-para-educacion-de-700-mil-ninos.html>

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<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/25/46366/>

27/04/18

Political Prisoners; Journalists; Bajo Aguán; MACCIH; Corruption - Congress, CNA, RNP; MP - Elections; Drug Trafficking - Liberal Party; PAC; Transport Sector - Extortion; Electoral Reforms; Penitentiary System; Extradition; Economy; Forensic Medicine; Congress; and a Two-Faced Model

Glenda Ayala, commissioner at the National Committee against Torture,

Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment (MNP-CONAPREV), denounces a series of human rights violations against inmates. Pasos de Animal Grande asked her about the situation of the political prisoners and she stated that their conditions are "depressing and detrimental to human health".

One political prisoner, Wilfredo Cáceres Sagastume de Pimienta, was brought to the hospital as an emergency due to an inflamed artery. Since his imprisonment, he has lost 37 pounds.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2109-informe-del-mnp-conaprev-revela-que-presos-politicos-en-honduras-son-torturados-en-las-carceles>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/04/honduras-presos-politico-de-pimienta-es.html>

Already for the fourth time this year, the journalist Johana Aracely Contreras was intimidated by state security forces. Yesterday, she covered a protest in Choluteca, when she was attacked by a police agent who tried to hit her.

While the journalists continue to do their important work under more and more risk, its corporate leadership at the Journalists Association Honduras (CPH) once more were ranked last by the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP).

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/impedimento-informativo/859-cuarta-agresion-por-parte-de-policias-y-militares-contra-periodista-durante-el-presente-ano>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/25/aplazan-por-tercera-vez-consecutiva-a-directivos-de-periodistas-por-ocultar-informacion/>

Cesar Erazo, a Honduran national accused of murder in the Bajo Aguán conflict, was arrested in the US. The Agrarian Platform denounces that a campaign on local media uses the arrest to denigrate the campesino movement even though Erazo never was part of it. According to the Agrarian Platform, it is rather the ineffectiveness of the Honduran authorities fueled by lack of political will that leads to impunity and the ongoing attacks against the campesino movement.

<https://es-la.facebook.com/PlataformaAgrariaHn/posts/1786647068059949>

According to the former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana, the MP violates the law by not commenting on the legal fate of the MACCIH. It has a legal obligation to present its opinion of the agreement on which the MACCIH is based is constitutional or not.

EU ambassador to Honduras, Alessandro Palmero, meanwhile, reaffirmed the EU's support for the MACCIH and demanded.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/26/cuestionan-silencio-del-ministerio-publico-sobre-futuro-legal-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/26/mp-esta-violando-la-ley-al-no-pronunciarse-sobre-inconstitucionalidad-o-no-de-la-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/union-europea-reafirma-apoyo-y-pide-dejar-trabajar-a-la-maccih/>

The TSC announced that they are currently still investigating 761 congresswomen for supposed acts of corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/26/reafirman-investigacion-a-parlamentarios-por-presunta-corrupcion/>

There seem to be some internal misgivings at the CNA regarding the investigation into the Bar Association Honduras (CAH).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/26/coordinador-de-cna-ignora-del-porque-gabriela-y-odir-tardaron-en-investigarlo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/26/desde-el-cna-emprenden-venganza-contrapresidente-de-los-abogados/>

InSight Crime takes up reports on possible acts of corruption at the National Registry of Persons (RNP). "A network of identity traffickers in Honduras may have sold forged documents to hundreds of immigrants from other continents, taking advantage of the fact that Latin America is increasingly being used as a route for trafficking people to the United States."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/honduras-criminals-feed-migrants-growing-demand-forged-documents/>

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras published a document on the human rights standards that should apply to the election of the Attorney General and their Deputy.

Almost no one believes that they are applied in Honduras. ContraCorriente explains why: the MP is too important for the powerful to guarantee their continued impunity.

