

01/08/18

Honduras Daily: Post-Electoral Violence; Miskitu; WHRDs - Bajo Aguán; Journalists; FoE; LGBTI; Drug Trafficking; Corruption - Ufecic, HEU, Pandora; and the Walk of Shame

Pasos de Animal Grande speaks with journalist César Silva about the recent decision of the MP to emit charges against 17 people for the post-electoral human rights violations. Silva himself was attacked during this time and the charges give him strength. At the same time, he recognizes that they came about only on the day the IACHR delegation came to Honduras and, therefore, more international pressure will be needed.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2235-periodista-cesar-silva-da-coraje-que-el-mp-se-aproveche-de-visita-de-la-cidh>

Family members of a young indigenous Miskitu man, Espodium Júnior Taylor, denounce that their loved one has been tortured and murdered inside a police station in La Ceiba.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-misquito-fue-ultimado-dentro-de-jefatura-policial-de-la-ceiba/>

CEPROSAF published a report on the situation of women human rights defenders in the Bajo Aguán and the Atlántida department.

<http://movimientom4.org/wp-content/docs/la-lucha-por-la-defensa-de-sus-territorios.pdf>

The journalist Kency Gissel Grandez Durón was brutally attacked by the police while covering a student protests. The violent reaction by state security forces led to two more students and a human rights defender being hurt.

ConxeiHon and C-Libre condemn the attack against her.

The National Police reacted with a press release speaking of a supposed aggression even though there exists a video of the attack.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/748-brutalidad-policial-contr-periodista-de-conexihon>

<https://tiempo.hn/agentes-antimotines-agreden-a-periodista-de-c-libre-en-toma-de-la-unah/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/749-conexihon-condena-violencia-contr-nuestra-reportera>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/879-policias-golpean-y-roban-celular-a-periodista-durante-cobertura-noticiosa>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/01/pese-evidencias-policia-pone-en-duda-agresion-de-periodista/>

Journalists and cameramen at UNE-TV denounce that the JOH regime continues to impede their journalistic work. The newest instance took place on Monday, when the journalist Jorge Estrada was denied access to cover an event by the Health Secretariat. Just a day before, state security forces tried to keep journalist Cesar Silva away from a meeting with IACHR commissioner Edison Lanza.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/censura/878-politica-de-censura-gubernamental-contr-une-tv>

To better understand the social, political and economic circumstances of trans women in Honduras, Expediente Abierto surveyed 46 trans women in the North of Honduras. Their report "Trans Community in Honduras: A Permanent Struggle to Live" will be published soon. Expediente Público already shares some initial findings.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/comunidad/92-las-vidas-a-contracorriente-de-las-trans-en-honduras>

Expediente Público interviewed a former employee of the Anti-Drugs Unit of the National Police about local drug-trading in Honduras. Granting the person anonymity, they speak also about the failings inside the police force.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/seguridad-y-violencia/93-el-abc-del-narcomenudeo-en-honduras>

The head of the MP's anti-corruption body Ufecic, Luis Santos, is currently in the US where he denounces that powerful actors actively undermine the fight against corruption in Honduras. There he also met with the State Department.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-ufecic-se-queja-en-washington-por-la-conspiracion-del-poder-sobre-casos-de-corrupcion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/jefe-de-la-ufecic-se-reune-con-funcionarios-de-departamento-de-estado-en-washington.html>

ConfidencialHN reports on irregularities at the University Hospital in contracting a new security company.

<https://confidencialhn.com/directivos-del-hospital-escuela-universitario-se-salta-la-ley-y-da-carisimo-contrato-a-empresa-de-seguridad-cnk/>

The former attorney general Edmundo Orellana comments on the recent ruling in the Pandora corruption case under the banner "selective justice".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/01/justicia-selectiva/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/59772-2/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1203329-466/camuflados-y-tap%C3%A1ndose-firmaron-los-implicados-en-el-caso-pandora>

02/08/18

Honduras Daily: MADJ; Extractivism; Journalists; IACHR; Corruption - US, Congress, Judiciary Council; MACCIH; Fiscal Policy; Drug Trafficking; and the High Cost of Crime

MADJ reports of a successful legal challenge presented by them against the hydroelectric project Los Planes by HIDROCEP. The court ordered the municipality of Tela to stop the construction work on July 30.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/08/03/Parar-las-obras-de-HIDROCEP-ordena-juzgado-en-amparo>

In the beginning of this year, the Energy, Natural Resources and Mining Secretariat (MiAmbiente) nullified a request by the Environmental Committee of the Siria Valley to stop the geothermic project 12 Tribus. Since then, their situation has worsened and the committee denounces a pressure campaign by the company to have local inhabitants sale their land to them. The committee now filed an appeal for reversal of MiAmbiente's initial decision.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ambientalistas-del-valle-de-siria-interponen-nuevo-recurso-para-detener-a-geotermica/>

The newest attack by the Honduran police against a journalist on Wednesday (see yesterday's e-mail) causes widespread condemnation. A group of human rights defenders presented an official complaint at the MP against the police agents.

El Pulso denounces that the supposedly purged National Police Force still has not understood the work of journalists.

A group of Journalism university teachers denounce the attack as lack of

the respect for life and freedom of press.

Claudia Mendoza reminds the police of their motto "to serve and protect". C-Libre now denounces that a second reporter was attacked by the police while covering the same protest on Wednesday. Emilio Flores who works as a cameraman denied handing over his camera to the police and was physically attacked as a response.

Criterio reports that of the more than 255 complaints of attacks against journalists presented since 2015, more than 99% rest in impunity.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/02/defensores-presentan-denuncia-penal-contra-policias-que-agredieron-periodistas/>

<http://elpulso.hn/nueva-agresion-a-la-prensa/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/752-docentes-de-periodismo-en-la-unah-reprochan-conducta-policial-contra-la-prensa>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/750-agresiones-a-los-periodistas-en-honduras-la-orden-policial-del-dia>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/policias-ataca-la-libertad-de-prensa-y-arremete-contra-periodista-en-honduras/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/880-antimotines-golpean-a-camarografo-que-realizaba-cobertura-a-manifestacion>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/02/mas-del-99-de-las-agresiones-contra-periodistas-en-honduras-permanecen-en-impunidad/>

As part of the IACHR delegation, the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Edison Lanza accompanied by OACNUDH's director María Soledad Pazo met with Radio Progreso. Lanza gave them an interview which Radio Progreso published online.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/relator-de-libertad-de-expresion-de-la-cidh-demanda-proteccion-e-investigacion-de-amenazas-contra-comunicadores/>

Honduras' citizens may take to the streets again tonight to protest against corruption. El Tiempo reports that the so-called Torch Marches may start again.

<https://tiempo.hn/movilizacion-pacifica-en-tegucigalpa/>

Back in 2012, US Congress approved the so-called Magnitsky Act directed at Russia which in 2016 was expanded to the Global Magnitsky Act allowing the US Government to sanction foreign government officials implicated in human rights abuses. A Democratic and a Republican congresswoman requested now to have a group of Central-American congressmen added to the list, among them the Nationalist Óscar Nájera. Nájera is not happy about that and he blames civil society leaders for speaking badly about Honduras abroad. This denigration of human rights defenders has a sad tradition in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/oscar-najera-podria-ser-sancionado-por-eeuu/>

<https://tiempo.hn/senado-de-ee-uu-pide-investigar-a-diputado-nacionalista-oscar-ramon-najera/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/esos-mal-nacidos-que-se-vayan-de-honduras-parlamentario-se-defiende-de-acusaciones-de-ee-uu/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/video-oscar-najera-acusa-a-dirigentes-de-sociedad-civil-de-afectarlo.html>

The Nationalist president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, calls on the Constitutional Chamber to protect himself from a corruption investigation.

