

01/07/18

Corruption; MP - Election; Miskitu; Forced Displacement; Libre; Fire Arms; and Death Threats at the Morgue

The New York Times took up the most recent developments around the fight in corruption in Honduras. The title already says everything: "In a Corruption Battle in Honduras, the Elites Hit Back". The article also sheds some light on the role of the US and why it fails to put real pressure on the JOH regime: "The Honduran government knows the Trump administration cares a lot more about immigration and drug trafficking than it cares about corruption," said Charles Call, a professor at American University in Washington who leads an academic team that monitors the Honduran anticorruption commission." Criterio published the Spanish version of the article.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/01/world/americas/honduras-corruption-hernandez.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/01/en-la-batalla-de-corrupcion-en-honduras-las-elites-respondieron/>

ConexiHon prints a screenshot from a Tweet of the just reelected Attorney General Óscar Fernando Chinchilla from March 5, 2018 in which he writes "I am not looking to be reelected. (...) I am convinced that good candidates for the position of the Attorney General will appear for the National Congress to choose from." ConexiHon goes on to list further arguments why his reelection is unlawful (see also yesterday). El Tiempo spoke with various political analysts, all of them questioning the process as well.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/712-no-que-no-aspiraba-oscar-chinchilla-es-reelecto-como-fiscal-general>

<https://tiempo.hn/representantes-de-los-derechos-humanos-y-analistas-cuestionan-proceso-de-eleccion-del-mp/>

On May 19, three Miskitu men were murdered by soldiers in Warunta en Ahuás, Gracias a Dios. Jennifer Avila and Martín Cáliz traveled there to talk to the family members of the victims and shed some light on a sometimes forgotten place and its people.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/28/los-nadie-y-una-guerra-por-los-recursos/>

ContraCorriente published a photo essay on forced displacement in Honduras.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/01/desterrados-al-valle-de-las-sombras/>

Libre held a public consultation yesterday for its activists asking six questions/proposals of "national interest". Among the questions are if Hondurans want Juan Jiménez Mayor to return as the head of the MACCIH and if Honduras needs a constituent assembly. At 8pm, they published the results and the more than 15'000 participants overwhelmingly were in favor of the proposals.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/01/honduras-partido-libre-realiza-consulta-sobre-seis-temas-de-interes-nacional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/libre-realiza-consulta-popular-entre-sus-simpatizantes.html>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/07/honduras-exito-en-consulta-partidaria.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57394>

Criterio published some additional details on the report by the Central-American Network for the Construction of Peace and Human Development on the destruction of arms in the region. Already yesterday,

I linked to an article saying that Honduras failed to destroy almost half of the decommissioned fire arms between 2011 and 2016. Six soldiers were imprisoned last week for "losing" M16 rifles to drug traffickers.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/01/honduras-uno-de-los-paises-con-mas-circulacion-de-armas-sin-ningun-control/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57376>

The director of Forensic Medicine and staff at the institution filed complaints at CONADEH. They denounce receiving threats and being persecuted for their work.

<https://tiempo.hn/directora-de-medicina-forense-denuncia-conadeh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/medicina-forense-denuncia-ante-el-conadeh-amenazas-y-persecuciones-por-el-cumplimiento-de-sus-deberes.html>

02/07/18

Honduras Daily: HR Situation; FPIC; Journalists; Corruption - Congresswo/men; MP - Elections; EU; Inequality; Public Health; Military Police; National Police; Maras; Fire Arms; State Budget; and a Mexican Spring?

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published its June edition of its monthly human rights monitor. Those wishing to receive the report in a separate e-mail can subscribe using the following e-mail address:

foro_honduras_suiza@riseup.net

https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/1806_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

Avispa Midia got access to an internal ILO documents which helps to explain the turnaround on how the ILO Convention 169 on free, prior and informed consent should be interpreted. One document is the same OFRANEH published some time ago, but the additional documents help further highlights the nefarious role the ILO itself played in the elaboration of the FPIC draft bill for Honduras.

<https://avispa.org/documento-obtenido-por-avispa-devela-la-postura-de-la-oit-sobre-la-consulta-indigena/>

The second time in a week, the Honduran police detained a journalist for doing his work. Javier Edgardo Rodríguez reported on the violent arrest of various citizens when he himself was arrested and kept at a police station from 8pm on Saturday to 1am on Sunday.

The cameraman Jairo Josué Armador Romero was found dead in his home in Comayagüela. They police is looking into his death the reasons for it are so far unknown.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2194-policia-golpea-y-mete-presos-al-periodista-javier-rodriguez-en-olanchito-yoro>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/detencion-arbitraria/873-nuevamente-policia-nacional-detiene-a-periodista-durante-cobertura-informativa>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1193788-466/misteriosa-muerte-de-camar%C3%B3grafo-de-televisi%C3%B3n-en-la-zapote-centro-de-la>

ConfidencialHN published more details on the investigation by UFECIC into fake companies used by congresswo/men and their family members to steal public money.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57416>

Luis Zelaya, the president of the Liberal Party, explains his reasoning for their deal with the National Party to re-elect the Attorney General

Óscar Chinchilla. His explanation initially rather sounds like a PR campaign for the "reasonable" Liberal Party, but he then goes on to explain why they believed it was the best out of five options (see the last two e-mails for reasons why it may not have been).

In general, one can say that the National and Liberal Parties laud themselves while more neutral observers such as the Foundation for Democracy without Borders speaks of "an institutional outrage" and "evidence of lack of political will" to combat corruption and impunity (see the three links from ConfidencialHN as examples of the different views).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2898-por-que-reelegir-a-oscar-chinchilla-segun-partido-liberal>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57449>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57438>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57435>

The EU ambassador to Honduras, Alessandro Palmero met with the Human Rights Minister Karla Cueva to present their new Project in Support of Human Rights and Democracy in Honduras (ProDerechos).

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/07/02/la-union-europea-presenta-nuevo-proyecto-proderechos/>

Criterio reports on a new World Bank study, which lists Honduras as the third most unequal country in the world.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/02/honduras-entre-los-tres-paises-mas-desiguales-del-mundo/>

The Medical Association Honduras (CMH) denounces that the Health Secretariat buys cheap and bad quality medical material and drugs.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/02/medicamentos-que-adquiere-el-gobierno-son-de-muy-baja-calidad-colegio-medico-hondureno/>

A fight broke out after a soccer game in Catacamas, Olancho, but when the Military Police was called to calm down the situation, one of them "preventively" shot one of the players. Fortunately, he was only hit in the arm.

<https://tiempo.hn/militar-hiere-a-jugador-en-olancho/>

Honduras has its first director for the Bureau of Disciplinary Police Affairs (Didapol), Allan Edgardo Argeñal Pinto. Didapol was created as a consequence of the new Organic Law of the National Police and it substitutes the former Bureau for the Investigation and Evaluation of the Police (DIECP).

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57470>

<https://tiempo.hn/juramentan-al-abogado-allan-edgardo-argenal-pinto-como-rector-de-la-didapol/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/nuevo-director-de-la-didadpol-continuara-con-la-depuracion-policial-asegura-omar-rivera.html>

About a month ago, JOH announced to create a new special force against Maras and Pandillas. Yesterday, he seemed to have backtracked a bit by announcing that the already existing National Anti-Corruption Force (FNA) will be upgraded to a Anti-Mara and Pandilla Unit.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57477>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/07/02/anuncian-fna-se-convertira-unidad-maras-pandillas/>

77% of all murders in Honduras are conducted using fire arms.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57484>

According to the Secretary of Finance, Rocío Tábora, the state budget will increase by seven billion Lempiras for 2019.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57436>

Politically, not in soccer.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/01/tata-andres-parabola-del-triunfo-de-lopez-obrador/>

03/07/18

Honduras Daily: LGBT; HRDs; MP - HRDs, Elections; Corruption - National Party; MACCIH; US; Labor Rights; Penitentiary System; National Police; Fiscal Policy; and No Happy Childhood

The LGBT organization Arcoiris denounces that the MP failed to properly investigate two robbery attempts against the organization.

Melissa Cardoza published a personal reflection of the fights fought by the LGBT community in Honduras and her role or lack of role in it.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2195-negligencia-del-estado-de-honduras-para-investigar-intentos-de-saqueo-en-la-organizacion-arcoiris>

<http://wp.radioprogressohn.net/orgullo-critico/>

Two HRDs of the Environmental Committee of the Siria Valley filed complaints at the MP against threats received by the businessman Herman Ritchel.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensores-de-valle-de-siria-de-nuevo-son-amenazados-por-defender-el-ambiente-y-su-territorio/>

COFADEH's general coordinator Berta Oliva reminds us that the JOH regime announced four months ago in Geneva at the UN that they had formed a Special Public Prosecutor Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators (FPRODDHH). Nevertheless, when seeking out FPRODDHH, COFADEH was told that it is not functioning.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-cuatro-meses-de-su-creacion-feproddhh-sigue-sin-atender-denuncias/>

For some newer observers of the situation in Honduras, the recent re-election of the Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla may have shown some procedural weaknesses, but they still might think it is for the greater good. Radio Progreso reminds us that this is already the second time he has been elected illegally. Back in 2012, the then Attorney General and his deputy resigned and instead of nominating a replacement for them until the end of their term in March 2014, JOH as president of Congress and the Lobo administration illegally and unconstitutionally held election for a new Attorney General for a five years term - fearing the power may shift in the November 2013 election with Libre's appearance. Even worse, out of the 37 candidates, 13 were selected for their qualifications and Chinchilla wasn't one of them. But as JOH wanted him, more rules got broken to have him elected.

The Coalition against Impunity, bringing together some 50 human rights organizations, denounced in a press release the once more illegal process bringing about the re-election of Chinchilla. For them, the re-election "continues demonstrating that the factual powers entrenched in Honduras with international interests, seek to shamelessly share among themselves public positions to guarantee impunity and hinder the fight against corruption".

InSight Crime wonders if the re-election is a mere "Pyrrhic Victory for the Status Quo?".

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/historico-dos-veces-elegido-ilegalmente-fiscal-general/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/717-sellada-de-ilegalidad-reeleccion-de-chinchilla-denuncia-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2196-congreso-nacional-no-evaluo-a-fiscal-general-y-eso-violenta-la-constitucion-de-la-republica-segun-sectores-de-ddhh>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-attorney-general-reelection-pyrrhic-victory-status-quo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/03/reeleccion-del-fiscal-general-de-honduras-una-victoria-pirrica-para-el-status-quo/>

El Tiempo reports of a new corruption case in which National Party activists stole 89 million Lempiras from the Workers Bank to finance JOH's election campaign.

<https://tiempo.hn/denuncian-que-activistas-del-pn-drenaron-mas-de-89-millones-de-lempiras-del-banco-de-los-trabajadores/>

ConfidencialHN presents the two newest employees of the MACCIH, the former Deputy Attorney General from El Salvador, Aquiles Roberto Parada Vizcarra, and the former Colombian judge Marían Rincón Jaramillo.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57512>

Some news outlets have reported it already a month ago, now it seems to be confirmed. Francisco Palmieri will become the new US ambassador to Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/francisco-palmieri-nuevo-embajador-de-eeuu/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/03/ee-uu-designa-a-francisco-luis-palmieri-como-embajador-en-honduras/>

Criterio reports on the ghastly work conditions in Honduras' maquileras and how they leave their workers sick and unable to continue to work after 40.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/03/miles-de-obreras-enfermas-la-herencia-de-la-maquila-a-honduras/>

Two inmates escaped from the Támara prison yesterday afternoon.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57568>

<https://tiempo.hn/se-fugan-dos-privados-de-libertad-del-centro-penal-de-tamara/>

The newly appointed head of Didapol, Allan Argeñal, told media outlets that they would continue with the purge of the National Police Force. Omar Rivera, one of the three members of the purging committee, had his house broken into yesterday night.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57550>

<https://tiempo.hn/didadpol-hoy-si-se-castigaran-las-faltas-graves-y-muy-graves-cometidas-por-policias/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1194252-466/ingresan-a-robar-a-casa-de-omar-rivera-miembro-de-la-comisi%C3%B3n>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/depurador-omar-rivera-denuncia-robo-de-informacion-valiosa-en-atraco-a-su-vivienda.html>

ConfidencialHN warns of a steep increase in the vehicle tax going to Nationalist mayoralty of the Central District.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57531>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/03/honduras-entre-los-peores-paises-del-mundo-para-los-ninos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57560>

04/07/18

Honduras Daily: Campesinxs; Journalists; Hydroelectricity; MADJ; Women's Rights; Femicide; MP - Elections; US; Public Health - Privatization; and Argentina's Military Past in Honduras

José Ramón, the education secretary at the National Executive Committee of the National Honduran Campesinxs Association (ANACH), denounces that the Empresa Campesina Nuevos Horizontes in Quimistán, Santa Bárbara is being violently evicted from landowners from the fields they have worked on more than 18 years.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/perdidas-millonarias-causaria-desalojo-a-campesinos-en-quimistan-santa-barbara/>

Pasos de Animal Grande continues to cover the case of journalist Javier Edgardo Rodríguez who was detained and beaten by the police last Saturday in Olanchito, Yoro (see also yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2199-conadeh-sin-accionar-aclaracion-de-la-policia-no-convence-a-periodista-edgardo-rodriguez>

MADJ wrote an open letter to the heads of the political parties in Congress expressing its great concern about the possible approbation of 24 new concessions for hydroelectric projects. They demand a publication of the bills, laws or decrees that would lead to these concessions being approved as well as the publication of the supporting documents for every one of these projects.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/07/05/MADJ-increpa-al-CN-sobre-24-posibles-nuevos-proyectos-hidroel%C3%A9ctricos>

MADJ also informs about an open letter from European organizations, parliamentarians and scholars directed at the Austrian hydro-power company Geppert Hydropower which supplies turbines to the disputed Honduran company HIDROCEP for its Los Planes project in Pajuiles near Tela, Atlántida.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/07/05/Pajuiles-Parlamento-europeo-y-austriaco-y-organizaciones-alemanas-presionan-por-la-suspensi%C3%B3n-de-trabajos-de-HIDROCEP-en-Pajuiles-Tela>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/04/parlamento-europeo-y-austriaco-y-organizaciones-alemanas-presionan-por-la-suspension-de-trabajos-de-hidrocep-en-pajuiles-tela/>

As part of a new program by CEM-H financed by Mundubat and the Basque Government a pilot project was launched in Marcala, La Paz: a collective garden bringing together 15 women leader from Marcala and which includes various workshops.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/04/mesoamericanas-de-marcala-la-paz-ponen-en-practica-proyecto-piloto-de-huerto-colectivo/>

Proceso Digital published an article highlighting the role of femicide and violence against women in forced displacement in and out of Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/salud/5-salud-y-sociedad/violencia-contra-las-mujeres-impulsa-el-desplazamiento-forzado.html>

CEJIL expresses its concerns about the lack of both transparency and legitimacy in the re-election of the Attorney General.