Three candidates have presented their application so far.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cHlu0aS8zEDBbmTVEnRUqJFh2nFOemOd/view>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/la-onu-observara-proceso-de-seleccion-de-fiscal-general-y-adjunto-en-honduras.html>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/04/25/controlar-el-ministerio-publico-para-garantizar-inmunidad/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/26/la-eleccion-del-nuevo-fiscal-general-mas-de-los-mismo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tres-los-postulantes-por-el-cargo-de-fiscal-general/>

The MP raided four houses to investigate the possible links of the Liberal congressman Fredy Nájera to the murder of the anti-drug Czar Julián Arístides González in 2009.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/26/allanan-viviendas-para-hallar-evidencias-contraparlamentario-fredy-najera1/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/en-marcha-operacion-agalta-contrafamiliares-del-diputado-fredy-najera.html>

Marlene Alvarenga, who took away the Anti-Corruption Party (PAC) from Salvador Nasralla under suspicious circumstances, just dropped her last congressman.

<http://elpulso.hn/por-no-alinearse-marlen-alvarenga-expulsa-del-pac-a-su-unico-diputado/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2809-se-hace-lo-que-yo-digo-dijo-marlene-a-exfutbolista-hondureno-al-expulsarlo-del-pac>

El Pulso spoke with Gerardo Aguilar, a representative of the transport sector, about their ongoing suffering from extortion.

<http://elpulso.hn/transportistas-cumplen-puntualmente-con-el-pago-de-la-extorsion/>

A Nationalist and a Libre congressman think about giving the vote to 17-year olds.

Wilmer Vásquez, director of Coiproden, calls it cynical to generally exclude and criminalize the youth, but then wanting to use them for their vote.

Plan International Honduras' director Belinda Portillo doesn't think much of the idea either.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/26/sugieren-darle-valor-a-los-menores-permitiendoles-votar-desde-los-17-anos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/26/los-politicos-son-expertos-en-crear-estrategias-macabras-contr-la-sociedad-wilmer-vasquez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/26/plan-internacional-por-los-momentos-no-es-saludable-permitir-votar-a-los-menores/>

Fusina raided the prisons in Choluteca, El Porvenir and Morocelí. According to them, they will do this on a regular basis to confiscate arms and other illegal goods.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/26/honduras-realizan-operativos-en-el-penal-de-choluteca/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/realizan-minuciosas-inspecciones-en-penal-de-choluteca-el-porvenir-y-la-tolva.html>

Defensores en Línea published an article by Sandra Rodríguez and Cesario Padilla on one of the first official extradition of a Honduran to the US in April 1988 and its aftermath.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/07-de-abril-de-1988-dignidad-nacional-el-fuego-que-incendio-las-barras-y-las-estrellas/>

Ismael Zepeda, economist at FOSDEH, believes that the climate of ungovernability and the weak rule of law make Honduras only attractive for obscure investments such as the ZEDEs.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/26/honduras-solo-es-atractiva-para-inversiones-oscuras-como-las-zedes-fosdeh/>

The director of Forensic Medicine denounces that they are overburdened with work.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/25/medicos-forenses-al-borde-de-la-desesperacion-ante-tanta-carga-laboral/>

El Heraldo reports on attempts by congresswo/men to have their salaries doubled.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1172780-466/diputados-ya-ten%C3%ADan-un-acuerdo-para-duplicarse-el-salario>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4379-dos-caras-un-modelo-26-abril-2018>

28/04/18

Political Prisoners; Berta - Trial; HRDs - UN; Corruption - de Lobo, JOH; Military Police; Impunity; Labor Rights; Public Health; Penitentiary System; Extradition; Electoral Reform; and All Eyes on the Young

The political prisoner Jhony Andrés Salgado Fuentes was allowed to leave prison and await his trial in freedom.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4383-aruc3%Blando-justicia-jhony-se-defenderc3%A1-en-libertad>

Yesterday, the trial against the former SERNA vice-minister Roberto Darío Cardona continued. He is accused of abuse of authority and illegally granting the environmental license for Agua Zarca.