<https://confidencialhn.com/admiten-recurso-a-favor-del-presidente-del-legislativo-de-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/sala-constitucional-admite-recurso-a-favor-de-mauricio-oliva-pero-debe-ir-a-pleno.html>

The former members of the defunct Judiciary Council tried with another appeal to cancel their preemptive imprisonment to await trial but they failed as the Appeals Court nullified their request yesterday. Now we have to wait and see if they are really arrested and imprisoned.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/02/corte-deja-firme-encarcelamiento-para-expresidente-de-la-corte/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/inminente-ingreso-al-presidio-de-exconcejales-de-la-judicatura-acusados-por-corrupcion/>

Expediente Público published a long article on the MACCIH, its origin, its challenges and its future based on a conversation with Prof. Charles Call who heads a team investigating the work of the MACCIH.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/ep/11-corrupcion/94-maccih-la-mision-que-muerde-con-las-encias>

Javier Suazo wrote a critical analysis of the debate to install a committee to discuss fiscal policies.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194457>

The former Liberal congressman Fredy Renán Nájera Montoya handed himself over to the US authority after they accused them of drug trafficking. Apparently he failed to find common ground with them for a deal and so declared himself innocent and now he awaits his trial set for December this year.

<http://elpulso.hn/fredy-najera-no-logra-acuerdo-con-la-dea-y-se-declara-inocente/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/crimen-conlleva-altos-costos-sociales-publicos-y-privados-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe-estudio-bid/>

03/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; IACHR; HRDs - Bajo Aguán; Forced Disappearance; Journalists; Corruption - Pandora, US; and All against One

COPINH denounces that the MP continues to fail to hand over evidence gathered as part of their investigation into the murder of Berta Cáceres. Even though the court has ordered it, the MP has failed to do so already on 35 occasions...

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/se-vence-el-plazo-del-ministerio-publico-para-entregar-informacion-del-caso-de-berta-caceres/>

After a five-day visit, the IACHR delegation shared some preliminary findings with the public. They found that the "structural impunity and the corruption have eroded trust in public institutions". Furthermore, they expressed worries about the misalignment of power between the three pillars of state power. One evidence of this was the illegal re-election of the Attorney General, which the IACHR also questioned in their report. The IACHR reiterated their demand that the Honduran State make progress in the investigation into the post-electoral human rights violations and that they will closely observe this process. Their report ends with no less than 25 recommendations.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2018/171.asp>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2237-gobierno-de-joh-sale-muy-mal-parado-ante-la-cidh-en-su-visita-in-loco>

<https://tiempo.hn/cidh-critica-proceso-de-eleccion-del-fiscal-general-oscar-chinchilla/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/informe-de-la-cidh-destaca-la-falta-de-institucionalidad-del-estado-de-honduras-y-la-concentracion-de-poder/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2931-estado-privilegia-represion-frente-a-dialogo-cidh-tras-visita-a-honduras>

The human rights defender and social communicator in the Bajo Aguán, Irma Lemus, denounces that a local business leader is threatening her with death. According to Lemus, the threat is linked to her accompanying local communities in resistance against a mine by Minera Inversiones Los Pinares.

Soldiers of the military base in Puerto Castilla evicted Marcial López, HRDs and president of a cooperative belonging to MARCA, from his house yesterday morning. López is supposed to benefit from special protection measures granted by the IACHR.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/amenazas/882-comunicadora-social-y-defensora-de-ddhh-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/08/honduras-militares-de-la-fueza-naval-de.html>

Yesterday eight months ago, the young Jesús Bautista Salvador was forcefully disappeared during the post-electoral crisis and so far his family accompanied by COFADEH have unsuccessfully searched for him.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ocho-meses-y-aun-no-hay-respuesta-de-que-paso-con-manuel-de-jesus-bautista-salvador/>

C-Libre accuses the journalist Renato Álvarez of spreading hatred by demanding that the State goes after "those anarchists" referring to protesting students.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/881-periodista-incita-a-la-violencia-a-traves-de-apologia-de-odio-contra-universitarios>

After his visit to the US, Luis Santos' Ufecic got some US support through Twitter by the Chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton.

<https://confidencialhn.com/habla-ee-uu-jefa-diplomatica-reitera-respaldo-a-la-ufecic-y-cuestiona-sutilmente-al-poder-judicial/>

The MACCIH announced yesterday that they support the appeal by Ufecic against the ruling in the Pandora corruption case which allowed 24 accused to leave prison and await the trial in freedom. According to both the MACCIH and Ufecic, the accused should continue to be accused of money laundering and not just concealment.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/03/la-maccih-apoya-la-apelacion-presentada-por-la-ufecic-contra-resolucion-en-caso-pandora/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1203818-466/caso-pandora-maccih-respalda-a-la-ufecic-tras-presentar-recurso-contra-resoluci%C3%B3n>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-que-se-quiten-las-medidas-sustitutivas-a-supuestos-complices-de-trama-corrupta-pandora/>

InSight Crime picked up the recent request by US congresswo/men to have six Central American individuals sanctioned, among the the Honduran Nationalist congressman Óscar Nájera. Nájera announced that he will travel to the US to proof his innocence.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/members-us-congress-sanctions-latam-elites/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/diputado-oscar-najera-dispuesto-a-presentarse-en-eeuu-para-demostrar-su-inocencia.html>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/todos-contrano-03-agosto-2018/>

04/08/18

Honduras Daily: IACHR; Bajo Aguán; and the Unattended Push Factors of Migration

With the ending of the five-day visit to Honduras by the IACHR delegations and the recommendations made, Defensores en Línea reflects what impact they can have in a country like Honduras which goes beyond just institutional weakness, but rather suffers from "an illegal government and a broken constitution". They fear that making "democratic recommendations to a dictatorship under the tutelage of the US embassy" won't suffice.

Criterio dedicates various articles to topics especially highlighted by the IACHR, i.e. the lack of attention by the JOH regime to those forcefully displaced by violence; the nefarious impact of a military culture best represented by the militarization program for children, the Guards of the Fatherland; and how the high impunity rate in cases of femicide further spurs violence against women.

Proceso Digital published the first reaction by the JOH regime to the preliminary findings. The Presidential Minister Ebal Díaz speaks of historic and structural reasons causing problems in the country that need time to fix, cynically overlooking that it is the regime-of-the-day that ordered the state security forces to shoot into the protesting crowds during the post-electoral protests.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/para-quienes-son-las-recoendaciones/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/04/desplazados-no-son-atendidos-en-honduras-cidh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/04/guardianes-de-la-patria-impulsa-una-cultura-castrense-y-contraria-a-la-paz-cidh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/04/90-de-impunidad-en-femicidios-facilita-la-violencia-y-discriminacion-de-genero-en-honduras-cidh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/informe-de-la-cidh-reconoce-los-problemas-estructurales-que-tiene-honduras-segun-ebal-diaz.html>

Interestingly, Proceso Digital has picked up the worrisome arrest by soldiers of the Naval Force of Marcial López, the president of a campesino cooperative affiliated with MARCA and beneficiary of special protection measures granted by the IACHR (see also yesterday).