Radio Progreso criticizes the role of the US in it. Once more, the candidate of their choice (this time not even being a candidate) has won. Furthermore, there is no comment from them on the irregularities of the process.

As always, CIPRODEH's director Wilfredo Méndez does not mince words. Commenting on the illegal re-election of Chinchilla, he says that Honduras now "basically has a criminal at the head of the MP".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/04/eleccion-de-fiscal-general-en-honduras-presenta-graves-irregularidades-cejil/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/un-comentario-inutil-04-julio-2018/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/04/eee-uu-felicita-a-oscar-chinchilla-por-su-reeleccion-pese-a-viciado-proceso/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57584>

The US embassy held its 4th of July celebrations.

They also gave JOH a platform to thank them for having been "vital partners in the fight to improve the security in the country".

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-avanzo-en-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-pero-se-debe-seguir-combatiendola-senala-heide-fulton.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-ha-sido-un-socio-vital-en-el-mejoramiento-de-la-seguridad-presidente-hernandez.html>

Criterio reports on another dire effect of the gradual privatization of public health in Honduras. Since 2012, patients suffering from kidney failure need to seek out the private company Diálisis de Honduras S.A. de C.V. for their dialysis. Because the government has some late payments, the company threatens now to reduce its services. The Medical Association Honduras (CMH) challenges the Honduran State to take up its responsibility and not leave such vital services in the hands of private business.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/04/el-negocio-que-pone-en-riesgo-la-vida-de-los-pacientes-renales-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57647>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/193904>

05/07/18

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Miskitu; Torture; Migration; Femicide; Women's Rights; Transport Sector; Corruption - IHSS; Campesinx; Dialogue; Penitentiary System; ATIC; US; and Not Allowed to Forget

The journalist Jairo López continues to be persecuted even though he should benefit from 24/7 police protection granted by the protection mechanism. Pasos de Animal Grande rightly asks if this supposed protection is not part of the persecution and harassment from which López suffers.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2202-medidas-de-proteccion-u-hostigamiento-a-quien-le-interesa-fastidiar-al-periodista-jairo-lopez>

One of the soldiers held responsible for the murder of three Miskitu men on May 19 has to await trial in prison.

<https://tiempo.hn/tres-misquitos-en-gracias-a-dios/>

Last months, the human rights organization CPTRT published its yearly

report on torture in Honduras. ConexiHon now has some more details on its findings. The Armed Forces are highlighted as the perpetrators in 81% of all torture cases in the country and 78 out of the 95 complaints of torture CPTRT received came from inmates in high-security prisons. The report also denounces that neither the Forensic Medicine Bureau nor CONADEH were willing to share data on the use of torture with them.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/719-honduras-el-81-de-casos-de-tortura-contra-privados-de-libertad-son-perpetrados-por-militares>

ContraCorriente reports on the situation of returned Honduran migrants who find themselves in similar situation that had forced them to flee in the first case.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/04/desplazadas-y-retornadas-a-la-deseperanza/>

ConfidencialHN spoke with the director of Oxfam Honduras, George Redman, about the grave human rights violations against women and girls and how the high impunity rate generates even more violence against them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57728>

While some countries made some stride in gender parity at the head of government ministries, e.g. the new Spanish government with 65% women ministers or Costa Rica with 14 out of 25, Honduras is still lagging behind with only four women ministers out of 22.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/05/pese-a-tendencia-de-paises-en-incorporar-mujeres-en-gabinetes-honduras-sigue-a-la-zaga/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/honduras-a-la-zaga-de-paises-en-incorporar-mujeres-en-gabinetes-lamentan-feministas.html>

Tegucigalpa's cab driver reacted with the announcement of a strike to the possible increase in the vehicle tax. Starting today, they may even block all the four main entrances to the capital. Further sectors of the urban transport sector may join in.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/05/taxistas-de-tegucigalpa-anuncian-paro-general-y-cierre-de-la-ciudad/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/05/transporte-urbano-podria-sumarse-al-paro-de-los-taxistas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57720>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/taxistas-de-acuerdo-con-paralizar-labores-por-aumento-a-tasa-vehicular-municipal.html>

According to the MP, there have been 14 sentences so far in the IHSS corruption case. But there are still 40 lines of investigation and about a dozen individuals still have not yet been apprehended.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1194998-466/ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-reporta-14-condenas-por-desfalco-del-instituto-hondure%C3%B1o-de-seguridad>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/14-condenas-en-15-lineas-de-investigacion-y-40-en-construccion-por-mega fraude-al-ihss.html>

Criterio reports on the precarious situation of campesinxs seeking access to loans.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/05/campesinos-de-honduras-seguiran-sin-financiamiento-porque-estan-en-la-central-de-riesgos/>

UN representative Igor Garafulic seems to be getting desperate about the ongoing postponement of the national dialogue.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/07/05/igor-garafulic-falta-madurez-para-iniciar-el-dialogo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57744>

<https://tiempo.hn/dialogo-nacional-joh-politica/>

Proceso Digital reports on the regularly occurring prison breaks in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/constantes-fugas-ponen-en-evidencia-el-sistema-penitenciario-hondureno.html>

Given the many open questions about the murder of Sheril Hernández, a regional head of ATIC, the MP launched a special unit to investigate it.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57681>

El Pulso reproduced the speech of the US Chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton held during the 4th of July celebrations at the US embassy. With the arrival of the new US ambassador Francisco Palmieri, it will have been the last such speech of Fulton. Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle says goodbye to her and "welcomes" Palmieri.

<http://elpulso.hn/palabras-de-la-encargada-de-negocios-de-la-embajada-de-eeuu-heide-b-fulton-en-la-celebracion-del-4-de-julio-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/05/felicitando-en-su-fiesta-al-nuevo-proconsul-francisco-palmieri/>

Radio Progreso reminds us of past human rights violations and murderers which remain unpunished and whose memory we have to keep up: i) the post-electoral human rights violations of 2017; ii) the murder by soldiers of the 17-year old Isy Obed Murillo in a post-coup protest nine years ago yesterday; and iii) the massacre of July 6, 1944 during the Carías Andino dictatorship. Defensores en Línea also commemorates Isy Obed Murillo.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/memorias-y-olvidos-05-julio-2018/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nueve-anos-sin-justicia-para-isy-obed-primer-martir-del-golpe-de-estado-de-2009/>

06/07/18

Extractivism - Mining, Geothermic Energy; MP - Election; Corruption - CNA; Dialogue; ATIC; Public Transport; Remittances; Education; and the Other Wall

The former president of the Indigenous tribe Las Vegas de Tepemechín in Victoria, Yoro fears that a planned mining project in their area may lead to their disappearance. The project started in 2010 and as local resistance did not seem to stop it, 27 communities formed the Protection Committee of Environmental Health of Victoria (COPROSAVY). Nevertheless, the company aided by the Nationalist mayor continued pushing it and this May, the company arrived with their machines. A new protest successfully forced them to withdraw it again.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/concesion-minera-amenaza-con-desaparecer-a-tribu-indigena-en-victoria-yoro/>

Defensores en Línea traveled to the Siria Valley to talk with members of the Environmental Committee of the Siria Valley (CAVS) about the growing resistance against a planned geothermic project pretending to exploit the local thermic water springs.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/geotermica-activa-las-alarmas-ambientales-en-el-valle-de-siria/>

ConexiHon published a good overview article on the illegal reelection of Chinchilla based on the analysis by ERIC's Joaquín Mejía.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/720-embajada-estadounidense-fijo-linea-al-bipartidismo-para-reeleccion-de-chinchilla>

The CNA announced new lines of investigation into corruption cases involving the public health and construction sector.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/investigaciones-por-corrupcion-en-hospitales-y-obras-de-infraestructura-anuncia-cna-para-proximos-dias.html>

UN representative Igor Garafulic made some worrisome comments about the dialogue. He urged the possible participants not to limit themselves to "only" talk about electoral reforms, electoral fraud and post-electoral violence but rather about the economy and employment. This is either very naive of him or something much more problematic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57756>

The death of the regional head of ATIC and the contradictory statements by the MP cause further confusion and raise voices denouncing a possible cover-up. On Thursday, a special task force was announced to investigate it (see also yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57768>

As announced, the transport sector led by cab drivers striked in Tegucigalpa yesterday. They warned that their strike will continue if the rise in the vehicle tax is not withdrawn or reduced. The man having caused the strike with the announcement of increasing the vehicle tax, Tegucigalpa's Nationalist mayor Nasry Asfura, was cited by Congress to explain his reasoning. The transport sector formed a commission to hold a dialogue with him. After some initial talks, the striker announced to suspend their action until new talks next Tuesdays.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/06/taxistas-paralizan-tegucigalpa-exigiendo-que-se-elimine-el-aumento-a-la-tasa-municipal/>

<http://elpulso.hn/tito-en-el-congreso/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57801>

<https://tiempo.hn/temporalmente-los-taxistas-suspenderan-protestas-contra-la-el-aumento-de-la-tasa-vial-municipal/>

Remittances increased by 9% the first semester of 2018 compared to the year before. FOSDEH explains this with the increasing fear of Trump's politics and how it affects the Honduran diaspora.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57773>

Honduras signed a 10 million Euro cooperation agreement with Germany to improve school infrastructure.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/07/06/honduras-y-alemania-firman-convenio-para-mejorar-infraestructura-escolar/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/los-otros-muros-06-julio-2018/>

07/07/18

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Dialogue; MACCIH; Forced Displacement; and Shakespeare in the Moskitia

The lawyer Omar Menjívar denounces attempts by police officials to make go away accusations against the police for illegal detention and an attack against the journalist Edgardo Rodríguez by asking for forgiveness. According to the Menjívar, a conciliation process needs, at minimum, the MP and a court involved. As it is already the third time in a bit more than six months that the police has illegally detained journalists, Menjívar speaks of a pattern.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2206-abogado-omar-menjivar-disculpas-policiales-no-desaparecen-delitos-cometidos-contra-periodista>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2205-quieren-negociar-impunidad-despues-de-detenerlo-y-golpearlo-jefes-de-policia-se-disculpan-con-periodista>

Salvador Nasralla reacts to Friday's statement by UN representative Igor Garafulic who proposed widening the list of topics to be discussed as part of the dialogue (see also my comment yesterday). "Nasralla clarifies that the central theme of the dialogue at the request of the UN is electoral fraud, it is political, because that is the cause of the national crisis; meanwhile, the social and economic problems for now are to be solved by the one in power and who has the budget to do it efficiently."

The G-16 met with Garafulic.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2903-honduras-gobierno-frena-dialogo-denuncian-luis-zelaya-y-salvador-nasralla>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1195536-466/representantes-del-g16-est%C3%A1n-a-la-espera-de-avances-del-di%C3%A1logo-nacional>

The new MACCIH spokesperson Luiz Marrey Guimarães has been officially welcomed in Honduras last week. The ad-interim head, Ana María Calderón, will be his number two.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57823>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/almagro-se-reune-con-ana-maria-calderon-y-agradece-su-trabajo-al-frente-de-la-maccih.html>

The Norwegian Refugee Council urges the Honduran government to put in place protection mechanism for forcefully displaced Honduras. According to them, more than 190'000 Hondurans had to abandon their houses due to violence.

<http://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/mas-de-190-000-hondurenos-desplazados-por-violencia-segun-el-consejo-noruego.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/04/la-tempestad-shakespeare-en-la-mosquitia/>

08/07/18

Honduras Daily: Corruption - Ihcafé; Congress; National Party; National Police; Drug Trafficking; US; History; Deportation; and the Fight over Cartagena

The president of the Association of Independent Coffee Growers, Tomás Ramírez, denounces that he has received death threats after highlighting corrupt behavior by the president of the Honduran Coffee Institute (Ihcafé).

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57882>

It has become a tradition that Congress will sit in Gracias, Lempira in the beginning of July, the National Identity month. Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez denounces that she and other congresswo/men have not

been informed about the legislative agenda and that they don't know what will be discussed in the coming week. She fears that some disputed bills, such as the National Cybersecurity Bill will be discussed.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/diputada-doris-gutierrez-dice-desconocer-agenda-de-congreso-movil-en-gracias.html>

The former Nationalist congressman Francisco Macías was arrested for aggravated harassment of a woman.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57866>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/por-delito-de-lujuria-capturan-a-exdiputado-francisco-macias-en-choluteca.html>

The purging committee announced the imminent purge of some 80-100 members of the National Police Force.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1195776-466/depuradora-cancelar%C3%A1-entre-80-y-100-agentes-policiales-en-los-pr%C3%B3ximos-d%C3%ADas>

The head of CEPAL (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), Alicia Bárcena, calls out to the Latin American countries to consider legalizing drugs "to alleviate the human cost related to the deadly trade".