<https://copinh.org/2018/04/ayer-hubo-audiencia-contra-el-ex-vice-ministro-de-serna-roberto-dario-cardona-por-abuso-de-autoridad-para-el-ph-agua-zarca-des/>

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Frost, will arrive tomorrow in Honduras for a two-week visit. Frost also announced his visit in a short YouTube video.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22992&LangID=E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=genrAhJZ9W0>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/650-relator-de-onu-visitara-honduras-para-evaluar-situacion-de-defensores-y-defensoras>

An appeals court lowered the charges against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo from money laundering and embezzlement to fraud and misappropriation. As a consequence, she now can await trial in freedom. El Tiempo writes that this decision only reflects how there are different judicial systems in place in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/27/absuelven-a-ex-primera-dama-de-honduras-por-lavado-de-activos-y-se-revoa-aseguramiento-de-bienes/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2811-honduras-libran-de-los-principales-delitos-a-la-rosita>

<https://tiempo.hn/apoderado-legal-de-familia-rosenthal-pedimos-ley-como-la-aplicada-a-rosa-elena-de-lobo/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1172948-466/ex-primera-dama-de-honduras-rosa-elena-bonilla-de-lobo-podra-defenderse>

Radio Progreso highlights the discrepancies between the recent agreements made in Lima regarding the anti-corruption struggle and democracy on the one side and the Honduran reality under the JOH regime on the other side.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4380-los-silencios-del-presidente-27-abril-2018>

Two members of the Military Police were arrested together with a prison guard for boot-legging illegal goods into the "maximum security" prison El Pozo I.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/04/27/dos-militares-agente-penitenciario-caen-meter-arma-pozo-i/>

Defensores en Línea denounces the impunity in the murder case of Tomás Enrique García Castillo, who was assassinated after the May Day

mobilizations in 2016.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/httpdefensoresenlinea-comwp-adminpost-phppost6421actionedit/>

In the light of the coming May Day celebrations, Óscar Esquivel interrogates the situation of Honduras' labor movement.

<http://elpulso.hn/1mayo-pena-que-gloria/>

Criterio spoke with the legal expert Georgina Sierra who presented the successful writ of amparo against the University Hospital for charging fees for medical services.

The positive response by the Constitutional Chamber also motivated Suyapa Figueroa, the president of the Medical Association Honduras (CMH), to continue fighting for the fundamental right to health.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/27/unah-nunca-tuvo-base-legal-ni-juridica-para-cobrar-en-el-hospital-escuela-video/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/27/fallo-de-la-corte-sobre-hospital-escuela-da-lugar-para-que-no-se-cobre-en-ningun-hospital-video/>

Fusina already raided three prisons on Thursday, yesterday it was the turn of the National Penitentiary in Támara.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/27/honduras-realizan-operativo-en-la-penitenciaria-nacional-de-tamara/>

The magistrates of the Judicial Power held an emergency meeting to nominate a judge for a new extradition request by the US.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/27/convocan-de-emergencia-a-magistrados-para-revisar-nueva-solicitud-de-extradicion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/csj-convoca-a-reunion-de-emergencia-para-elegir-juez-que-conocera-casos-de-extradicion/>

The National Party presented five proposals as part of the discussions around the electoral reform.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/pn-entrega-cinco-propuestas-de-reformas-a-comision-de-ley-electoral-del-cn.html>

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<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4385-los-j%C3%B3venes-deben-construir-la-naci%C3%B3n-sino-ser%C3%A1n-los-mayores-explotados-dice-escritor-julio-escoto>

29/04/18

MADJ; (Re)Election - Fraud; Political Opposition; JOH; MP - Elections; Hydroelectricity; Demography; and Another Lost Year

Last week, the criminalizing trial against human rights defenders

protesting against the HIDROCEP project in Pajuiles continued. MADJ denounces on its Facebook page that the court allowed two men as witnesses who had violently attacked the protest camp and the general coordinator of MADJ Martín Fernández last September (see second link). Even though MADJ reported the crime, the MP did not follow up.