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/captura-en-bajo-aguan-de-beneficiario-de-medidas-cautelares-de-la-cidh-denuncia-plataforma-agraria.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/detienen-a-dirigente-campesino-del-aguan-beneficiado-con-medidas-de-proteccion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/causas-de-la-migracion-no-son-solventadas/>

05/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Post-Electoral Violence; Gulf of Fonseca; Mining; National Police; and the Journalist Who Came in from the Cold

COPINH together with the Social and Popular Movement of Honduras (PMSPH) called for a press conference tomorrow at 10:30am in Tegucigalpa regarding the trial in the case of Berta Cáceres.

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/convocatoria-conferencia-de-prensa/>

Radio Progreso published a touching portrait of Elvin, one of the many victims of state repression during the post-electoral protests and whose life by receiving a bullet to his chest.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/rostros-y-vidas-irreparables-de-la-represion/>

A dispute erupted in the Gulf of Fonseca regarding the dredging in the Henecán harbor. The privatizing body Coalianza claims that there won't be any environmental damages that cannot be mitigated, while the state secretary MiAmbiente confirms that they haven't received so far any environmental impact study on the construction. Local aquaculture producers and artisan fishermen fear an economic and social crisis.

<http://elpulso.hn/dragado-golfo-de-fonseca-2/>

<http://elpulso.hn/pesca-artesanal-dragado/>

Inhabitants from La Bisina in Tocoa, Colón, came together yesterday to declare their communities free of mining.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/05/pobladores-de-la-abisinia-en-tocoa-colon-dicen-no-a-la-mineria/>

The Purging Committee finished the work on the Police Career Bill. Their work was supported by ASJ as well as INL, which is part of the US State Department.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/08/05/concluyen-propuesta-de-reglamento-de-la-ley-de-la-carrera-policial/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1204372-466/depuradora-aprobar%C3%A1-reglamento-para-ley-de-la-carrera-policial>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/08/honduras-el-periodista-que-vino-del.html>

06/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; IACHR; Corruption - IACHR, Judicial Power, Prof; Military Police; Gulf of Fonseca; Extraditions; Dialogue; Transport Sector; and Governing by Laughter

With the approaching of the first oral and public trial date in the case of Berta Cáceres, Giorgio Trucchi fears that the JOH regime will do anything to prevent a legal precedent.

When the IACHR delegation presented its preliminary findings last Friday, they also mentioned the case and expressed concerns regarding the lack of access to information for COPINH and Berta's family.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194544>

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/cidh-expreso-su-preocupacion-por-la-falta-de-acceso-a-la-informacion-en-el-caso-de-berta-caceres/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/procesos-legales/883-un-total-de-35-ocasiones-se-ha-negado-informacion-sobre-asesinato-de-bertha-caceres>

MADJ wrote an open letter to the IACHR in light of its recent visit to Honduras last week. They thank them for coming, emphasizing the importance of international preoccupation about the human rights situation in Honduras. "However, despite this recognition we must indicate in an honest and constructive manner that we are concerned

about absences, the generic nature and, in some cases, the unfounded and confusing assessments and recommendations issued by the IACHR in its preliminary observations on the on-site visit to the country."

Radio Progreso summarizes some of the most important recommendations by the IACHR.

The Human Rights Secretary Karla Cueva reacted to the recommendations by spreading the responsibility to implement them as wide as possible.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/08/07/Intrascendente-visita-in-loco-de-la-CIDH-Carta-abierta-del-MADJ>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.net/estado-de-honduras-privilegia-represion-frente-al-dialogo-concluye-cidh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/06/muchas-recomendaciones-de-la-cidh-pasan-por-la-voluntad-del-congreso-secretaria-de-dd-hh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-ddhh-agradece-elogios-de-la-cidh-en-visita-a-honduras/>

One of the recommendations by the IACHR causing confusion regards Article 184 of the criminal procedure code. It regulates for which crimes someone can be held in custody while awaiting trial. This article made headline news because officials accused of corruption in the Pandora case wanted to get rid of it and now the IACHR recommends something similar because it violates international norms. The Article itself is rather recent and was established in 2013 when JOH was president of Congress. The article by ConfidencialHN offers an overview and the open letter by MADJ (linked to above) also offers some important comments on why this recommendation at the current time may be harmful.

<https://confidencialhn.com/comision-de-ddhh-de-la-oea-aconseja-anular-catalogo-de-delitos-porque-violacion-presuncion-de-inocencia/>

Out of the blue, a higher court revoked the alternative measures to imprisonment for the former members of the Judiciary Council and ordered their preventive imprisonment last month. So far they still haven't gone to prison and their legal teams now presented new appeals with suspensive effect.

<https://tiempo.hn/presentan-amparo-ante-la-csj-exconcejales/>

La Prensa reports on a new corruption case going back involving the Family Support Program (Praf). Two companies and an NGO are being investigated for supposedly stealing \$3.1 million from Praf between 2011 and 2014.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1204619-410/corrupcion-robo-praf-honduras-programa-asignacion-familiar-ong-empresas-anticorrupcion->

A school teacher was stopped by the Military Police while protesting with a "Fuera JOH" sign. They took his identity card and then asked him to give them money to hand the card back to him.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/884-dirigente-magisterial-se-refugia-en-estacion-radial-para-evitar-ser-detenido-por-escribir-fuera-joh>

El Pulso published the third article in two days on the controversial infrastructure project in the Gulf of Fonseca, especially the dredging around the Henecán harbor. They spoke with Saúl Montúfar of CODDEFFAGOLF, who fears that the construction leads to permanent damage to the fishing communities in the region.

<http://elpulso.hn/dano-permanente-pesca-golfo-de-fonseca/>

Security Minister Julián Pacheco announced the imminent arrest of four people wanted by the US.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2933-listas-ordenes-de-captura-para-cuatro-hondurenos-extraditables-anuncio-julian-pacheco>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hay-cuatro-capturas-pendientes-de-extraditables-que-podrian-ser-mas-en-proximos-dias.html>

Maybe inspired by the IACHR delegation or by recent statements coming from the Liberal Party, voices grow again claiming that the dialogue is about to start. We have heard this now for months without any substantive progress.

One obstacle was that the JOH regime did not want to make the agreements coming out of the dialogue binding. Now, he suddenly announced that the results will be binding BUT at the same time, he nominated his close allies Ebal Díaz, the Presidential Secretary, and Leonel Ayala, the Governance Secretary, as the two people to approve the recommendations coming from the dialogue.

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-pide-a-joh-y-a-nasralla-firmar-un-compromiso-por-honduras/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/08/06/partido-liberal-entrega-a-la-onu-declaracion-jurada-para-iniciar-el-dialogo-nacional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nasralla-dice-que-cuando-el-presidente-herandez-firme-el-documento-del-pl-el-hace-lo-mismo.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/embajador-de-espana-cree-que-muy-pronto-se-lanzara-dialogo-en-honduras.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-presentan-decreto-para-que-el-dialogo-nacional-sea-vinculante/>

Even though the strike in the transport sector is over (as their leaders betrayed the public by agreeing with the JOH regime to raise prices for public transport instead of lowering fuel prices), students still protest demanding both lower fuel and public transport prices.