<http://elpulso.hn/l-a-debe-legalizar-las-drogas-para-detener-las-matanzas-senala-directora-de-la-cepal/>

COFADEH dedicates a large share of its weekly editorial to the newly US ambassador, "who we recognize as a representative of the US military policy".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/al-embajador-del-pentagono/>

Two article commemorate the massacre of July 6, 1944 in San Pedro Sula where at least 70 people were murdered by state security forces.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/1944-mujeres-iniciaron-protestas-que-la-dictadura-convirtio-en-masacre-por-exigir-elecciones-libres/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/07/contextos-y-repercusiones-de-la-masacre-del-6-de-julio-de-1944/>

4699 Honduran minors have been deported back to Honduras in the first six months of 2018.

<https://tiempo.hn/menores-hondurenos-deportados-ninos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/casi-4-mil-700-menores-muchos-de-ellos-solos-deportados-a-honduras-en-6-meses.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57877>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57879>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/expresidentes-mel-y-lobo-intercambian-tuits-por-polemica-de-acuerdo-de-cartagena.html>

09/07/17

Honduras Daily: HR Violations; Journalists; Women's Rights; Extractivism; LGBT; Corruption - Trans.450; Labor Rights; Transport Sector; Military Police; World Bank; and the National Party in Washington

Seven months have passed since the post-electoral human rights violations and the MP still has not presented any request for indictment.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/09/fiscalia-de-honduras-sigue-sin-presentar-requerimientos-por-crimeles-de-crisis-post-electoral/>

After three illegal arrests of journalists in the last weeks, a police agents, with face mask, stopped the journalist Mai Ling Coto from reporting on Saturday evening in Potrerillos, Cortés. The Journalists Association Honduras (CPH) denounces "the constant abuses by the National Police against journalists."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/874-a-empujones-policia-con-pasamontanas-obstruye-labor-informativa-de-periodista>

<http://elpulso.hn/a-empujones-policia-saca-a-periodista-de-tn5-que-hacia-su-trabajo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/colegio-de-periodistas-de-honduras-denuncia-el-abuso-policial-en-contra-de-reporteros/>

Several national women's rights organization together with OACNUDH and UN Women denounce the enduring violence in Honduras "affecting the physical, psychological, work and political integrity of women". They also take up the case of the director of Forensic Medicine, Julissa Villanueva, a woman "dedicated to the defense of human rights and the rights of the victims of violence and their families", but who suffers from repeated acts of intimidation and threats.

See Attachment

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2904-honduras-no-quiero-ser-la-forense-de-oro-dice-directora-de-medicina-forense>

Criterion reports that OACNUDH has started a mapping of all the conflicts in Honduras resulting from extractive industry projects.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/09/oacnudh-mapea-zonas-con-conflictos-extractivistas-en-honduras/>

At the beginning of this year, the IACtHR ruled in favor of same-sex marriage. Based on this ruling, Honduran LGBT organizations presented a constitutional challenge against Article 112 which prohibits same-sex marriage. To quite some surprise, the challenges was accepted.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-medio-de-la-violencia-la-lucha-por-el-matrimonio-igualitario-en-honduras/>

UNAH's former dean Julieta Castellanos wants the MACCIH and the MP to investigate Tegucigalpa's controversial public transport project Trans-450.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/09/el-ministerio-publico-y-la-maccih-deben-investigar-el-trans-450/>

Radio Progreso aired a 8min report on the situation of 130'000 Maquila workers in Honduras.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/reportaje-salarios-pirricos-en-la-maquila/>

The transport sector announced new strike actions as Tegucigalpa's mayoralty denied to reconsider increasing the vehicle tax.

<https://tiempo.hn/taxistas-intensificaran-medidas-de-presion/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/07/09/aumentio-la-tasa-vial-mantiene-sostiene-papi-la-orden/>

Yesterday morning, two young presumed gang members and a Military Police agent died in a shootout in Chamelecón, San Pedro Sula. This was followed by a confrontation between the Military Police and family members of the murdered two young men. According to El Heraldo, the Military Police shot several shots to "calm down" the grieving family members demanding answers.

<http://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/tres-personas-muertas-entre-ellas-un-policia-militar-en-enfrentamiento-en-chamelecon.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1196038-466/zafarrancho-entre-militares-y-familiares-de-las-v%C3%ADctimas-del-enfrentamiento-en-chamelec%C3%B3n>

Boris Weber is the new representative of the World Bank in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/boris-weber-nuevo-representante-del-banco-mundial-en-honduras.html>

National Party congressman and Congress' vice-president Antonio Rivera Callejas as well as the president of the National Party Reinaldo Sánchez Rivera together with three further of its members met with OAS' Secretary General Luis Almagro. The surprise visit seems to be linked to the discussions about the national dialogue in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/09/diputados-y-dirigentes-nacionalistas-se-reunen-con-luis-almagro-en-washington/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1196019-466/partido-nacional-solicita-asesor%C3%A1a-a-la-oea-para-las-reformas-electorales-en>

Pronunciamiento

En los últimos años, Honduras ha mostrado avances en la visibilización y tratamiento de la violencia hacia las mujeres. Sin embargo, pese a que se observa una disminución de femicidios en relación con años anteriores, esta modesta evolución, no ha sido suficiente para detener los altos índices de violencia que afectan la integridad física, psicológica, laboral y política de las mujeres.

Según el Observatorio de la Violencia de la UNAH (OV-UNAH), en Honduras una mujer es asesinada cada 18 horas; las cifras preliminares indican que de enero al 30 junio de este año, se registran 127 muertes violentas. Durante el año 2017, hubo 389 femicidios, y en los últimos 15 años, los homicidios contra mujeres superan los 5,600. Más del 90% de estos crímenes siguen impunes.

Además, de acuerdo con estudios efectuados por el Centro de Estudios de la Mujer, en Honduras el 27 % de las mujeres aceptan que han sufrido violencia física en algún momento de su vida y de acuerdo con cifras de UNICEF, en el 2016, casi 9 de cada 10 delitos sexuales contra la niñez, afectaron a las niñas.

Bajo este preocupante y complejo contexto, el pasado domingo 01 de julio, la directora de Medicina Forense, dependencia del Ministerio Público, se presentó ante el Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CONADEH) para denunciar las reiteradas intimidaciones y amenazas en su contra y personal bajo su cargo.

Villanueva ha cobrado notoriedad en los medios de comunicación porque es una mujer decidida, valiente y comprometida en la defensa de los derechos humanos y en particular de las víctimas de la violencia y sus familiares.

A raíz de estas amenazas, la forense señaló que "se trata de grupos interesados en detener investigaciones de alto impacto, para que la verdad no salga a flote"; esta revelación supone que los mensajes de amenazas e intimidaciones contra la doctora Villanueva y el equipo de Medicina forense, podrían estar vinculadas con algunos hechos que se quieren ocultar.

Frente al riesgo que implican estas amenazas, el Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (OACNUDH), ONU Mujeres, OXFAM-Honduras, el Movimiento de Mujeres por la Paz Visitación Padilla, JASS-Honduras, el Centro de Estudios de la Mujer-Honduras (CEM-H) y Grupo Sociedad Civil (GSC), manifiestan a la doctora Villanueva y al equipo de Medicina Forense, su respaldo solidario y se exhorta a las autoridades correspondientes a iniciar una investigación pronta y exhaustiva a fin de esclarecer quiénes son los responsables; asimismo, se insta a ofrecer las medidas de protección necesarias.

Este caso expone la crítica situación que enfrentan a diario las mujeres, hechos que solo se pueden evitar con una respuesta coordinada, rápida, integral y contundente desde las instancias estatales y la sensibilización y acciones oportunas de toda la sociedad.

Tegucigalpa M.D.C., 9 de julio, 2018.

09/07/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; TSE; Corruption - Congress, MP, Pandora, Health Secretariat; MACCIH; Confiscation; Dialogue; Forced Displacement; Transport Sector; and Walking the Line...Drunk

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on a very worrisome development at the Protection Mechanism for HRDs. According to the coordinator of the human rights organization Joprodeh, Jorge Jiménez, Lesby Castro, the representative of the Security Secretariat at the mechanism, is actively intimidating police agents offering protection to HRDs.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2209-defensor-de-ddhh-denuncia-a-subcomisaria-de-policia-porque-amedrenta-escoltas-y-estigmatiza-a-defensores>

Once more, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) violates the Honduran constitution. It ratified Roy Dagoberto Cruz Pérez as a Nationalist congressman even though his cousin is the president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta Pérez. In article 199, it says that "spouse and relatives within fourth degree of consanguinity" of Supreme Court magistrates cannot be congresswo/men.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/10/tse-viola-nuevamente-la-constitucion-al-declarar-diputado-a-primo-del-presidente-de-la-csj/>

El Heraldo warns that Congress is discussing new reforms to the Penal Code which could further weaken the fight against corruption. There is talk that preventive imprisonment for corruption may be made much more difficult.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1196510-466/advierten-sobre-reforma-al-art%C3%ADculo-181-del-procesal-penal-en-el-congreso>

After the storm, comes the calm. Radio Progreso shows how the stormy days of the controversial and illegal reelection of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla were followed by a calm in which the topic is not being covered anymore and neither is there any talk about the corrupt public officials highlighted in the most recent MACCIH case.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/desafios-de-legitimidad-del-viejo-nuevo-fiscal-general/>

Radio Progreso published a second article especially looking at the Pandora corruption case and how it is being stalled in the Honduran judicial system.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/lentitud-de-jueces-sobresale-en-caso-pandora/>

The accused in the Health Secretariat corruption case may await trial outside prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58024>

Some months ago, a controversy broke out about a bill intending to regulate the seizure of goods in drug trafficking and corruption cases. At the last minute, JOH vetoed the bill. It is expected that the Judicial System will present its verdict any day now.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57944>

Some weeks ago, I linked to the two-year report on the MACCIH by a project at CLALS. I do not remember if that was only the Spanish version, so to be sure, here is the link to the English report "From Steady Progress to Severely Wounded: A Two-Year Report on the Performance of the Oas Mission in Support of the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras".

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3210663

The political opposition denounces how JOH tries to appropriate the national dialogue.
And as a backup plan, the National Party already announced to present their electoral reforms to Congress directly.
The UN representative, meanwhile, continues with individual meetings.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2906-honduras-oposicion-politica-considera-ilegitimo-dialogo-convocado-por-gobierno>

<https://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-quiere-sentar-precedentes-de-que-ellos-si-quieren-dialogar/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58085>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=57985>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/onu-se-reune-individualmente-con-representantes-de-partidos-politicos.html>

Criterio and some further news outlet continue to cover forced displacement in Honduras. In these newest articles, it focuses on forced recruitment by gangs of children as another driver of forced displacement. As well as the forced displacement of women by violence. At least 355 women had to leave their house last year.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/10/reclutamiento-forzado-de-ninos-entre-las-causas-del-desplazamiento-forzado-de-personas-conadeh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/10/mas-de-300-mujeres-hondurenas-fueron-desplazadas-en-2017-por-la-violencia/>

Radio Progreso offers a good overview of the most recent protests erupting around the increase of the vehicle tax.
There is still no agreement.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/descontento-causa-aumento-a-la-tasa-vial-en-el-distrito-central/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/alcalde-asfura-y-taxistas-sin-acuerdo-por-tasa-vial-pero-servicio-no-se-suspendera.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58042>

11/07/18

Honduras Daily: MP - Elections; MADJ; Political Prisoners; Femicide; Corruption - Energy, IHSS; Drug Trafficking; CONADEH; Forced Disappearance; Electoral Reforms; Libre; RNP; National Police; Fire Arms; and Honduras' Oligarchy

The Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLf) published their analysis of the Honduran Attorney General selection process and they come to a clear verdict: "There is no way to whitewash what happened: Chinchilla's appointment was the product of an ad hoc legislative procedure that violates the law, the Constitution, international law, and, above all, the credibility of the institution charged with criminal prosecution in the country."

<http://www.dplf.org/en/resources/search-attorney-general-honduras-chronicle-reelection-un-foretold>

<http://www.dplf.org/es/resources/se-busca-fiscal-general-para-honduras-la-cronica-de-una-reeleccion-no-anunciada>

MADJ denounces an increase of health issues in Pajuiles near Tela, Atlántida due to the contamination of the water by HIDROCEP's construction of their hydroelectric plant.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/07/12/Aumentan-enfermedades-en-Pajuiles-por-agua-contamada-por-HIDROCEP>

Salvador Nasralla demands the release of the five remaining political prisoners as a precondition of a national dialogue.

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-exige-al-gobierno-cumplir-con-requerimientos-minimos-para-retomar-dialogo-nacional/>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with JASS' Daysi Flores about how femicide in Honduras is promoted by a system of impunity.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2210-jass-honduras-el-femicidio-es-influenciado-y-abastecido-por-el-sistema-de-impunidad-en-honduras>

OFRANEH shows the interplay between corruption and the energy crisis in La Ceiba.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/07/11/corrupcion-bipartidista-y-la-crisis-energetica-en-la-ceiba/>

El Tiempo reports that Honduras may receive more than \$1 million in the coming days by seizing the belongings of Natalia Patricia Ciuffardi Castro, the former partner of the former IHSS director Mario Zelaya.

<https://tiempo.hn/bienes-dejara-un-millon-de-dolares-al-ihss/>

JOH announced an intensification of the fight against drug trafficking and people smuggling and an increase in the collaboration with US authorities.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-hernandez-anuncia-replanteamiento-en-seguridad.html>

Three CONADEH employees, the office of the human rights ombudsman, started a hunger strike to protest the violation of their labor rights.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/11/insolito-empleados-de-conadeh-en-huelga-de-hambre-por-violacion-a-sus-derechos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58200>

COFADEH commemorates Juan Humberto Sánchez who face forcefully disappeared by state security forces yesterday 26 years ago. They denounce that the Honduran State has so far failed to comply with an IACTHR sentence in Sánchez' case.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/pese-haber-sido-sentenciado-el-estado-hondureno-caso-juan-humberto-sanchez-sigue-en-la-impunidad/>

The National Party continues to try to circumvent a possible National Dialogue to push through electoral reforms in Congress. These efforts are denounced by the political opposition as a desperate act to white-wash JOH's illegal reelection. The former TSE magistrate for the Liberal Party, Enrique Ortez, demands a plebiscite about the presidential reelection.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58155>

<https://tiempo.hn/hoy-el-gobierno-presentara-en-cn-un-paquete-de-reformas-electorales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58194>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58178>

Libre's General Coordinator Manuel Zelaya denounces a smear campaign against him and his party promoted by Adolfo Facussé.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/07/coordinador-general-de-libre-manuel.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-facusse-difundir-rumores/>

Congress announced an intervention of the National Person's Registry (RNP).