[https://www.facebook.com/MovAmplioHn/?hc\\_ref=ARTvPUrmSCOWQJfA-Wa0CcN3GAPe5L1A0gnRkSM1q1281G9jL654Vlvk9zyAx3E12Y](https://www.facebook.com/MovAmplioHn/?hc_ref=ARTvPUrmSCOWQJfA-Wa0CcN3GAPe5L1A0gnRkSM1q1281G9jL654Vlvk9zyAx3E12Y)

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

Jeff Ernst traveled to Belen in the Ocalapa Mountains - the community with the highest voter participation rate in last November's election, 94%. "A visit to the town, however, uncovers not only the mystery behind the rate, but also the illicit path taken by the ruling National Party to consolidate power at the municipal level and win elections."

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/04/27/the-illicit-path-taken-by-the-ruling-national-party-to-consolidate-power-and-win-elections/?lang=en>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle explains what the raison d'être of the Opposition Alliance against the Dictatorship is (spoiler: to end JOH's regime) and why a non-dogmatic reboot could be beneficial.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/28/meta-rumbo-metodo-y-no-dogma-de-la-alianza-ii/>

Agriculture Secretariat Santiago Ruiz will resign tomorrow to become a personal assessor of JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/28/renuncia-santiago-ruiz-a-la-secretaria-de-agricultura-y-ahora-sera-asesor-de-joh/>

Omar Rivera proposes prolonging the application period for the position of the Attorney General if the number of applicants stays as low as it is. The former public prosecutor Edmundo Orellana believes that the problem lies in the lack of trust generated by the selection process.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/28/omar-rivera-pide-ampliacion-de-plazo-para-postulaciones-a-fiscal-general/>

<https://tiempo.hn/edmundo-orellana-junta-proponente-del-nuevo-fiscal-general-debe-respetar-la-mejor-calificacion/>

ENEE claims that the Patuca III hydroelectric plant will be built by the end of this year.

<https://tiempo.hn/patuca-iii-funcionarios-de-la-enee-proyecto-hidroelectrico-enee/>

81% of Hondurans are younger than 45 and 43% are younger than 20.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1173276-466/38-millones-de-habitantes-tienen-entre-0-a-19-a%C3%B1os-honduras>

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<https://contracorriente.red/2018/04/27/un-ano-mas-de-lo-mismo/>

30/04/18

National Police; Mining; MP - Elections; Maras; Colombia; and the Goals of May Day

Norman Mondragón, a police official, denounces that for months he has

been harassed at work for opposing the reelection and the violence against the protesters. Last week, he was ordered to come to Tegucigalpa, where he was presented with a resignation letter. According to Mondragón, they are trying to use the purge to get rid of him. As he opposed to sign it, he was not allowed to leave the office. Only on Saturday, he was able to leave and return home.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2812-oficial-hondureno-denuncia-secuestro-y-persecucion-de-cupula-policia>

According to George Redman, director of Oxfam Honduras, the expanding mining sector could threaten up to 70% of Honduras' rivers.

<https://noalamina.org/latinoamerica/honduras/item/40309-concesiones-mineras-podrian-contaminar-casi-70-de-los-rios-hondurenos>

The former president of the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP), Doris Imelda Madrid, will present her candidature today for the position of Attorney General.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/29/abogada-doris-imelda-madrid-se-nominara-como-candidata-a-fiscal-general/>

Today a trial against 17 members of the Mara Salvatrucha will take place in Tegucigalpa. According to the MP, there is proof of collaboration with (former) politicians and members of the police.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/29/ministerio-publico-dice-tener-pruebas-que-involucran-a-miembros-de-mara-con-el-crimen1/>

El Pulso reports on the links of a Colombian business magnate with presumed paramilitary ties to the Honduran economy.

<http://elpulso.hn/quien-es-william-velez-sierra-el-magnate-colombiano-ligado-al-paramilitarismo-que-controla-la-empresa-energia-honduras/>

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<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-agenda-del-1-de-mayo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/04/28/que-debemos-reclamarle-a-joh-este-1-de-mayo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/piden-derogacion-de-varias-leyes-que-atentan-contra-la-clase-obrera.html>