<https://confidencialhn.com/prosiguen-tomas-en-la-unah-por-exigencia-de-rebaja-a-combustibles-se-reportan-escaramuzas/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-nombre-de-la-risa-06-agosto-2018/>

07/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Lawyers; HRDs; MADJ - Pajuiles; Mining; Corruption - Pandora, Odebrecht; FoE; RNP; Dialogue; Poverty; US - NDI; Spain; and the White City is in Danger

COPINH held a press conference yesterday on the trial for the assassination of Berta Cáceres and the attempted murder of Gustavo Castro. They reiterated that the MP is currently perpetuating impunity in this case by having negated them at least 35 times access to important information or only partially complied. The MP also violated court orders to share information.

MADJ which accompanies COPINH and Berta's family in legal matters rightly asks: "Who is the MP protecting?"

One demand voiced at the press conference is to have the trial live-streamed.

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/el-ministerio-publico-de-honduras-perpetua-la-impunidad-en-el-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/08/08/%C2%BFA-qui%C3%A9n-protege-el-Ministerio-P%C3%BAblico-Causa-Berta-C%C3%A1ceres>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-que-juicio-contras-asesinos-de-berta-sea-transmitido-en-vivo/>

Rubén Mateo Galán, lawyer in San Pedro Sula, was murdered yesterday in his office.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-reconocido-abogado-en-san-pedro-sula-se-desconocen-las-causas/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1205070-466/sicario-forcejeo-con-el-abogado-mateo-galan-antes-de-asesinarlo>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1205011-410/amigos-familiares-conocidos-llegan-despedirse-del-abogado-mateo-galan-criminalidad-honduras>

Defensores en Línea reports on the case of the human rights defender Germán Chirinos who coordinates MASSVIDA, a network of popular organizations in Honduras' south. For resisting the imposition of solar energy projects, they have been criminalized and threatened and after Chirinos received a death threat directly to his phone, he decided to leave Honduras temporarily. After three months he has now returned, but as the situation remains tense, it is not clear that he can stay. He is accompanied by COFADEH, which introduced him to the Shelter City program from the Netherlands which offers temporary relocations for HRDs.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensor-de-ddhh-estuvo-en-peligro-de-muerte-por-denunciar-proyectos-de-energia/>

The inhabitants of Pajuiles demand that the hydroelectric company respects a recent court ruling to stop the work on their hydroelectric dam. To increase the pressure, the inhabitants set up a protest camp at the mayoralty demanding that they help enforce the ruling.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/07/pajuiles-exige-a-la-municipalidad-de-tela-cumplir-fallo-y-parar-las-labores-de-hidrocep-video/>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/08/08/Con-campamento-le-exigen-a-la-municipalidad-cumplir-sentencia-y-parar-obras-de-HIDROCEP>

ASONOG denounces ongoing attacks against the inhabitants of Azacualpa for opposing the exhumation of their dead by a mining company. Even though their opposition is backed up by two court rulings, the threats and attacks continue.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/07/agresiones-contradefensores-de-cementerio-en-azacualpa-estan-a-la-orden-del-dia-por-oponerse-a-la-mineria/>

The newish investigative journalism outlet Expediente Público, published a helpful overview of the Pandora corruption case. It mentions that next to the 38 people initially accused, more cases were added, among them a questionable \$60'000 the current First Lady received through checks emitted by one of the companies linked to the Pandora case. The article goes on to make the links to the previous large-scale corruption cases.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/corrupcion/96-que-se-abra-mas-la-caja-de-pandora-en-honduras>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle shares his critical reflections on the Latin America-wide Odebrecht corruption case.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/06/oderbrecht-el-escandalo-de-la-decada-y-pocos-hechos-probados/>

María Soledad Pazo, the representative of OACNUDH, answered the questions sent to her by Pasos de Animal Grande regarding the office's follow-up on the UPR recommendations.

In a second article, Pasos de Animal Grande lists some of the legal figures that need to be abolished for violating freedom of expression according to the IACHR.

Edy Tábor, director of C-Libre, held a presentation recently emphasizing the need to defend freedom of expressions especially in times like these.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2239-representante-residente-de-oacnudh-amenazas-contra-la-prensa-en-honduras-tiene-efectos-multiplicadores-que-impactan-en-los-demas-periodistas>

www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2238-que-figuras-penales-que-atentan-contra-la-libertad-de-expresion-debe-derogar-honduras-segun-la-cidh

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/754-edy-tabora-si-no-defendemos-la-libertad-de-expresion-tendremos-una-sociedad-en-silencio>

Congress took another step to start the intervention of the National Registry of Persons (RNP).
According to El Heraldo, the census still contains 400'000 dead people.
Civil society organizations reiterated their demand to de-politicize the intervention.

<https://confidencialhn.com/parlamento-allana-el-camino-para-intervenir-el-registro-nacional-de-las-personas/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1205030-466/400-mil-muertos-estan-aun-en-censo-nacional-electoral-en-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/dirigentes-civiles-exigen-despolitizacion-del-registro-nacional-de-las-personas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sectores-de-la-sociedad-civil-despolitizacion-del-rnp/>

The IACHR delegation to Honduras seems to have restarted the dialogue about the dialogue...

<https://confidencialhn.com/avanzar-o-empantanar-inicio-de-dialogo-depende-de-nacionalistas-analista/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nasralla-sigue-insistiendo-en-que-joh-debe-salir-del-gobierno/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-asegura-estar-a-la-espera-de-decreto-ejecutivo-para-iniciar-el-dialogo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-hondureno-espera-que-oposicion-nombre-interlocutores-para-el-dialogo-nacional/>

The price for the basket of basic goods increased once more.

<https://tiempo.hn/cuarenta-lempiras-aumentaron-los-productos-de-la-canasta-basica-en-honduras/>

The Clean Politics Unit signed a cooperation agreement with the US National Democratic Institute (NDI).

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/unidad-de-politica-limpia-y-ndi-fortalecen-transparencia-de-fondos-politicos.html>

JOH met the Spanish president of Congress, Ana Pastor, to discuss among other things the construction of the Palmerola airport.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/turismo-aeropuerto-de-palmerola-y-cooperacion-aborda-herandez-con-jefa-del-congreso-espanol.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/07/ciudad-blanca-esta-siendo-saqueada-y-profanada-por-eso-es-urgente-crear-la-fundacion-kaha-kamasa-video/>

08/08/18

Honduras Daily: HR Situation; COPINH; Indigenous Peoples; Students; Penal Code; Corruption - Judiciary Council, IHSS; Religion; Migration; and Only Honduran Chicken is Welcome

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the July 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/2018/08/1807_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

COPINH emitted an alert: "A group of at least 15 armed men, led by the murderous Rios family, protected by nationalist congressman Mario Perez, have just evicted an affiliated group of Copinh whose members maintain their camp inside the land that rightly belongs to them."

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/alerta-hace-unos-momentos-fueron-desplazados-de-sus-tierras-los-companeros-de-la-comunidad-de-san-juan-somolagua/>

Today is the International day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. A group of UN experts published a joint press release focusing on the rights of indigenous peoples forced to migrate due to "economic deprivation, forced displacement, environmental disasters including climate change impacts, social and political unrest, and militarisation."