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58209>

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-nacional-creara-comision-legislativa-para-intervenir-el-rnp/>

A police agent was shot dead yesterday during a raid in Catacamas, Olancho.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58138>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/un-policia-muerto-y-otro-herido-en-enfrentamiento-en-cuyamel-olancho.html>

Congress further discussed the Fire Arms Control Bill.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1196940-466/congreso-nacional-aprueba-sacar-de-circulaci%C3%B3n-fusiles-de-alto-poder-ar-15-y>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/que-es-una-oligarquia-que-tenemos-que-ver-con-ella/>

12/07/18

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Lawyers; US - TIGRES; Drug Trafficking; Children's Rights; Maras; Dialogue; Political Parties; CONADEH; Migration; Fire Arms; and Everything Stands Still, Again

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on two groups of journalists in Honduras, those who try to stay on the good side of the regime and those who dare questioning it and its policies. "The former are awarded with honors and privileges, the second get persecution and stigma."

Radio Progreso commemorates Nery Geremías, a former social communicator and Radio Progreso correspondent, who was murdered on July 14, 2011, only 26 years old. His is one of the 91% of all cases of murdered journalists and social communicators rest unpunished in Honduras. Radio Progreso denounces that seven years have past and the MP, the last five years under Chinchilla, has not made any progress in the field of investigating such crimes.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2211-prensa-independiente-esta-sometida-al-discurso-estigmatizante-del-gobierno>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/nery-geremias-una-historia-para-seguir-contando-12-julio-2018/>

The lawyer Rafael Humberto Gonzáles was shot dead in Tegucigalpa yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58277>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/acribillan-a-abogado-en-valle-de-amarateca.html>

Already back in May, the TIGRES special forces inaugurated a new training camp financed by a \$3 million donation by the US Southern Command.

<http://elpulso.hn/tigres-inauguran-centro-de-capacitacion-en-lepaterique/>

InSight Crime reports that "Honduran security officials have claimed to have nearly eliminated aerial drug trafficking in the country thanks in large part to the use of radar systems, fly-over surveillance and demolitions of landing strips. However, those assertions are undermined by the continued discovery of aircraft and landing sites suspected of being used for drug flights."

The recently convicted Honduran police official, announced to

collaborate with US authorities.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/honduras-losing-fight-aerial-drug-trafficking/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58243>

About a month ago, the Military Pension Institute (IPM) ordered the eviction of dozens of families in the Godoy neighborhood in Tegucigalpa. With nowhere else to go, the families built temporary houses on the land they were evicted from. They denounce that the Honduran state is now threatening to take their children away.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58247>

After weeks of announcing it, JOH finally launched his new National Anti-Mara and Pandillas Force (Fnamp) yesterday. According to El Heraldo, they get support by the FBI and their members are chosen from the National Police, the Military Police and prosecutors from the MP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58286>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1197182-466/caen-24-criminales-durante-operativos-de-la-fuerza-nacional-antimaras-y-pandillas>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle reflects on the (non-)dialogue in Honduras. Two sentences summarize the current situation very well: "The opposition does not believe that JOH complies. JOH does not believe in the opposition, ergo he cannot dialogue with them."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/12/quien-necesita-una-oposicion-o-el-dialogo-sus-requisitos-imposturas-alcances-e-imposibles/>

The former Nationalist congresswoman Eva Fernández started the process at the TSE to inscribe her own party, the Social Integration Party Honduras (PAISH).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/12/corazon-azul-ahora-va-por-su-partido-politico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/eva-fernandez-busca-inscribir-su-nuevo-partido-partido-de-integracion-social/>

While the hunger strike by three CONADEH employees continues (see also yesterday), the commissioner Roberto Herrera Cáceres blames the Secretary of Finance for the failed salary adjustment.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58294>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58240>

The former dentist and now Sub-Secretary of Foreign Relations, Nelly Jerez, claims against all evidence that violence is not the determining factor causing migration, but rather the work of people smugglers...

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58249>

The police reported that they seized over 5000 fire arms in the half year of 2018.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-decomisa-mas-de-5-mil-200-armas-de-fuego-en-el-primer-semestre.html>

Apparently, the transport sector and the JOH did not come to an agreement. The former announced a strike for next Thursday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58273>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/transporte-publico-anuncia-paro-a-nivel-nacional-para-el-jueves-19-de-julio.html>

13/07/18

Honduras Daily: Forced Disappearance; Armed Forces; Homicide Rate; Transparency; Corruption - Congress; CNA; MACCIH; Mining; IMF; Poverty; Education; and Meeting Miriam

A group of national human rights organization together with CEJIL published a press release denouncing that the Honduran State continues to fail with an IACtHR sentence in the case of the forcefully disappeared Juan Humberto Sánchez in July 1992.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-continua-sin-cumplir-sentencia-de-la-corte-idh-en-el-caso-juan-humberto-sanchez/>

27 years ago, Ricci Mabel, a young Honduran woman, visited a friend held captive at a Honduran military battalion in Tegucigalpa. Two days later, she was found dead. Three army officials are held responsible for her murder, but the crime remains unpunished as do many crimes committed by the Armed Forces in Honduras up to the post-electoral human rights violations last year.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/ricci-mabel-y-el-militarismo-13-julio-2018/>

CIPRODEH questions the State's official homicide rates and other statistics on violence such as femicide.

<https://tiempo.hn/ciprodeh-cuestiona-informe-violencia-gobierno/>

In a new article, Radio Progreso criticizes the lack of transparency at the municipal level when it comes to taxes.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/municipalidades-no-garantizan-transparencia-y-la-participacion-de-la-ciudadania/>

Congress abolished last week the disputed Departmental Fund. The MACCIH has highlighted the misuse of this funds in recent corruption charges. Nevertheless, congresswo/men seem only have to move the funds from the Departmental Fund to another pocket which now is used for their pay rise.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58319>

The director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Gabriela Castellanos, fears that the intervention at the National Persons Registry (RNP) by Congress will lead to more corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58368>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58317>

The new head of the MACCIH, Luis Marrey, held several meetings last week, e.g. with FOSDEH, the CNA and COHEP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58309>

For the fourth year in a row, the JOH regime and mining companies organize the International Mining Congress in Honduras. It will take place from July 17-19 in Tegucigalpa.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/congreso-minerogobierno-sigue-politica-entreguista-pretende-seguir-entregando-el-territorio-a-empresarios-a-traves-de-congreso-minero/>

Javier Suazo critically accompanies the recent praise Honduras received from the IMF.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194101>

The World Bank recognized that the basket of basic goods in Honduras is much higher than they previously thought.

<https://tiempo.hn/en-al-menos-cinco-mil-lempiras-aumento-la-canasta-basica-hondurena-segun-el-bm/>

The USAID director in Honduras, Fernando Cossich, expressed his concerns about violence in the Honduran education system.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58351>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/13/encontramos-a-miriam/>

14/07/18

Honduras Daily: LGBT; Migration; CONADEH; and Oliva's Pocket Money

Fernando Reyes reports on the Honduran trans people fleeing from violence only to be met by violence again at the US boarder.

<http://elpulso.hn/asi-suenan-y-mueren-las-migrantes-trans-en-la-frontera-con-eeuu/>

According to the Foreign Relations Secretariat, 313 Honduran children (or 459 minors, depending on the source) were separated from their parents migrating to the US.

<http://elpulso.hn/cancilleria-reporta-313-ninos-separados-de-sus-familiares-en-frontera-de-eeuu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58384>

The CONADEH employees stopped their hunger strike after some promising signs from its commissioner.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58390>

The former Libre congressman Rasel Tomé denounces that Congress granted its president Mauricio Oliva to manage some 200 million Lempiras without much oversight.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58408>

15/07/18

Honduras Daily: US; Drug Trafficking; Public Health; Education; and a Growing Debt Problem

The US embassy congratulated the Honduran government for its "new policy of transparency, integrity and prevention of corruption"...

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/07/15/estados-unidos-aplaude-nueva-politica-transparencia-del-gobierno/>

The US may repeat the trial against the presumed drug trafficker Ramón Matta Ballesteros as new proof surfaced putting in doubt his involvement in the murder of a DEA agent 30 years ago.

<https://tiempo.hn/eeuu-repetir-juicio-matta-pruebas-caso-camarena/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/repetiran-juicio-contr-hondureno-ramon-matta-por-caso-de-asesinato-de-agente-de-la-dea.html>

ContraCorriente reports on the threats by the private company Diálisis de Honduras to reduce its dialysis offers from three to two treatments per week because the Honduran state owns them 234 million Lempiras. There seems to have been an agreement this week, but much is still

unknown and many Hondurans dependent on dialysis still fear a worsening of their situation.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/15/la-eterna-deuda-con-los-pacientes-renales-en-honduras/>

According to Honduras' teachers unions, some 20'000 pupils and students abandon every year Honduras' public education system due to insecurity, poverty etc.

They demand that 290 million Lempiras of the tasa de seguridad will be used to improve school infrastructure in the country.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/15/cada-ano-unos-20-mil-estudiantes-desertan-de-los-centros-escolares-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/15/magisterio-exigira-aumento-salarial-y-reparacion-de-centros-educativos/>

According to the economist Claudio Salgado, Honduras' public debt rose from \$3 to \$11 billion since 2010, reaching 50% of GDP.

<https://tiempo.hn/gastos-innecesarios-gobierno-aumentan-deuda-interna/>

16/07/18

Honduras Daily: Bajo Aguán; Food Sovereignty; Corruption - Pandora; Forensic Medicine; Homicide Rate; Insecurity; Penitentiary System; Electoral Reforms; and To Be or To Be Perceived

ConfidencialHN spoke with Norma Carias of Ceprosaf about the "projects of deaths" in the Bajo Aguán and the threats human rights defenders face for demanding a stop to these projects.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58520>

Radio Progreso denounces the lack of attention by the Honduran government to small producers in the agricultural sector by which the JOH regime worsens Honduras food security and sovereignty.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/abandono-del-campo-por-parte-del-gobierno-atenta-contra-la-soberania-alimentaria/>

Libre congressman Jari Dixon warns that the Supreme Court will declare the Article 184 of the Penal Code unconstitutional in order to protect corrupt congresswo/men.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/diputado-dixon-augura-que-articulo-184-sera-declarado-inconstitucional-para-proteger-a-implicados-en-pandora.html>

Last week, news surfaced that the director of Forensic Medicine, Julissa Villanueva, as well as her staff face threats for their work. The threats against Villaneuva are also linked to her investigation into the suspicious death/murder of the regional head of ATIC, Sherill Yubissa Hernández.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58491>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58510>

The newest statistics about violence and murder in Honduras presented by the government are questioned by various sectors.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58465>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58492>

One of Congress' vice-president, Denis Castro, criticizes the

government's security policies as "constant improvisations" and lacking efforts to prevent crime and reduce impunity. As an effective measure to increase security, Libre proposes the use of the tasa de seguridad at the municipal level.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58533>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58507>

One of the questionable measures taken by the government is the movement of inmates. Just yesterday, another 253 inmates had to move from one prison to another.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58470>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/fusina-traslada-253-reclusos-a-diferentes-centros-penales.html>

According to the former TSE president, Augusto Aguilar, the presidential reelection, an offense cataloged as treason, cannot be legalized by electoral reforms. According to him, the "least worst way" to tackle the problem is by a constituent assembly.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58462>

<https://tiempo.hn/reeleccion-constituyente-no-reformas-electorales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/16/los-hechos-son-como-son/>

17/07/18

Honduras Daily: Post-Electoral Violence; Drug Trafficking; ATIC; Military Police; Corruption - Pandora, Congress; Forced Displacement; Agriculture; Education; National Police; Dialogue; Spain - Palmerola; EU; US; and Depoliticizing the RNP

Defensores en Línea spoke with David Ramos, whose son José David Ramos Lambert was murdered by state security forces on December 1, 2017.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/padre-clama-justicia-por-asesinato-politico-de-su-hijo/>

The DEA and the Public Prosecutor Office in Manhattan, New York charged the Liberal Honduran congressman Midence Oquelí Martínez Turcios with drug trafficking. They additionally charged the Urbina Soto brothers, two Nationalist leaders from Yoro.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/17/ee-uu-acusa-por-trafico-de-drogas-a-diputado-hondureno-y-a-otros-tres-politicos/>

<http://elpulso.hn/otro-diputado-liberal-acusado-de-narcotrafico-en-nueva-york/>

Criterio published a helpful overview of the case of Sherill Yubissa Hernández Mancía, a departmental head of the ATIC. She was found dead last month and ATIC claimed she ended her own life but the Forensic Medicine department challenged this and speaks of murder. Since then, the latter face threats and its director Julissa Villanueva even received death threats.

The MP announced to go to the bottom of this.

According to ConfidencialHn, Sherill Yubissa Hernández Mancía was murdered by a fellow ATIC agent.

El Heraldo, meanwhile, reports that she was murdered because she was investigating a high police official.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/17/que-se-esconde-detras-de-la-muerte-de-la-jefa-regional-de-la-atic/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58569>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58536>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1198732-466/investigaci%C3%B3n-contrapolic%C3%ADa-habr%C3%ADa-motivado-crimen-de-jefa-de-la-atc>

Libre councillors in Las Vegas, Santa Bárbara, denounce the the local Nationalist mayor Tona Pineda Castellanos uses among other things the Military Police to threaten and silence the political opposition.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2214-regidores-de-las-vegas-santa-barbara-amenazados-por-no-firmar-actas-ilegales>

El Heraldo reports that the Pandora corruption case also includes the Judicial Power.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/herandez-se-reunio-con-el-jefe-del-comando-sur-de-eeuu.html>

Congress approved another problematic bill. By reforming article 82 of its organic law, congresswo/men are now allowed to make changes to already approved decrees and bills "to correct errors". This seems to be directly linked to a recent case in which two congressmen were accused of changing a bill to favor corrupt congresswo/men. They later claimed it was by mistake and this new law would now allow to correct these "errors"...

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58639>

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-nacional-aprueba-reforma-para-modificar-decretos-y-elimina-la-fe-de-errata/>

According to the lawyer and social investigator Joaquín Mejía, government promoted extractive projects are one of the main source of forced displacement in the rural areas. Young urban people are forced to leave due to violence. According to new numbers by FLACSO-Honduras, 63% of last year high school students think of leaving the country.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58613>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58607>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58603>

The National Association of Aquaculture Producers of Honduras (ANDAH) fears that announced dredge work at the Henecán port in San Lorenzo, Valle, will disrupt their shrimp cultivation.