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23429&LangID=E>

A student protest by MEU was shot at from an unknown attacker in a red car. After the transport sector abandoned the public by agreeing with the JOH regime on a rise of transport fares instead of a decrease in fuel prices, the students have taken up the protests again. They even started to partly occupy the UNAH again as they had done during last year's protests.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/amenazas/885-desconocidos-disparan-contra-movilizacion-estudiantil-de-la-unah>

<https://confidencialhn.com/estudiantes-toman-edificios-de-la-unah-ante-fracaso-para-exigir-rebajas-al-transporte/>

Nationalist congressman Mario Pérez (the same from the first article in today's e-mail) reinvigorated by a IACHR recommendation now demands that only "crimes of blood" can lead to preventive imprisonment. This petition mainly intends to forbid the preventive imprisonment for corruption charges.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/08/solamente-en-delitos-de-sangre-debe-existir-la-prision-preventiva-mario-perez/>

CEDOH presented a new book yesterday: "Impunity, Corruption and Insecurity in Honduras: Democratic Challenges for the New Government 2018-2022".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/08/cedoh-presenta-libro-sobre-impunidad-corrupcion-e-inseguridad-en-honduras/>

The former members of the Judiciary Council were sent to prison yesterday to await trial. The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana calls this historic. El Pulso published "the history of the abuses and pressures" exercised by the Judiciary Council. The Nationalist congressmen Mario Pérez and Antonio Rivera Callejas, meanwhile, expressed their solidarity with the imprisoned members of the council.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mandan-a-la-carcel-al-expresidente-del-poder-judicial-y-sus-exconcejales-de-la-judicatura/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1205440-410/consejo-judicatura-carcel-expresidente-corte-suprema-honduras->

<https://confidencialhn.com/exfiscal-general-ve-como-historico-que-manden-presos-a-un-expresidente-del-poder-judicial/>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-historia-de-un-consejo-de-la-judicatura/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/08/diputados-nacionalistas-se-hacen-un-nudo-alrededor-del-expresidente-de-la-corte/>

Currently, the individualization of the penalty against three accused in the IHSS corruption case takes place. The MP demanded the maximum penalty of 35 years for Mario Roberto Zelaya Rojas and José Ramón Bertetty Osorio and 15 years for Juan Carlos Maradiaga Ortiz.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-pide-35-anos-mas-de-carcel-para-saqueadores-del-ihss/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/solicitan-pena-concreta-a-condenados-en-caso-ihss-jc-maradiaga.html>

According to the Pew Research Center, Honduras has become the most Protestant and second least Catholic country in Latin America. This development led to one of "the most fervent conservatisms in the continent" which especially the LGBTI community has suffered from disproportionately in Honduras. Expediente Público spoke with the feminist pastor Ana Ruth Garcia about this situation.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/perfiles/95-la-pastora-feminista-que-lamenta-que-honduras-sea-tan-religiosa>

Javier Suazo adverts us to also look beyond violence as the source of migration from the Northern Triangle countries.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194595>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/08/08/a-finales-de-ano-entraria-carne-de-pollo-hondureno-a-ee-uu/>

09/08/18

Honduras Daily: Mining; OFRANEH; Indigenous Peoples - Miskitu; Women's Rights; MACCIH; Students; Dialogue; and Less Plastic Bags?

Six European solidarity organizations wrote an open letter to the Honduran authorities expressing their concerns about the non-respect of court rulings by the mining company MINOSA. Two courts already ordered it to stop the exhumation of graves in Azacualpa to expand its mining ground. Instead of following court orders, the company launched a defamation campaign and increased the threat level against the human rights organizations, MADJ and ASONOG, accompanying the protesting inhabitants (see Tuesday's e-mail regarding the attacks).

<http://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/carta-abierta-Azacualpa.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/09/red-europea-de-solidaridad-con-honduras-exigen-se-paren-exhumaciones-en-cementerio-de-azacualpa/>

OFRANEH denounces that the JOH regime intends to use a protected area to build a thermoelectric power plant in La Ensenada, La Ceiba.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/08/09/areas-protegidas-en-la-republica-mafiosa-de-honduras/>

Yesterday was the International Day of Indigenous Peoples. UN experts raised concerns about the rights of indigenous peoples forced to migrate (see yesterday's e-mail) and the IACHR now also emitted a press release demanding that its member states implement policies to protect these rights.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2242-cidh-urge-a-estados-a-implementar-politicas-publicas-que-protejan-a-los-pueblos-indigenas-que-se-han-visto-forzados-a-migrar>

The Association of Disabled Divers from the Honduran Mosquitia denounces the lack of state attention to their situation.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2241-estado-hondureno-no-los-protege-por-falta-de-200-dolares-buzos-misquitos-quedan-lisiados>

<https://confidencialhn.com/solicitan-al-gobierno-atender-los-pueblos-indigenas/>

During the recent IAHCR visit to Honduras, they met with different sectors. One meeting was with feminist and women's movement. Regina Fonseca reports about the topics that were discussed, such as the ongoing high levels of violence against women or the lack of sexual and reproductive rights.

<http://elpulso.hn/derechos-sexuales-y-reproductivos-urgencias-no-reconocidas-por-el-estado-hondureno/>

The new spokesperson of the MACCIH, Luiz Antonio Guimarães Marrey, spoke to the press yesterday after complaints were voiced about a perceived lack of communication. He declared that he won't be a "media personality" and that he will only talk if they have concluded an investigation and not in advance while an investigation is still being conducted. He also announced that only the Criminal Justice Observatory is in need of a new head, otherwise they have sufficient staff now. Like his predecessor, he insisted on the approval of the Efficient Collaboration Bill - this bill have become the litmus test to show that there is still no political will in Honduras to fight corruption. Meanwhile, the former head of the MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor, still has not forgotten about Honduras and he congratulated the MP for successfully making the former members of the Judiciary Council await trial in prison.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/09/no-sere-un-personaje-mediatico-vocero-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/09/la-maccih-insta-a-los-hondurenos-exigir-la-aprobacion-de-la-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2936-ministerio-publico-necesita-personas-con-coraje-para-cumplir-su-deber-maccih>

<https://confidencialhn.com/extitular-de-la-maccih-felicita-a-la-justicia-hondurena-por-encarcelamiento-de-exfuncionarios-judicialesf/>

The students' movement MEU asked the new UNAH dean Francisco Herrera to mediate the talks between them and the transport sector as well as the the JOH regime to lower the transport fares.

Herrera responded that as long that they keep up their protest, he won't sit down and talk to them.

But according to a press release by the students, they already had suspended the protests.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/09/meu-pide-mediacion-del-rector-de-la-unah-con-transportistas-y-gobierno-video/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rector-de-la-unah-descarta-reunion-con-manifestantes-mientras-prosigan-las-tomas/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/08/09/estudiantes-de-la-unah-suspenden-las-tomas-y-convocan-al-rector-al-dialogo/>

With the resurgence of talks about the dialogue, Radio Progreso inquires what the different sectors really think when they use the word dialogue. They conclude: "We would like to believe and trust that the dialogue opens doors to removes masks. However, in a country as convulsed and unstable as ours, nothing will be achieved only at dialogue tables. It

is absolutely necessary that the citizens contribute to the recovery of the lost democracy through mobilization and social, conscious, peaceful and organized pressure."

Meanwhile, Igor Garafulic's emotional roller coaster continues.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-dialogo-en-manos-de-politicos-09-agosto-2018/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/igor-esta-batallando-con-un-monton-de-gente-que-no-tienen-moral-ni-palabra/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/08/09/igor-garafulic-no-tengo-explicacion-por-que-no-arranca-el-dialogo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/garafulic-se-pregunta-por-que-los-politicos-no-quieren-sentarse-a-la-mesa-del-dialogo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/09/presentan-mocion-en-el-congreso-nacional-para-eliminar-el-uso-de-bolsas-plasticas/>

10/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta; IACHR; Corruption - Judiciary Council; MACCIH - National Police; Transport Sector; Drug Trafficking; RNP; Public Health; Economy; IMF; and Honduras - Not a Normal Country

The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders denounces in a press release the its "deep indignation at the use of words and the image of our sister and partner in struggle Berta Cáceres on the part of the illegitimate current government."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2243-indignacion-de-organizaciones-de-ddhh-gobierno-de-joh-hace-mal-uso-de-imagen-de-berta-caceres>

The Human Rights Roundtable held a press conference yesterday to comment on the recent visit by the IACHR and the presentation of their preliminary findings. They highlight some "inaccuracies" that they will also share with the IACHR for their final report, e.g. praising JOH for the creation of the Human Rights Secretary is highly questionable given that it was his administration that closed it in the first place in 2013. Something that is sometimes forgotten in diplomatic circles and has been highlighted various times in these e-mails.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/763-observaciones-de-la-cidh-tienen-algunas-imprecisiones-denuncia-mesa-de-ddhh>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/10/situacion-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-es-precaria-senalo-la-cidh-mesa-de-ddhh/>

Radio Progreso summarizes the most important events that led to the imprisonment (to await trial) of the former members of the defunct Judiciary Council this week. Among them is the former president of the Supreme Court, Jorge Rivera Avilés, who faces no less than 191 charges. The former Libre congressman Rasel Tomé comments on his arrest: He stopped being useful to the powerful.

The Constitutional Chamber has approved six challenges to the imprisonment, but they don't have any delaying effect and they remain in prison for the time being.

They are held in a military prison away from other prisoners.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/por-delitos-de-corrupcion-dicta-prision-preventiva-a-expresidente-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/expresidente-del-poder-judicial-dejo-de-ser-util-a-los-grupos-de-poder/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/admiten-recurso-a-favor-de-exconcejales-pero-seguiran-presos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/admiten-recurso-amparo-a-favor-de-exconcejales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/aislan-por-seguridad-a-exconcejales-de-judicatura-en-recinto-militar.html>

The head of the MACCIH, Luiz Antonio Guimarães Marrey, announced to support the purge of the National Police Force.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/maccih-se-compromete-a-respalda-el-proceso-de-depuracion-y-transformacion-de-la-policia.html>

ContraCorriente takes a closer look at the transport sector, especially the cab drivers, one week after the end of the nation-wide protest actions. The strike ended in a backroom deal to the detriment of the public and it seems that many cab drivers aren't too happy either. ContraCorriente spoke with one who so far does not even charge the new, higher, fare to his customers. The article also looks at new threats, such as the liberalization of their market and the entry of Uber and the like.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/08/10/taxistas-entre-la-manipulacion-y-la-entrada-al-libre-mercado/>

"In 2012, Colombian President, Juan Manuel Santos, referred to current drug control efforts as something akin to riding a stationary bicycle. "One keeps pedalling, pedalling and pedalling, and making great efforts,(...) only to find out one hasn't really moved". Today, as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) releases its latest figures on the drugs market, Santos' words ring particularly true. In fact, the 2018 World Drug Report shows some countries are fruitlessly pedalling faster."

https://idpc.net/blog/2018/06/more-drugs-more-deaths-more-damage-u-n-drug-report-shows-global-drug-trade-grows-despite-draconian-enforcement-efforts?utm_source=Alerta+informativa+del+IDPC+%28en+espa%C3%B1ol%29&utm_campaign=07c3a612f6-Alerta+informativa+del+IDPC+-+Agosto+de+2018&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_cc1c180ad4-07c3a612f6-151912259

It has been weeks since Congress started discussing the intervention of the National Registry of Persons (RNP), but the process has stalled due to a lack of agreement among the political parties.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/sin-consensos-para-integrar-comision-interventora-del-registra-nacional-de-las-personas/>

Employees at the San Felipe Hospital stopped their work yesterday in process of the nomination of Nationalist activists to positions at the hospital instead of hospital personnel.

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-del-hospital-san-felipe-paralizan-labores-por-nombramiento-de-activistas-y-falta-de-pago32/>

The former president of the business lobby organization COHEP questions the promised economic success by JOH's 20/20 program. According to her, job creation has not lived up to the promises and foreign direct investment stalled and is mainly in the form of rollovers and not fresh capital.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cuestionan-falta-de-inicio-del-programa-gubernamental-de-generacion-de-empleos/>

The president of the Central Bank of Honduras claims that a new agreement with the IMF comes into force next year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/acuerdo-con-el-fmi-entraria-en-vigor-el-proximo-ano-segun-titular-del-bch.html>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/honduras-un-pais-normalizado-10-agosto-2018/>

11/08/18

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; MADJ - Pajuiles; Corruption; National Party; Fiscal Policy; Alcohol Tax; and the Dialogue - an Opportunity or a Defeat Foretold

"Honduran political prisoners Edwin Espinal and Raúl Alvarez, criminalized on trumped up charges related to protests against election fraud, have been in jail for nearly seven months. This week, from inside the La Tolva maximum security prison, they wrote open letters with messages of hope, thanks, and commitment to the struggle." El Tiempo picked this up as well.

<http://freedwinespinallibertad.blogspot.com/2018/08/political-prisoners-edwin-and-raul-send.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/manifestantes-la-tolva-honduras/>

MAD highlights how the municipality of Tela's "ineffectiveness borders on complicity" with the hydroelectric company HIDROCEP responsible for the Los Planes project in Pajuiles.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/08/12/En-5-puntos-La-complicidad-e-inoperancia-de-la-Municipalidad-de-Tela>

The defamation of civil society organizations took a new dark turn as lawyer and defender of the corrupt elite, Marlon Duarte, called them "parasites".

<https://confidencialhn.com/jurista-califica-a-lideres-civiles-de-parasitos-por-vivir-criticando-fallos-judiciales/>

The Medical Association Honduras (CMH) denounces that the National Party arbitrarily deducts a percentage of the salaries of doctors hired ad-interim and those without a permanent employment.

<https://tiempo.hn/cmh-denuncia-pn-retiene-dinero-a-empleados-de-salud-contrato/>

FOSDEH published a six-page comment on the Medium Term Macro Fiscal Framework 2019-2022 presented as an executive decree.

<http://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/comentarios-al-programa-marco-macro-fiscal-2019-2022-4.pdf>

Congress discusses a tax on alcoholic beverages.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/impuesto-al-alcohol-genera-polemica-en-honduras.html>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194654>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/10/la-crisis-politica-de-honduras-ya-se-hubiera-resuelto-sin-necesidad-de-dialogo-igor-garafulic/>

And according to the latest comment by Nasralla, the dialogue may be further away once more.