<http://elpulso.hn/dragado-del-puerto-henecan-afectara-cultivo-de-camaron/>

The former Secretary of Education, Marlon Escoto, criticizes the lack of growth in the education budget. While the general budget grew by 400% in the last decade, education's budget only grew by 110%.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58571>

A police agent shot dead a colleague during a fight in a police station.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/17/policia-mata-a-su-companero-dentro-de-posta-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58562>

The Spanish ambassador Guillermo Kirkpatrick and the Presidential Secretary Ebal Díaz met yesterday to discuss the national dialogue. The UN in Honduras, meanwhile, proposed four experts to moderate the dialogue: Ana Catalina Soberanis, Marcie Mersky, Javier Cabreja and

Graciela Tapia.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58566>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/onu-postula-mediadores-para-dialogo-en-honduras.html>

A group of Spanish parliamentarians requested answers regarding the Spanish cooperation in Honduras, especially its support for the construction of the Palmerola airport.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/07/espana-quien-es-lenir-perez-el.html>

According to the Finance Minister Rocío Tábora, they are in discussion with the EU about a 24 million Euro support for the new identity cards.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/07/17/ue-donaria-e-24-millones-para-elaborar-nueva-tarjeta-de-identidad/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1198742-466/la-uni%C3%B3n-europea-tiene-listos-24-millones-de-euros-para-la-identidad>

JOH met with the head of the Southern Command.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/hernandez-se-reunio-con-el-jefe-del-comando-sur-de-eeuu.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2911-debe-erradicarse-control-politico-del-registro-nacional-de-las-personas>

18/07/18

Honduras Daily; HRDs; FoE; MILPAH; Extractivism - Mining; Corruption - Pandora; MACCIH; PARLACEN; Drug Trafficking; Transport Sector; Electoral Reforms; and Returning Home - Life after Deportation

On March 5, 2014, three two indigenous Lenca defenders Santos Domínguez, Pablo Domínguez and María Domínguez were attacked by people close to the hydroelectric company DESA, which is also held responsible for the murder of Berta Cáceres. COPINH and MADJ denounce that on June 26 this year, a court dropped the charges against one group of attackers and only sentenced a second group with the bare minimum. They fear that this further incentives attacks against HRDs.

<https://copinh.org/2018/07/la-violencia-del-extractivismo-impacta-directamente-en-nuestras-vidas-y-cuerpos/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the JOH regime so far failed to comply with the recommendations received during the UPR process regarding freedom of expression.

News broke yesterday, that one instance of positive news regarding freedom of expression may not really be that positive after all. Last month, after months of national and international criticism, Congress finally derogated the disputed Article 335-B of the reformed Penal Code. But on Tuesday, the head of the Nationalists in Congress, Mario Pérez, claimed that the article is still in force because they made a mistake. Eddy Tábora, director of C-Libre, denounces this and highlights how such "errors" often happen in Congress.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2216-la-mora-del-estado-de-honduras-ante-las-recomendaciones-del-eju-sobre-libertad-de-expresion>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ley-mordaza-sigue-vigente-en-honduras.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1199100-466/congreso-nacional-har%C3%A1-enmienda-a-la-ley-mordaza>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58733>

ConexiHon presents the Lenca community radio Guinakirina which was recently founded by a group of young Lencas affiliated with MILPAH.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/730-pueblo-lenca-en-la-paz-surca-y-cosecha-su-propia-voz-radio-guinakirina>

Radio Progreso lists several statements of concern regarding Honduras' extractivist development model by various UN bodies.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/los-efectos-del-modelo-extractivista-en-honduras-a-traves-de-los-ojos-de-naciones-unidas/>

Communities affected by mining projects or fearing projects being forced upon them traveled to Tegucigalpa to protest the fourth international mining congress held in the capital.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/18/no-queremos-mineros-en-honduras-gritan-pobladores-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58717>

The head of investigation at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Odir Fernández, demands that the Pandora case goes to court and that the authorities stop delaying the process.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58724>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/cna-lamenta-parsimonia-en-caso-pandora-y-alerta-de-algunos-imputados-ya-no-están-en-el-pais.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/tras-reunion-con-maccih-frente-parlamentario-insiste-derogar-ley-de-secretos-y-aprobar-ley-de-colaboracion.html>

The Parliamentarian Front in Support of the MACCIH met with the MACCIH yesterday. In the following press conference, they reiterated the need to derogate the Secrecy Law and to approve the Efficient Collaboration Bill.

Óscar Esquivel writes about politics at the Central American level with a special focus on the Central American Parliament, PARLACEN.

<http://elpulso.hn/parlacen-crisis/>

InSight Crime took up the recently published charges against another Honduran congressman for drug trafficking: "Authorities in the United States charged a Honduras congressman and several members of a powerful political family with drug trafficking and related weapons crimes, illustrating yet again how the Cachiros criminal organization integrated politicians into its modus operandi."

Omar Rivera challenges the Clean Politics Unit to explain why the congressman was able to use dirty money during his campaign.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/why-cachiros-liked-working-honduras-politicians/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58676>

After failed negotiations with the JOH regime and the mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfura, the transport sector stays firm about its strike today.

Last minute partial concessions do not seem to sway them...

...even more because they were immediately put in question by Asfura saying that they only count for 2018.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/18/rebaja-de-tasa-municipal-no-detiene-el-paro-nacional-del-transporte/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/18/alcaldia-del-distrito-central-accede-rebajar-la-tasa-vial-en-40-y-35/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58740>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva met with EU ambassador to discuss the progress in electoral reforms...that must have been a short meeting as the JOH regime failed to implement any meaningful reform going back to the recommendations made by the EU in 2013.

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro also announced that they would assist in matters of electoral reforms.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58715>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1199086-466/uni%C3%B3n-europea-confirma-asesor%C3%ADa-legal-y-apoyo-econ%C3%B3mico-para-el-rnp>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/almagro-senala-que-oea-apoyara-proceso-de-reforma-electoral-hondurena.html>

ContraCorriente published an article by a PhD student investigating the lives of recently deported Hondurans.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/17/regreso-a-casa-la-vida-despues-de-la-deportacion-a-honduras/>

19/07/18

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; COPINH; Transport Sector; Corruption - Pandora, Impunity Pact; Secrecy Law; Children's Rights; US - Armed Forces; Int. Cooperation; Dialogue - Spain; and Unbearable Cynicism

"Today marks six months since longtime social movement activist and human rights defender Edwin Espinal was arrested on January 19. He and four other political prisoners arrested during the post-election crisis remain incarcerated in jails around the country: Edwin Espinal and Raúl Álvarez in the La Tolva maximum security prison in the El Paraíso department; Edy Gonzalo in the El Pozo maximum security prison in the Santa Bárbara department; and Gustavo Cáceres and José Godínez in El Progreso, Yoro."

https://freedwinespinallibertad.blogspot.com/2018/07/edwin-espinal-has-been-political_19.html

Various communities organized as part of COPINH met in La Esperanza to discuss and then published a declaration on the self-determination of the peoples against the looting of business and State actors.

<https://copinh.org/2018/07/declaracion-del-encuentro-por-la-autodeterminacion-de-los-pueblos-contra-saqueo-empresarial-y-del-estado-de-honduras/>

As announced, Honduras' transport sector paralyzed Honduras in protest against government policies regarding vehicle taxes, changes to the Transport Law and fuel prices.

ContraCorriente published some great photographic impressions of the day.

The regime so far has failed to publish its calculations on how they decide on the fuel price, the second highest in the region after Costa Rica. One problem is that the fuel tax is charged in US Dollars while the Lempira devalues making the taxes rise constantly.

The student body supported the strike by blocking the road outside the university. They were violently repressed by the Military Police using tear gas.

The strike is planned to continue today at 6am/8am after they broke the strike last night to bring home Honduras' citizens.

The JOH regime reacted with new concessions and a call to renew the dialogue.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/con-paro-nacional-transportistas-buscan-rebaja-en-los-precios-de-los-combustibles/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/19/transportistas-paralizan-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2914-paro-de-transporte-paraliza-economia-14-mil-millones-por-ano-dejan-combustibles-al-gobierno>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/intolerancia-ante-paro-nacional-de-transporte-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58780>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/19/paro-nacional-de-transporte-en-honduras-continuara-manana/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/19/oferta-del-gobierno-a-transportistas-incremento-de-l-1-00-a-la-tarifa-y-un-bono-diario-de-l-50-00/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/19/regimen-de-honduras-cita-nuevamente-a-los-transportistas-a-dialogar/>

Libre congressman Juan Barahona denounces the stalling in the Pandora corruption case and demands that the illegally reelected Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla prosecute the suspects.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/no-esperemos-a-que-la-csj-se-pronuncie-sobre-articulo-184-para-continuar-con-el-caso-pandora-juan-barahona.html>

Last month, one powerful Nationalist congressman, Tomás Zambrano, had the charges against him dropped in the case of the Impunity Pact while they were maintained against another Nationalist congressman, Román Villeda Aguilar. The latter now present an appeal.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1199415-466/apelan-fallo-de-caso-pacto-de-impunidad>

ConexiHon reports on a public forum by human rights organizations on the need to derogate the Secrecy Law.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/732-ley-de-secretos-debe-ser-derogada-organizaciones-de-sociedad-civil>

Sergio Bahr writes about the difficult talk he had to have with his 12-year old daughter about the violence against children in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-pais-donde-asesinan-a-las-ninas/>

Kevin Russel took over the command at the US airbase in Soto Cano in Honduras on July 17.

<http://elpulso.hn/asume-nuevo-comandante-de-la-fuerza-de-tarea-conjunta-bravo-en-la-base-aerea-soto-cano/>

The Secretariat for Foreign Relations and International Cooperation showed their gratitude to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Swiss Cooperation Agency (COSUDE) and the German Financial Cooperation (KfW).

<http://www.sre.gob.hn/portada/2018/julio/10-07-18/Canciller%20entrega%20reconocimiento%20a%20representante%20del%20IDB,%20de%20la%20Cooperaci%C3%B3n%20Suiza.pdf>

The Spanish ambassador Guillermo Kirkpatrick spoke up the dialogue and asked everyone to participate.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/el-tiempo-apremia-claramente-para-el-dialogo-nacional-afirma-embajador-espanol.html>

I first did not want to even mention the press release of the JOH regime regarding the situation in Nicaragua because it represents such an affront to the Honduran victims of the post-electoral repression. But

now Radio Progreso also picked it up and highlights the "world cup level cynicism".

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-indomito-cinismo-de-aquel-que-dijimos/>

20/07/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Book; Post-Electoral Violence; Mining; RNP; Corruption - Trans-450, Pandora; Transport Sector; Catholic Church; and Welcome to Narcolandia

Melissa Cardoso, Honduran social activist and close friend of Berta Cáceres, recently presented her new book dedicated to Berta, "13 Colors of Resistance" in Italy. Geraldina Colotti interviewed Melissa there.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194232>

Defensores en Línea continues with its important work to remind us about the human beings who lost their lives to state violence during the post electoral crisis in Honduras and how their cases remain unpunished. Today, they commemorate Telmo Villareal, who was shot by the Military Police on January 20.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/asesinatos-de-la-crisis-post-electoral-siguen-en-la-impunidad/>

This week, the intervention commission for the National Persons Registry (RNP) took form in Congress. Radio Progreso spoke with several sectors, e.g. the National Anti-Corruption Council, which all are worried about both Congress' ability and its intentions in intervening the RNP.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/diversos-sectores-desconfian-de-intervencion-al-registro-nacional-de-las-personas/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1199710-466/votos-de-tres-partidos-ser%C3%A1n-claves-para-intervenir-el-registro-nacional-de>

Radio Progreso gives an overview of this week's mining summit in Honduras and the protests against it.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/congreso-minero-duro-golpe-a-las-comunidades-que-resisten-a-la-industria/>

Tegucigalpa's infrastructure project and its mayor's pet child, the Trans-450, should have been inaugurated one month ago. People are still waiting as more and more indicators of corruption are surfacing.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/20/trans-450-una-monumental-obra-de-corrupcion/>

According to TN5, the Pandora corruption case will have its first day in court the coming Monday.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/jueza-lidia-alvarez-aun-no-decide-iniciar-el-juicio-por-el-caso-pandora.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1199709-466/para-este-lunes-est%C3%A1-prevista-la-audiencia-del-caso-pandora>

Honduras saw its second consecutive day of a nation-wide strike by the transport sector.

The talks between the transport sector and the JOH regime once more failed and the former announced new strikes for coming Monday onwards. Its leadership had previously announced an end to the strike even without coming to an agreement which was later criticized by the base. Tomas Andino Mencía explains why it is important for more sectors of society to join in the protests of the transport sector.

The Finance Secretary tries to do the opposite, she spreads fear that the protest and its demand for lower fuel prices will affect the education and health sector. As ConfidenciaIHN highlights, the Defense

department seems to be safe...

The private business lobby COHEP claims that the reduction in fuel prices would cost the State 7300 million Lempiras.

The Security Secretary Julián Pacheco warns that they will use force if there are "acts of vandalism" at the protests. This is very worrisome, especially so, because the regime itself described the protests as "acts of vandalism" in a press release yesterday (see last link).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2918-segundo-dia-de-paro-transporte-detiene-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58844>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/20/al-no-llegar-a-acuerdo-con-el-gobierno-transportistas-anuncian-tomas-indefinidas-a-partir-del-lunes/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/20/sin-haber-alcanzado-arreglo-transportistas-de-honduras-suspenden-paro/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/20/transportistas-tildan-de-traidores-a-la-dirigencia-por-suspender-paro-sin-haber-llegado-a-acuerdos/>

<http://elpulso.hn/por-que-es-estrategico-sumarnos-a-la-lucha-por-rebajar-el-precio-del-combustible/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58862>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/07/20/rebaja-en-combustible-representa-una-perdida-de-7300-millones-de-lempiras-cohep/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/07/20/secretaria-de-seguridad-se-recurrira-al-uso-de-la-fuerza-si-continuan-las-tomas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/20/empleados-publicos-gozan-de-asueto-por-paro-de-transporte/>

The Vatican accepted the resignation of Juan José Pineda, the auxiliary bishop of Tegucigalpa and confidant of Cardinal Óscar Rodríguez. Pineda is accused of "inappropriate sexual conduct" by former seminarians.

Furthermore, an investigation by the Italian newspaper L'Espresso links him to possible acts of corruption.