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-joh-no-quiere-dialogar-honduras/>

12/08/18

Honduras Daily: Corruption - Judiciary Council, National Party, FIFA; Students; Dialogue; and JOH's Monument

According to El Heraldo, if sentenced, the former members of the Judiciary Council could face sentences up to 1506 years in prison.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1206486-466/honduras-hasta-1506-a%C3%B1os-de-prisi%C3%B3n-podr%C3%ADan-caerle-a-los-exconcejales>

Congress' vice-president and Nationalist congressman Denis Castro Bobadilla complains that the Judicial System has become "a persecution device"...

<https://confidencialhn.com/vicepresidente-del-parlamento-lamenta-que-sistema-judicial-se-convirtio-en-aparato-de-persecucion/>

The former Honduran president Rafael Callejas will be sentenced in the US for his involvement in the FIFA corruption scandal by February 2019. Initially, the sentencing should have taken place this September.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hasta-inicios-de-2019-sera-sentenciado-callejas-y-hawit-por-corrupcion-en-el-futbol/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reprograman-para-2019-sentencia-contra-rafael-callejas-y-alfredo-hawit-por-fifagate.html>

Starting today, the student movement MEU will hold informative assemblies regarding their protests to lower the fare for public transport.

<https://confidencialhn.com/faccion-del-meu-realizara-asambleas-en-la-unah-sin-suspender-clases/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/meu-anuncia-que-seguira-con-las-asambleas-informativas-esta-semana-en-la-unah.html>

UN representative Igor Garafulic announced that they would define today the beginning of the dialogue. Libre reiterated that they won't participate in the dialogue under the current circumstances seeing it as a tool to legitimize the JOH regime. Some of its activists, called Salvador Nasralla a traitor when he appeared in a public event in Choluteca.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1206485-466/la-onu-convoca-a-partidos-para-fijar-inicio-del-di%C3%A1logo>

<https://confidencialhn.com/libre-no-acudira-al-dialogo-politico-que-esta-implementando-la-onu/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/mel-zelaya-se-pronuncia-de-nuevo-contra-el-dialogo-y-llama-a-la-insurreccion.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/activistas-de-libre-califican-de-traidor-a-nasralla-en-gira-por-choluteca/>

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

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1206487-466/construyen-nueva-casa-presidencial-anexa-al-centro-c%C3%ADvico-gubernamental>

13/08/18

Honduras Daily: Erratum; Hydroelectricity - Pajuiles; Berta; Tolupanes; Mining; IACHR; Migration - US; Corruption - Congress, Judicial Power; JOH; Penitentiary System; and More Talk about the Dialogue

I wrongly wrote yesterday that Congress' vice-president Denis Castro

Bobadilla is from the National Party - he belongs to the Patriotic Alliance.

Good news from Pajuiles. After two years of protests, two favoring court sentences and more than 11 unanswered complaints filed at the MP, the municipality of Tela finally reacted. It announced that the construction work by HIDROCEP must stop and that the MP would guarantee this.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/08/14/La-digna-resistencia-de-Pajuiles-triunfo%C3%B3>

The historian Edgar Soriano explains how the JOH regime tries to "manage" the murder of Berta Cáceres and the resulting trial so that it does not threaten its neoliberal and neo-extractive development model.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/767-pretenden-borrar-historia-de-berta-manteniendo-el-caso-en-secreto>

MADJ denounces that the local businessman Wilder Domínguez launched a new attempt to cut precious wood on the area of the indigenous Tolupan in San Francisco Locomapa, Yoro.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/08/13/Contin%C3%B3a-amenaza-para-los-bosques-del-pueblo-tolup%C3%A1n>

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellano uses the example of Azacualpa (see last week) to show how the mining sector in Honduras is detrimental to the wellbeing of the public. Their negative impact are exacerbated by a regime who further promotes this mode of development and whose responsible bodies to alleviate some of the problems raised, such as CONADEH, look the other way.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/13/el-calvario-de-azacualpa-la-union-copan/>

El Pulso spoke with HRD Wilfrédo Mendez about the recent IACHR visit to Honduras, its recommendations and what should have been included in them.

<http://elpulso.hn/vemos-que-las-recomendaciones-son-mediatisadas-wilfredo-mendez/>

Democratic US congressman Jim McGovern traveled together with various US mayors to Honduras to get to know the country a bit better and to understand why people flee from it to the US. During their stay, they met with Radio Progreso as an act of solidarity.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-visita-a-radio-progreso-congresista-y-alcaldes-democratas-se-comprometen-a-seguir-defendiendo-al-pueblo-inmigrante/>

Gabriela Castellanos, director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), comments on her institutions ongoing fight against corruption and the obstacles in Congress and the Judicial Power.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/lamentablemente-informamos-que-no-paramos-de-investigar-corrupcion-en-salud-y-educacion-directora-del-cna.html>

The former constitutional lawyer René Adán Tomé denounces that Honduras' courts tried to whitewash the corrupt behavior by the congresswo/men involved in the Network of Congresswo/men case. A petition by the Appeals Court tries to revert this by demanding the derogation of the reform favoring the congresswo/men.

<https://confidencialhn.com/involucrados-en-red-de-diputados-deben-estar-encarcelados-jurista/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-a-sala-constitucional-derogar-ley-que-blinda-a-diputados-perseguidos-por-corrupcion/>

The president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta, announced that the Constitutional Chamber will decide about both the appeal in favor of the

former members of the Judiciary Council as well as the reform of Article 184 of the Penal Code, which regulates for which offenses preventive imprisonment is possible.

<https://confidencialhn.com/poder-judicial-emitira-resolucion-sobre-articulo-184-penal-y-otras-normas-basadas-en-la-ley/>

The same day, Honduras' court make headlines for their questionable role in corruption cases, Honduras' press reports that the JOH regime just bought 35 cars worth 53 million Lempiras for the Supreme Court...

<https://confidencialhn.com/poder-judicial-recibe-de-joh-lote-de-vehiculos-comprados-con-dinero-del-tason/>

The deputy head of Honduras' penitentiary system announced that there were riots at the El Pozo prison as well as an attempt at a prison break.

<https://confidencialhn.com/confirman-intento-de-fuga-y-amotinamiento-de-reos-en-carcel-el-pozo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/confirman-intento-de-fuga-en-carcel-de-maxima-seguridad-de-el-pozo.html>

El Libertador spoke with Luis Zelaya about the dialogue.

The Nationalist mayors called for a dialogue containing all important political parties.

At the same time, there were still debates if the dialogue would be binding.

But apparently, JOH signed an executive decree going in this direction yesterday.