Pineda himself just asked for forgiveness, but did not say why he resigned.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/07/20/se-acerco-a-mi-y-toco-mis-partes-intimas-victimas-de-presunto-acoso-sexual-de-juan-jose-pineda-numero-dos-de-maradiaga/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2917-renuncia-obispo-hondureno-tras-investigacion-del-vaticano-por-desenfreno-homosexual>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58837>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58834>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/narco-diputados-narco-alcaldes-y-narco-alcaldias/>

21/07/18

Honduras Daily: Corruption - Pandora, US; Dialogue; Transport Sector; Catholic Church; and Honduras et al. against the WTO

The Judicial Power finally emitted arrest warrants against the accused in the Pandora corruption case. Criterio re-published a list of the 38 people and what they are accused of.

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) fears that some of them may try to flee the country.

The arrest warrants were accompanied by notifications to the migration

alert system as well as ordered to seize goods and properties.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/21/emiten-ordenes-de-captura-contra-implicados-en-caso-pandora/>

<https://tiempo.hn/juez-emite-orden-de-captura-contra-implicados-en-caso-pandora/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/21/cna-advierte-fuga-tras-orden-de-captura-contra-implicados-en-caso-pandora/>

<https://tiempo.hn/libran-orden-de-captura-caso-pandora/>

Last month, the US announced to go after corrupt officials in Central America and they suspended the visas of some of them. According to Criterio, the judge Alma Guzmán is among them. She had suspended the charges against five congresswo/men and three NGO employees in the Congresswo/men Network corruption case.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/21/ee-uu-habria-retirado-visa-a-la-jueza-alma-guzman-por-dejar-en-libertad-a-diputados-acusados-de-corrupcion/>

Radio Progreso explains how there are two types of dialogue on the table in Honduras. The one proposed by the National Party and JOH - "a very structured proposal made to appear a dialogue of changes but without touching the real detonators of the crisis, its roots and its consequences" - and the one proposed by a divided opposition linked to their own demands. Radio Progreso challenges all of them to take into account the demands of the people.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/dialogo-politico-ciudadano/>

ContraCorriente held an interview with the former COHEP president Juliette Handal who co-founded the Alignment against Continuity last year in opposition against JOH's reelection bid. Handal makes the important link of the strike by the transport sector to bigger societal questions such as poverty.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/20/en-honduras-la-crisis-de-los-combustibles-tiene-doble-impacto-porque-inflan-los-precios-juliette-handal/>

El Pulso brings together all the revelations from Friday on the resignation of the Honduran bishop Juan José Pineda (see also yesterday). Pineda still claims he has done nothing wrong.

<http://elpulso.hn/de-que-se-acusa-a-monsenor-pineda/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58903>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1199879-466/honduras-apela-decisi%C3%B3n-de-la-omc-sobre-tema-tabaco>

22/07/18

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Corruption - Pandora; Journalists; Transport Sector; Dialogue; Penitentiary System; and the FBI in Honduras

Two Garífuna communities, Sambo Creek and Corozal in La Ceiba, Atlántida, oppose the construction of a thermal energy project just about 1km away from them. They fear that the smoke and noise, byproducts of the energy production, will negatively affect them and their environment.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/plantas-de-generacion-de-energia-termica-amenazan-la-paz-y-tranquilidad-de-comunidades-garifunas/>

Four of the 33 accused in the Pandora corruption case were arrested

yesterday, among them a deputy congressman of UD.
Many high profile accused will present themselves voluntarily at the court to avoid being publicly arrested.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58971>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/22/imputados-en-caso-pandora-con-alto-perfil-evitaran-la-verguenza-de-ser-capturados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58947>

Honduran authorities claim to have arrested a man involved in the murder of the journalist Aníbal Barrow in 2013.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58941>

<https://tiempo.hn/muerte-de-anibal-barrow/>

Today at 8am, the strike of the transport sector will continue. Javier Suazo analyzes the situation that led to it and looks at different solutions and its promoters.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/22/transportistas-de-nuevo-a-paro-a-partir-del-lunes-a-las-800-de-la-manana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58978>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194250>

The UN representative Igor Garafulic announces that they hired four mediators for the national dialogue, each one responsible to mediate one topic.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1200131-466/onu-contratados-los-mediadores-del-di%C3%A1logo-pol%C3%ADtico-nacional>

The director of the Támara prison, Gustavo Bonilla Duarte, was fired and he is being investigated for "alleged irregularities".

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58970>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/suspenden-al-director-de-penitenciaria-de-tamara-por-investigacion.html>

El Heraldo interviewed Amílcar Hernández, the director of the new National Anti-Maras and Pandillas Force (Fnamp). In the interview, he reiterated that they will work with FBI-certified staff.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1200134-466/fbi-dar%C3%A1-capacitaci%C3%B3n-a-fnamp-para-fortalecer-las-capacidades>

23/07/18

Honduras Daily: Journalists; CCC; Corruption - Pandora; Transport Sector; and Distorted Fiscal Policies

The journalist Leisy Flores suffered a tear gas attack at home and constantly received threatening calls. Nevertheless, the Honduran regime did nothing to help her and she felt forced to leave the country. Anti-riot police agents attacked the cameraman Engel Padilla and destroyed his equipment. Padilla was covering the violent repression of a protest in the San Miguel neighborhood in Tegucigalpa yesterday.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2218-estado-de-honduras-no-investigo-amenazas-contra-periodista-y-fue-obligada-a-irse-al-exilio>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/detencion-arbitraria/876-antimotines-detienen-y-danan-equipo-de-trabajo-de-camarografo>

The Alignment against Continuity (CCC), an alliance of different social movements and human rights organizations formed in opposition to the illegal reelection bid of JOH in 2017, held a public meeting in Catacamas, Olancho. They emphasized that their struggle still continues and that there is a need to mobilize the people again.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/convergencia-contr-el-continuisimo-la-instancia-articuladora-y-movilizada-contr-la-dictadura/>

Out of the 33 accused in the Pandora corruption case, 20 showed up to court yesterday morning. 19 of the 20 had to remain in custody after the initial hearing. According to Criterio, they will be held on an army base. Velkis Rosibel Hernández, meanwhile, will be held at home because she has a new born baby. The audiences are planned to continue tomorrow. Even before the case really took off, the vice-president Ricardo Álvarez publicly claims that most of the accused are innocent and therefore questioning the work of the MACCIH and Ufecic. Among the detained is also the head of the Liberal Party in Congress, Elvin Santos. He claims to have faith in the Honduran justice system and that he will be proven innocent. Javier Suazo has a great summary on the Pandora case which can be summarized best in one image: in opposition to the mythical Pandora's box, the Honduran one has a lid which allows it to be closed again. This allows powerful groups to control which content comes out and which remains hidden inside.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-manana-de-pandora/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/23/remiten-a-prision-a-19-imputados-en-el-caso-pandora/>

<https://tiempo.hn/trasciende-que-diputados-implicados-en-caso-pandora-son-traslados-al-primer-batallon-de-infanteria/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/23/varios-senalados-en-caso-pandora-son-inocentes-ricardo-alvarez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59071>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194278>

The transport sector maintained its strike yesterday. Salvador Nasralla publicly supported the strike of the transport sector. The JOH regime presented a new proposal. According to El Heraldo, the strike will be suspended for 2 days to discuss it.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59015>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=58989>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/23/salvador-nasralla-apoya-paro-nacional-del-transporte/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59058>

<https://tiempo.hn/gobierno-presento-nueva-contrapropuesta-a-la-dirigencia-del-sector-transporte/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1200429-466/transportistas-suspenden-el-paro-por-48-horas-tras-tregua-con-el-gobierno>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/23/la-venta-de-los-activos-nacionales/>

24/07/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Journalists; Post-Electoral Violence; Corruption - Pandora, de Lobo, MACCIH; Children's Rights; Transport Sector; and Building a New Honduras

Global Witness published a report on the "Deadliest year on record for land and environmental defenders, as agribusiness is shown to be the industry most linked to killings". They documented five murders in the case of Honduras, less than in 2016, "though repression of civil society in general worsened."

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/deadliest-year-record-land-and-environmental-defenders-agribusiness-shown-be-industry-most-linked-killings/>

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/at-what-cost/>

Journalist Dassaev Aguilar denounces that the MP informed him that they had lost his files documenting the attacks against him. The Protection Mechanism supposed to offer protection just told him not to run any risks and that they couldn't do anything for him...

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2222-periodista-denuncia-que-el-mp-perdio-su-expediente-y-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-le-dijo-que-no-corre-riesgo>

The National Human Rights Board held a press conference yesterday to demand that the illegal JOH regime takes up its responsibility for the post-electoral human rights violations. The press conference served also to prepare a visit by the IACHR which will take place next week from July 30 to August 3. Some of their demands are directly directed at the IACHR.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2221-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-presentara-ante-la-cidh-la-situacion-de-derechos-fundamentales-en-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/organizaciones-de-ddhh-tienen-lista-de-exigencias-ante-visita-de-la-cidh/>

Eight more accused in the Pandora corruption case presented themselves to court yesterday and six of them have to await trial in prison.

The political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado believes that the pre-trial detention serves mainly as a superficial show of force and that the accused will be free again after today's initial hearing.

An interesting side-note to yesterday's pre-trial hearings. They should have started at 2pm but they got delayed by Jean-François Peyrecave, the widower of JOH's sister Hilda Hernández. Peyrecave is accused of money laundering.

Wilfredo Méndez, lawyer and director of Ciprodeh, believes that external US pressure led to these arrests but that the pressure needs to be maintained if it should result in sentences. Furthermore, the "corrupto mayor" is still controlling everything.

Libre congressman Jari Dixon believes that the accused won't be suspended of their duties, be it as congresswo/men or public officials.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/24/jueza-dicta-detencion-judicial-a-seis-personas-mas-por-caso-pandora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59195>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/24/implicados-en-caso-pandora-manana-podrian-quedar-en-libertad-raul-pineda-alvarado/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/24/cunado-de-joh-atrasa-audiencia-en-caso-pandora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59175>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/no-creo-que-diputados-involucrados-en-pandora-sean-suspendidos-de-sus-cargos-preve-jari-dixon.html>

The Judicial Power announced that the corruption case against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo will go to trial.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59126>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/a-juicio-oral-y-publico-caso-que-involucra-a-exprimera-dama-rosa-de-lobo.html>

The new head of the MACCIH met with the illegally reelected Attorney General to coordinate their work. The Inter-American Dialogue will host a panel discussion called "Corruption in Honduras: Can MACCIH Make a Dent?". The panelists are Ana Maria Calderon, Coordinator of MACCIH's Division of Prevention and Combatting of Corruption, Luis Santos, Head of UFECIC, and Chuck Call, Director of Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) "Monitoring MACCIH and Anti-Impunity Efforts in Honduras" project. The discussion will take place on July 31 at 9:30am in Washington.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/vocero-de-maccih-y-fiscal-general-hondureno-se-reunen-para-coordinar-trabajo.html>

<https://www.thedialogue.org/events/corruption-in-honduras-can-maccih-make-a-dent/>

Giorgio Trucchi writes about a childhood without future in Honduras as one explanation why so many seek refuge outside of Honduras. According to Casa Alianza, every hour, two Honduran minors leave the country.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194280>

The JOH regime presented a new proposal to the transport sector. Cab drivers would get 900 Lempiras per month to buy fuel and bus drivers 2250 Lempiras per month.

The transport sector rejected the offer and insists on the 20 Lempiras decrease in fuel prices.

Libre presented a bill to abandon the dollarized fuel tax.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/24/regimen-ofrece-900-lempiras-mensuales-a-taxistas-y-2550-a-motoristas-e-buses-al-comprar-combustibles/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59192>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/transportistas-rechazan-propuesta-del-gobierno-y-piden-no-jugar-con-el-rubro.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59188>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/reconstruir-nuestra-casa-en-ruinas/>

25/07/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Agua Zarca; Bajo Aguán - Dinant; Journalists; Corruption - Pandora; Repression; Transport Sector; Public Health; Congress; and German History in Honduras

Some weeks ago, El Libertador falsely published a one-year old press release announcing the withdrawal of FMO and Finnfund from Agua Zarca as news. This has been taken up by other news outlets, some even celebrating it as a victory, but the fact of the matter is that the concession remains in the hand of DESA and they continue with the project.

<https://copinh.org/2018/07/la-empresa-asesina-des-mantiene-la-concesion-y-sigue-operando-el-proyecto-agua-zarca/>

Manuel de Jesús Arita Hernández had a work accident on a farm exploited by Dinant. Family members now denounce that the company is not

fulfilling its duties by denying to pay for his medical care.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/07/honduras-denuncia-publica-familiares-de.html>

Yesterday, Honduras celebrated the day of the cameraman and photographer. C-Libre and the Honduran Press Association (APH) denounced in a joint press conference that since 2017, at least 15 cameramen and photographers suffered violent attacks.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/737-honduras-15-agresiones-contra-camarografos-desde-el-2017>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/25/c-libre-y-aph-denuncian-agresiones-contra-periodistas-y-camarografos/>

Yesterday, the first hearings took place in the Pandora corruption case. The main line of defense by the accused is that they did not know the origin of the money they were spending and could therefore not be accused of money laundering.

El Pulso lists all the accused with a short bio and the crimes they are accused of.

The Coalition against Impunity demands in a press release that the judge rules according to the law and not abstains from the usual behavior of the Judicial Power "to modify the crimes, issue dismissals and issue letters of freedom in all judicial processes involving members of the political and economic elite".

The MP demanded to include the crime of illicit association to the charges of five of the accused.

<http://elpulso.hn/audiencia-inicial-caso-pandora/>

<http://elpulso.hn/quienes-son-los-implicados-en-el-caso-pandora-t-de-que-se-les-acusa/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2223-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-denuncia-que-csj-ha-dilatado-caso-pandora>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/738-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-poder-judicial-debe-aplicar-la-ley-en-caso-pandora>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59243>

C-Libre reports on various instances of state repression during the strike actions by the transport sector.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/877-represion-y-hostilidad-militar-durante-jornada-de-protesta-de-transportistas>

The 48 hours break in the protest by the transport sector is over today and as they rejected the offer by the government, new strike actions may follow. Radio Progreso published an overview of the current situation.

The president of the Cab Drivers Association of Honduras (ATAXISH) does not discard new strikes for today.

Another leader of the transport sector, Jorge Lanza, announces a complete shutdown of transport for next week if the JOH regime does not take seriously their new proposal.

Just hours later, the director of the Honduran Terrestrial Transport Institute (IHTT) rejected the proposal.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/transportistas-rechazan-propuesta-de-gobierno-no-descartan-paros/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/25/ante-negligencia-del-gobierno-taxistas-no-descartan-paro-para-manana-jueves/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59260>

<https://tiempo.hn/gobierno-rechaza-propuesta-hecha-por-el-sector-transporte/>

Medical students doing social work as part of their studies announced

increasing strike actions starting today as the Health Secretariat continuously failed to deliver its promises.

<https://confidencialhn.com/?p=59269>

Congress made use for the first time of the new power it gave itself last week to correct "errors" in already approved laws. They derogated the Article 335-B of the Penal Code. The opposition fears that this new power will be misused in the future.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cn-estreno-reforma-para-corregir-errores-eliminando-el-articulo-335-b-del-codigo-penal.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1201216-466/diputados-podr%C3%A1n-corregir-inconsistencias-halladas-en-decretos-aprobados-en-el-congreso-nacional>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/24/el-saqueo-de-los-alemanes-durante-la-dictadura-de-tiburcio-carias/>

26/07/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; IACHR; Mining; Political Prisoners; CCC; Forced Displacement; Corruption - Pandora, ENEE; Transport Sector; IACtHR; and the Crisis of the Honduran Church

While the public trial against the eight material authors of Berta's assassination will only start on September 10, a first hearing will take place today in Tegucigalpa. The MP, as well as the defense lawyers and the lawyers of Berta's family and COPINH will present the evidence they intend to use in the trial. It is feared that the MP, for the sixth time, will fail to present its evidence and, therefore, refuse to comply with court orders.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-autoridades-judiciales-deben-investigar-a-todos-los-responsables-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2225-gobierno-hondureno-debe-tener-presion-mundial-para-investigar-crimen-de-berta-caceres-y-ataques-contra-defensores-del-ambiente>

The IACHR will arrive in Honduras on July 30 for a four-day visit to investigate the human rights situation in the country. A special focus will be on the post-electoral violence.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cidh-realiza-visita-in-loco-a-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/26/cidh-realiza-visita-in-loco-a-honduras/>

A court in San Pedro Sula reiterated in a second ruling that the mining company MINOSA has to immediately stop the exhumation of graves in order to expand its mining activities in Azacualpa, Copán. MADJ calls on both CONADEH and the UN Human Rights Office to intervene in this case as they have been silent so far.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/07/27/Juzgado-ordena-por-segunda-vez-suspender-exhumaciones-en-cementerio-de-Azacualpa>

Radio Progreso published a special report on the situation of the political prisoners in Honduras focusing on Lourdes Gómez, Melvin Chávez and Francisco Gómez, who spent more than four months in prison and only got out conditionally fearing to be imprisoned once more.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/cuando-un-proceso-electoral-arrebata-el-derecho-a-elegir-y-encarcela-a-quienes-lo-defienden/>

The Alignment against Continuity (CCC) held another meeting in Danlí as

part of a nation-wide organization for a protest on August 30 against the JOH regime.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-danli-finalizo-gira-de-articulacion-de-la-convergencia-contra-el-continuisimo/>

The Network of Civil Society Organizations for the Protection of Displace People (ROSCPPD) held a press conference yesterday. According to them, 264'481 people have suffered from forced displacement in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/26/honduras-registra-264-mil-desplazamientos-forzosos-segun-organizaciones-de-sociedad-civil/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/739-mas-de-260-mil-hondurenos-son-victimas-de-desplazamiento-interno>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-registra-264-mil-481-desplazados-desde-2014-segun-ong.html>

In the Pandora corruption case, the sitting judge accepted the proof presented by the MP as well as the defense teams and the trial will continue.

Yahvé Sabillón, the coordinator of the Parliamentary Front in Support of the MACCIH, demands that intellectual authors behind the corruption case should be brought to justice as well.

ConfidencialHN bring to light some new forms of corruption linked to the Pandora case. One of the accused, Félix Francisco Pacheco Reyes, used public funds to finance his airline.

<https://confidencialhn.com/desestiman-recursos-para-buscar-liberacion-de-imputados-en-trama-corrupta-pandora/>

<https://tiempo.hn/finaliza-etapa-de-evacuacion-de-pruebas-en-el-sonado-caso-pandora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-dar-con-el-cerebro-que-urdio-el-saqueo-de-recursos-de-la-sag/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/implicado-en-saqueo-de-la-sag-recio-dinero-publico-para-financiar-aerolinea/>

According to ConfidencialHN, the former head of ENEE, Roberto Martínez Lozano, may be arrested for corruption linked to the Patuca II hydroelectric project.

<https://confidencialhn.com/afirman-que-el-exgerente-de-la-enee-tiene-orden-de-captura-por-corrupcion-en-patuca-iii/>

Radio Progreso takes the strike of the transport sector as further evidence that the JOH regime lacks any political will to solve the socioeconomic as well as political crisis of Honduras' people. MAD publicly supports the demands of the transport sector to reduce fuel prices as it would lead to a decrease of prices in public goods benefiting everyone.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/precio-de-los-combustibles/>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/07/27/MADJ-Respaldo-a-la-demanda-de-reduccion-de-precios-de-combustibles>

Two years ago, El Pulso wrote an in-depth article about the murder of Jeanette Kawas. Now they followed up with one about Carlos Luna López, an aspiring mayoral candidate of the then newly formed opposition party UD in 1998. His case was brought to the IACtHR for the violations of personal integrity, the violation of judicial guarantees and protection against his family members as well as delay of justice and impunity by not advancing with the investigation into his murder.

<http://elpulso.hn/quien-mato-a-carlos-luna-lopez/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-crisis-de-las-iglesias/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/seminaristas-hondurenos-alegan-mala-conducta-homosexual-generalizada/>

27/07/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs; Journalists; IACHR; Corruption - Pandora II, US, Judicial Power, Trans-450; Climate Change; Transport Sector; Deportation; and a Failed Education System

Yesterday's hearing in the case of Berta Cáceres was postponed to August 23 and 24.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/en-audiencia-de-medios-probatorios-implicados-en-asesinato-de-bertha-caceres.html>

Last month, the Honduran human rights organization Women's Movement for Peace Visitación Padilla was awarded the George Fritze Human Rights Price by the German Lutheran Church. Yesterday, they celebrated it. According to the Human Rights Secretary, Karla Cueva, the HRDs Protection Mechanism has benefited 800 people so far. Given the widespread criticism from HRDs and human rights organization regarding the effectiveness of the mechanism, this number seems unbelievably high.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2228-las-chonas-celebraran-premio-de-ddhh-otorgado-por-la-iglesia-luterana-de-alemania>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unas-800-personas-habrian-sido-protegidas-por-unidad-estatal-de-ddhh/>

The Honduras Press Association (APH) sought out the HRDs Protection Mechanism in the case of various cameramen and photographers.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2226-aph-realizara-gestiones-ante-el-mecanismo-nacional-de-proteccion-para-que-camarografos-y-fotografos-sean-protegidos>

Bertha Oliva, general coordinator of COFADEH, told ConfidencialHN that one important area they will discuss with the IACHR delegation coming to Honduras next will be the failure of the special protection measures.

<https://confidencialhn.com/medidas-cautelares-del-organismo-de-ddhh-de-oea-han-fracasado-en-honduras/>

According to El Pulso, the MP, based on work by the MACCIH and UFECIC, will present legal actions against no less than 54 current and former congresswomen as an expansion of the Pandora case, dubbed Pandora II. It would affect 31 National Party, 12 Liberal Party, 8 Libre, 2 UD and 1 DC congresswoman.

Radio Progreso spoke with the lawyer and former judge Ramón Enrique Barrios about the Pandora case, the illegal reelection of the Attorney General and how it will affect the investigation of corruption.

<http://elpulso.hn/54-requerimientos-para-pandora-ii/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/54-diputados-y-exlegisladores-seran-perseguidos-penalmente-por-lavado-de-dinero/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/caso-pandora-pone-a-prueba-cuestionada-justicia-hondurena-senala-analista/>

"On July 26, the US House and Senate approved a bill that will require the Secretary of State to share the identities of government officials in Central America's Northern Triangle countries who are involved in corruption and drug trafficking with Congress.

The bill specifies that the secretary must submit a report that includes "the names of senior government officials in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador who are known to have committed or facilitated acts of grand corruption or narcotics trafficking." (...) The congressional committees must receive the report within 180 days of the amendment's publication."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/us-dept-state-create-central-america-corruption-blacklist/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/27/departamento-de-estado-elaborara-lista-de-corruptos-centroamericanos/>

A higher court revoked the alternative measures to imprisonment for the former members of the Judiciary Council and ordered they preventive imprisonment. They are accused of corruption and abuse of authority.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ordenan-ingreso-a-prision-del-expresidente-del-poder-judicial-y-exconcejales-de-la-judicatura/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ordenan-prision-preventiva-contra-exmiembros-del-consejo-de-la-judicatura/>

The former mayor of Tegucigalpa and current vice-president, Ricardo Álvarez, reacts to the announced investigation into the infrastructure project Trans-450 which fell under his reign.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/27/ricardo-alvarez-dice-que-le-molesta-e-incomoda-que-el-trans-450-no-este-funcionando/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/caso-trans-450-vicepresidente-de-honduras-contento-por-nueva-linea-de-investigacion/>

ContraCorriente reports on climate change as another growing source of forced displacement in Honduras.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/26/cambio-climatico-otra-guerra-de-la-que-huyen-los-hondurenos/>

State security forces continue to answer to the protests by the transport sector with violence and repression.

They claim that Maras have infiltrated the protests...

ContraCorriente summarizes this weeks events in the transport sector strike. They also spoke with the vice-president of the Cab Drivers Association Honduras (ATAXISH), Rony Figueroa, who announces stronger strike actions for Monday if there is no solution by then.

Radio Progreso concentrates on the economics of the strike and the demands of the transport sector.

The JOH regime, meanwhile, changed to a divide and conquer strategy and started offering different deals to different sectors. According to Criterio, the yellow bus drivers in San Pedro Sula accepted the regime's offer yesterday.

The same day, the National Transport Council published a press release presenting strength and insisting on the 23 Lempiras price reduction for fuel.

They also announced to use the congressional way for the price reduction. The president of ATAXISH denounces that he and various of his colleagues have been receiving threats.

<https://tiempo.hn/crisis-del-transporte-con-gas-lacrimogeno-y-disparos-la-policia-reprime-a-ciudadanos-en-villanueva/>

<https://tiempo.hn/transporte-policia-nacional-vincula-a-maras-y-pandillas-con-protestas-de-este-viernes/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/26/dias-de-tregua-en-un-pais-sin-piedad/>

<http://wp.radioprogressohn.net/demanda-de-transportistas-es-factible-impuesto-al-combustible-se-puede-derogar-asegura-economista/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/27/duenos-de-buses-amarillos-de-san-pedro-sula-firmaron-con-el-gobierno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/transportistas-pactan-con-gobierno-bonos-y-aumento-de-pasaje/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mientras-gobierno-afirma-alcanzar-acuerdo-con-transportistas-estos-denuncian-intentos-de-division/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/27/transportistas-se-mantienen-firmes-exigiendo-los-23-lempiras-de-rebaja-a-los-combustibles/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/transportistas-iran-al-legislativo-para-buscar-la-rebaja-al-impuesto-del-combustible/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1201830-466/a-trav%C3%A9s-de-una-iniciativa-de-ley-transportistas-pedir%C3%A1n-bajarle-a-los>

<https://confidencialhn.com/dirigente-del-transporte-denuncia-que-lo-están-amenazando/>

Compared to the same period in 2017, the number of deported Hondurans increased by over 50%.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/deportacion-de-hondurenos-se-incremento-en-50-7-hasta-julio-segun-datos-oficiales.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/casa-alianza-ilogico-modelo-educativo-en-honduras-promueve-el-exodo-de-la-ninez/>

28/07/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Corruption - Pandora, Judiciary Council; Drug Trafficking; IACHR; and Joining Forces

As already written yesterday, the trial in the murder case of Berta Cáceres was postponed once more to August 23 and 24. The excuse this time was that absence of one of the defense lawyer.

Before the trial was postponed, the defense team of Berta's family demanded that COPINH be included in the list of victims given the great suffering the organization has suffered due to the murder of its general coordinator.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/28/reprograman-audiencia-de-proposicion-de-pruebas-en-caso-bertha-caceres-para-el-23-y-24-de-agosto/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2229-abogados-de-la-familia-de-bertha-caceres-solicitan-que-copinh-sea-incluido-como-victima>

As expected, the preventive imprisonment of the majority of the accused in the Pandora corruption case was short-lived. On Saturday morning, the judge Lidia Álvarez Sagastume changed the charge against 26 out of the 29 accused who turned up (9 are still on the run, 3 have been acquitted already and 1 died) from money laundering to concealment ("encubrimiento") and with that released them from preventive imprisonment. Just one, Jacobo Regalado, the former Agriculture and Livestock Minister, remains in prison.

Even worse, already hours before the official announcement, family members of the accused knew already about their release, some saying that everything had been resolved the day before "through the use of bank accounts".

Gabriela Castellanos, director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), denounces the resolution and reminds us that they have previously warned about a possible manipulation of the case by the Honduran Justice System.

UFECIC announced that they respect the judge's decision, but they do not share it and will take the corresponding measures to challenge it.

Manuel Zelaya, Libre's coordinator, reacts by saying that as long as the Honduran state is captured by a political mafia supported by the US there won't be any justice.

Criterio published the judge's resolution.

<http://elpulso.hn/jueza-deja-libres-a-los-acusados-en-el-caso-pandora/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/28/jacobo-regalado-el-unico-que-ha-quedado-presos-por-el-caso-pandora/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/28/la-caja-de-corrupcion-que-nunca-se-cierra/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/28/la-caja-de-pandora-fue-un-cuento-mal-contado-gabriela-castellanos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-es-un-pais-de-impunidad-afirma-el-cna/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ufecic-se-pronuncia-en-contra-de-la-resolucion-del-juez-en-caso-pandora.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mientras-la-mafia-politica-administre-el-estado-no-habra-justicia-mel/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/28/conozca-la-resolucion-del-caso-pandora/>

At the same time as Nationalist congresswo/men benefit from the leniency of the Honduran Justice System in the Pandora case, the MP presents legal charges against a Libre congressman for drug trafficking.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mp-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-diputado-de-libre-ramon-soto-bonilla.html>

El Pulso has a good overview of the case against the former members of the now defunct Judiciary Council (see also yesterday).

<http://elpulso.hn/prision-preventiva-para-exmiembros-del-consejo-de-la-judicatura/>

Defensores en Línea welcomes next week's visit of the IACHR to Honduras with a critical article.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-nueva-visita-de-la-cidh/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-la-unidad-esta-la-fuerza/>

29/07/18

Honduras Daily: IACHR; Corruption - Pandora, History; Extradition; and no Strike Today

The IACHR will start its four-day mission to Honduras today. In preparation of their visit, Manuel Zelaya met with the commission and handed over letter denouncing the human rights situation and impunity in the country. Criterio published the content of the letter.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/29/manuel-zelaya-denuncia-ante-comision-de-la-cidh-el-estado-de-impunidad-y-ausencia-de-institucionalidad-que-vive-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-se-reunio-cidh/>

El Pulso started a new series of articles in which it will bring to light past corruption cases which are still significant today. They start with CONADI, the National Investment Cooperation, which was intended to bring "development" to Honduras but only brought more riches to some powerful individuals such as Miguel Facussé.

<http://elpulso.hn/como-se-quebro-conadi-y-quienes-fueron-los-responsables/>

JOH ally and president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta, defended the ruling by judge Lidia Álvarez. She changed the crimes of the majority of the accused in the Pandora corruption case so that they no longer have to await trial in prison (see also yesterday).

Salvador Nasralla reacted to the ruling with a very controversial tweet: "Only the people or the USA can save Honduras".

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/jueza-tuvo-independencia-imparcialidad-y-objetividad-en-resolucion-del-caso-pandora-segun-rolando-argueta.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/29/solo-el-pueblo-o-usa-pueden-salvar-a-honduras-salvador-nasralla/>

Another Honduran wanted by the US was arrested. He apparently has links to the Valle Valle drug cartel.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1202283-466/capturan-a-un-hondure%C3%B1o-extraditable-solicitado-por-estados-unidos-en-cop%C3%A1n>

According to El Heraldo, the transport sector decided against strike actions for today.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1202181-466/transportistas-anuncian-que-no-hay-paro-este-lunes-en-honduras>

30/07/18

Honduras Daily: IACHR; Post-Electoral Violence; Journalists; COPINH; LGBTI; Corruption - Pandora; Transport Sector; and More about the Honduran Catholic Church

ConexiHon reports on a meeting between released political prisoners and family members of victims of the post-electoral crisis with the IACHR delegation. ConexiHon denounces that they were intimidated by state security forces when leaving the meeting at the Hotel Marriot in Tegucigalpa.

According to Pasos de Animal Grande, JOH even tried to stop them from going to the meeting with the IACHR delegation by sending the presidential guards. HRDs accompanying the family members had to call the IACHR commissioners in support.

They demanded that the IACHR inquire about the remaining incarcerated political prisoners.

COFADEH, FSAR and CEJIL will hold a press conference this morning at 11:30am to present emblematic cases of human rights violations during the coup d'état to the IACHR delegation.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/743-en-medio-de-un-cerco-policial-militar-la-cidh-escucha-a-presos-politicos-y-victimas-post-fraude-electoral>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2231-cuerpos-represivos-tenian-orden-de-impedir-que-victimas-de-la-crisis-postelectoral-denunciaran-arbitrariedades-ante-la-cidh>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/solicitan-a-la-cidh-pida-cuenta-al-estado-por-los-presos-politicos-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/30/casos-emblematicos-del-golpe-de-estado-de-2009-se-presentaran-ante-la-cidh/>

It once more became evident that only strong outside pressure helps to bring about (mostly minor) positive developments in human rights in Honduras: the Human Rights Prosecutor presented charges against 11 police agents and officials as well as soldiers for the post-electoral human rights violations.

<https://confidencialhn.com/llevaran-a-tribunales-11-policias-y-militares-por-transgredir-ddhh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/policias-y-militares-acusados-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/presentan-11-requerimientos-fiscales-contra-policias-y-militares-por-excesos-en-sus-funciones.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande published an important article accompanied with

info graphics about the impunity in cases of murdered journalists, the failings of the protection mechanism and the lack of investigation by the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of HRDs, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators (FEPRODDEHH).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/investigaciones/item/2230-fiscalia-de-proteccion-no-investigara-ni-judicializara-casos-de-periodistas-asesinados>

Criterio reports that an indigenous Lenca campesino was sentenced to four years in prison for sowing maize on a field supposedly dedicated to be a forest area. The 66-year old campesino is a member of COPINH and MADJ, which legally accompanies the case, denounces it as the criminalization of ancient practices of Honduras' indigenous peoples.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/30/condenan-a-cuatro-anos-de-carcel-a-indigena-lenca-por-sembrar-maiz-en-tierra-forestal/>

HRD and LGBTI activist Kendra Stefany Jordany writes down several questions only trans-women are bothered with.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/07/29/preguntas-que-solo-las-mujeres-transgenero-entenderemos/>

Gabriela Castellanos, director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), wrote an open letter to the accused in the Pandora corruption case - well worth reading it.

Jorge Alberto Izaguirre Zamora, another accused who previously failed to present himself before court, did so yesterday.

He has to await his initial hearing on August 3 in prison.

Meanwhile, OABI will continue to prepare the seizure of goods and properties linked to the Pandora case.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2925-pandora-perdonen-las-cuatro-noches>

<https://tiempo.hn/en-audiencia-de-declaracion-de-imputado-otro-implicado-en-caso-pandora/>

<https://tiempo.hn/detencion-judicial-para-jorge-izaguirre-zamora-implicado-en-caso-pandora/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1202641-466/el-ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-va-por-los-bienes-adquiridos-con-fondos-de-sag>

The JOH regime seems to have successfully divided the transport sector and, therefore, weakened the protest. "The illegitimate regime used a ruse to come to an agreement with sectors close to the National Party to avoid protest actions."

The Cab Association Honduras (Ataxish) reacts with a press release reiterating that they stand firm behind the demand for a 23 Lempiras fuel price decrease and that protest actions are still on the table.

The Association of Transporters in the South (Asotchol-Sur) speaks out against an agreement with the regime.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn/gobierno-divide-a-transportistas-y-logra-acuerdo-para-aplicar-trancazo-a-la-ciudadania/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/30/sector-de-taxis-de-tegucigalpa-tambien-pacta-aumento-de-tarifa-con-el-gobierno/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/30/ataxish-aclara-que-no-ha-llegado-a-ningun-acuerdo-con-el-gobierno/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/30/transportistas-de-la-zona-sur-desautorizan-acuerdo-firmado-con-el-gobierno/>

"Honduran Seminarians Allege Widespread Homosexual Misconduct - But to date, Cardinal Maradiaga has not responded publicly to the allegations regarding his archdiocesan seminary."

"Honduran Bishops' Conference Replies to Accusations of a Homosexual Network at Major Seminary - The statement, which asserts that the seminary follows the norms and morals of the Catholic Church, criticizes the Register's reporting on the seminary for causing "pain and scandal."

The Register, however, stands by the story."

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/honduran-seminarians-allege-widespread-homosexual-misconduct>

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/edward-pentin/honduran-bishops039-conference-replies-to-accusations-of-a-homosexual-netwo>

<https://confidencialhn.com/conferencia-episcopal-lamenta-que-medio-catolico-publique-conductas-homosexuales-en-seminario/>

31/07/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Threats; IACHR; Corruption - Misogyny, Pandora; FoE; Fiscal Policy; Transport Sector; RNP; and Congress' Salary Books

The president of Spanish Advocates and the vice-president of the International Observatory of Lawyers at Risk wrote an open letter to the president of the Honduran Supreme Court, Rolando Edgardo Argueta Pérez, expressing his concern about the safety of Berta's family and the lawyers representing them.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-abogacia-espanola-pide-proteccion-para-familia-y-abogados-de-berta-caceres/>

Defensores en Línea dedicates an article to the five cases of impunity from 2009 and 2010 which COFADEH, CEJIL and FSAR presented to the IACHR delegation yesterday.

One of the cases presented was the murder of the journalist Nahúm Palacios Arteaga. He was assassinated on March 10, 2010 in Tocoa, Colón and his case rests in impunity.

On the night of his murder, Palacios Arteaga was accompanied by Yorleni Yadira Sánchez who also suffered gun wounds and died two days later in the hospital. Defensores en Línea spoke to her father.

Palacios Arteaga's father suffered from depression after his murder and he died this February.

Feminist and women's rights organization published a press release demanding that the IACHR speaks out against the violence against women in Honduras.

The IACHR delegation also met with victims of the post-electoral state repression and family members of some of the Hondurans who violently lost their lives during these weeks (see also yesterday).

In a preliminary conclusion of their visit, the executive secretary of the IACHR, Paulo Arbão, expresses concern about the failure by the State to comply with recommendations made by the IACHR.

About 20 national and international human rights organization published a press release to denounce the grave human rights crisis in Honduras to the IACHR. One of their key demand is an international investigation of the post-electoral human rights violations.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tras-nueve-anos-de-impunidad-victimas-buscan-justicia-internacional/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/745-nahum-palacios-otro-comunicador-asesinado-que-no-encuentra-justicia-en-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/padre-de-yorleni-mi-hija-sobrevivio-al-ataque-pero-murio-dos-dias-despues-de-salir-del-hospital/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-la-esperanza-de-justicia-muere-padre-de-nahum-palacios/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2232-feministas-hondurenas-piden-a-la-cidh-pronunciarse-por-las-agresiones-contras-mujeres-en-el-marco-del-periodo-electoral-y-la-crisis-post-electoral>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-es-el-pais-mas-peligroso-de-latinoamerica-para-ser-mujer-cdm/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-cidh-impactada-con-los-testimonios-de-victimas-de-la-crisis-post-electoral/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2928-cidh-insiste-a-gobierno-hondureno-protoger-grupos-vulnerables>

<https://tiempo.hn/edmund-orellana-honduras-cidh/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2233-en-primer-dia-de-trabajo-la-cidh-se-reune-con-instituciones-del-gobierno>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/07/31/personas-defensoras-denuncian-grave-crisis-de-derechos-humanos-ante-la-cidh-y-piden-creacion-equipo-de-investigacion-internacional-que-audite-al-ministerio-publico/>

Radio Progreso highlights how two of the main recent corruption cases, Pandora and the one against the former First Lady, are treated differently by the media. In the case of the First Lady Rosa Elena

Bonilla, there are photographs of her brought to court and in handcuffs. In the Pandora case, where all of the accused are men except one, there are various important public figures from the National and Liberal Party, but the media does not show them facing trial.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-caja-de-la-misoginia-estatal-y-mediatica/>

The Coalition against Impunity released a press communique on the Pandora corruption case. "The first chapter of the Pandora case has concluded and the balance for justice is negative. Once again the expectations of the citizens have been circumvented by the Supreme Court of Justice, which demonstrated its lack of independence when it comes to judging the members of the political and economic elites."

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle also shares his reflections with us.

Political analyst Julio Navarro demands that the Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla comment on the case.

El Heraldo takes a close look at the only accused who still remains in prison, the former Agriculture and Livestock Minister (SAG).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/31/las-paradojas-de-la-justicia-hondurena-y-el-caso-la-caja-de-pandora/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/31/la-obligada-consecuencia-del-fallo-a-favor-de-los-pandoros/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/exigen-a-chinchilla-rendir-cuentas-por-resultados-en-caso-pandora/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1202991-466/jacobo-regalado-pidi%C3%B3-aumentos-presupuestarios-para-fundaciones-dibattista-y-todos-somos-honduras>

Thelma Mejía offers an overview of all the laws attacking freedom of expression which have come into force in Honduras the last five years.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/31/leyes-y-amenazas-cercan-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras/>

In 2013, some 13 organizations formed the Group to Promote Fiscal Dialogue (GPDF). This week, they held a press conference regretting that there aren't currently the conditions in Honduras for a constructive dialogue to reform fiscal policies.

<http://elpulso.hn/grupo-promotor-del-dialogo-fiscal-asegura-que-no-es-el-mejor-momento-para-integrar-una-discusion-para-una-nueva-politica-fiscal/>

The transport sector and the JOH regime seem to have come to an agreement and according to Criterio, it is in detriment of public interests. Starting today, the prices of various services will increase, e.g. two Lempiras for the yellow buses.

The JOH regime declares the crisis in the transport sector finished.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/07/31/transportistas-se-burlan-del-pueblo-y-junto-al-gobierno-asestan-incrementos-en-sus-tarifas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/transportistas-y-gobierno-firman-acuerdo-para-aumentar-tarifas-al-servicio-publico/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1202803-410/gobierno-declara-superada-crisis-transporte-publico-honduras>

JOH signed an agreement to create an Inter-Agency Board for Transparency and Anti-Corruption. It will also support the intervention at the National Persons Registry (RNP).

The US welcomed this.

At the same time, Congress chose a commission to elect the members of the board.

Libre protests against the nomination process for the commission.

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-firma-acuerdo-para-instalar-mesa-interagencial-de-transparencia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/gobierno-acompanara-al-congreso-nacional-en-intervencion-del-rnp.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/eeuu-destaca-el-acuerdo-para-instalar-una-mesa-de-transparencia-en-honduras.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nombran-comision-parlamentaria-que-escogera-interventora-en-el-rnp/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/si-pero-no-libre-no-acepta-que-luis-cruz-este-en-comision-que-nombrara-interventora-en-rnp/>

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-denuncia-diputado-luis-cruz-bancada/>

El Heraldo got access to the salaries of the members of Congress and their staff. The president of Congress, for example, got a more than 50% pay rise this year.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1202950-466/m%C3%A1s-de-100000-lempiras-gana-la-mayor-%C3%ADa-de-los-directivos-del-congreso>