Luis Zelaya and Salvador Nasralla greeted this in a joint press conference. At the same time, they say that JOH is not really interested in a dialogue.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2939-luis-zelaya-dialogo-es-valvula-de-escape-para-resolver-problemas-del-pais>

<https://confidencialhn.com/alcaldes-nacionalistas-cierran-filas-en-torno-al-dialogo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aunque-decreto-de-vinculacion-ya-esta-en-vigencia-oposicion-niega-su-existencia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/firman-decreto-para-que-el-dialogo-nacional-se-vuelva-vinculante/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-firma-acuerdo-y-dice-que-asume-la-categoria-de-compromisos-de-gobierno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/salvador-y-luis-dicen-estar-listos-para-dialogar-con-joh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/luis-zelaya-asegura-estar-satisfecho-con-la-firma-del-decreto-vinculante-de-joh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-quien-puede-boicotear-y-romper-el-dialogo-se-llama-juan-hernandez/>

14/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; IACHR; Women's Rights; Campesinx - CNTC; Mining - Azacualpa; Insecurity - Education; Dialogue; Corruption - Pandora, Judicial Power, US; Migration - US; LGBTI; Congress; Organized Crime;

Lahura Emilia Vásquez Gaitán reminds us not to mistakenly see the "case" and "cause" of Berta Cáceres as one: "[T]he prosecution is directing the trial towards "Berta's case" and not towards "Berta's cause". "Berta's case" focuses on trying to judge who shot the gun that ended her life; however, "Berta's cause" goes beyond murder. It means understanding the origin of the struggles that, for several years now, various social movements have undertaken against extractive, mining, hydroelectric and wind projects in Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/14/el-caso-y-la-causa-de-berta-caceres/>

El Pulso published another interview with a Honduran HRD, this time COFADEH's Bertha Oliva, about the IACHR visit to Honduras. She shares the main grievances about their preliminary report which has already been voiced by other HRDs and human rights organizations: "In a country such as ours, one cannot make recommendations in a diplomatic language and environment because here what we have the least of is diplomacy when it comes to human rights (...) It is crucial to see how the recommendations [by the IACHR] are divorced from the content of the [preliminary] report."

<http://elpulso.hn/lo-que-en-nicaragua-es-bueno-aqui-es-malo-bertha-oliva/>

Feminist and Women's Rights organizations held a press conference on the first months of JOH's illegal second term. They denounce that he continues with his violent, militarized neoliberal model to the detriment of Honduras' women.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/769-joh-le-apuesta-a-un-modelo-neoliberal-violento-y-militarizado>

The Secretary of the campesinx organization CNTC in El Progreso, Francisco Godínez, denounces receiving threats by mobile phone.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/secretario-de-la-cntc-el-progreso-denuncia-amenazas-por-su-labor/>

FOSDEH denounces the smear campaign against ASONOG by the mining company Minerales de Occidente. Both ASONOG and MADJ are accompanying local resistance against the expansion of the mining concession which has led to the exhumation of graves in the local cemetery. Two court orders already demanded that the mining company ceases with the exhumations, but it has so far ignored it.

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2018/08/pronunciamento-de-solidaridad-con-asonog/>

Expediente Público tries to explain what it means to be a student or a teacher in one of the 13 most violent neighborhoods in Tegucigalpa and Comayagüela.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/comunidad/97-ser-estudiante-en-las-zonas-mas-violentas-de-tegucigalpa>

After eight months of preparation, 16 rounds of pre-dialogue, the official dialogue started yesterday and was immediately suspended once more due to political disagreements. The Liberal Party accuses the National Party of not wanting an inclusive dialogue preferring a divide and conquer strategy. The Opposition Alliance denounces that the National Party wanted, as the only one, double the amounts of seats at the table because they represent both the party and the government. The National Party, meanwhile, speaks of lack of respect by the other parties. Already before the dialogue broke down, Libre held a press conference explaining that they would not participate because they did not believe in the word nor the signature of JOH due to his large trajectory of lies and non-compliance.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/14/fracasa-dialogo-politico-en-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2941-sin-iniciar-termino-novelesco-dialogo-da-mucha-tristeza-por-el-pueblo-onu>

<https://tiempo.hn/no-hay-acuerdo-para-iniciar-el-dialogo-nacional-y-el-pn-pide-cuatro-sillas-en-la-mesa/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/14/partido-libre-anuncia-reitera-que-no-creen-ni-en-la-firma-ni-en-la-palabra-de-joh/>

Gabriela Castellanos, director of the CNA, announces that they will reveal more names involved in corruption cases in the coming days. El Tiempo reports on one of the corruption cases inside the Pandora

case, the case of Félix Francisco Pacheco Reyes who is accused of using part of the stolen money for his airline Aviatsa.

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-pandora-hallaron-huella/>

Gabriela Castellanos denounces once more that the Constitutional Chamber has shown time and time again that its rulings are not based in the law but rather aligned with political interests.

<https://tiempo.hn/gabriela-castellanos-sala-de-lo-constitucional-blinda-procesos-de-funcionarios/>

Criterio reports the US National Defense Authorization Act for 2019 includes a disposition which forces the State Department to elaborate a list of corrupt public officials in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Some weeks ago, this possibility was raised when both a US congresswoman and a US senator introduced the idea in their chambers. The former General Attorney Edmundo Orellana, believes that some of the accused in the Pandora corruption case could be included in the US Global Magnitsky list.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/14/propuesta-de-congresistas-norteamericanos-se-convierte-en-ley-contra-corruptos-de-centro-america/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2940-trump-pidio-hoy-nombres-de-politicos-hondurenos-corruptos>

<https://confidencialhn.com/exfiscal-general-augura-que-implicados-en-pandora-podrian-ser-incluidos-en-ley-magnitsky-de-ee-uu/>

<https://tiempo.hn/facusse-corruptos-deberan-buscar-en-que-hoyo-se-meten-ante-futura-lista-de-corruptos-de-ca/>

There is more media coverage on the visit by US congressman James McGovern. Criterio cites him as saying that he is disappointed with the Honduran government and how it manages migratory policies. In a press conference, the US mayor of Somerville, Massachusetts, Joseph Curtatone, said that US president Trump wanted to make the US believe that the situation in Honduras has improved in order to justify abolishing TPS: "But as almost everything he says...it was a lie."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/14/estamos-decepcionados-del-gobierno-de-honduras-congresista-james-mcgovern/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/14/delegacion-estadounidense-busca-apoyo-legal-y-legislativo-para-migrantes-centroamericanos-y-los-titulares-de-tps/>

The former PAC presidential candidate Marlene Alvarenga made headlines with homophobic slur.

<https://confidencialhn.com/marlene-sostiene-que-polemico-tuit-no-era-dirigido-a-nasralla/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tuit-de-marlene-alvarenga/>

After a short break, Nincy Perdomo now publishes her parliamentary chronicles again.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-7-9-08-2018/>

JOH met with US ambassador to the OAS, Carlos Trujillo, to discuss the fight against organized crime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/eeuu-y-honduras-reiteran-compromiso-para-combatir-crimen-transnacional/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1207128-410/embajador-eeuu-oea-maccih-honduras-joh-carlos-trujillo-crimen-pandillas->

15/08/18

Honduras Daily: Hydroelectricity - Pajuiles; Mining - Azacualpa; FPIC; Indigenous Women; MILPAH - Femicide; Bajo Aguán; Students; Dialogue - Civil Society; MP - US; Corruption - Public Health; BID; Holland; and JOH's Honduras...

The communities from Pajuiles occupied the highway CA-13 as the Nationalist mayor of Tela, Darío Munguía, still seems to ignore a court ruling demanding that the hydroelectric company HIDROCEP stops the construction of its hydroelectricity plant.

Radio Progreso denounces that COBRA special forces violently dispersed the protests just minutes after a talk between the protesters and a representative of the mayoralty.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/08/15/Pobladores-de-Pajuiles-se-toman-carretera-CA-13-en-Tela-exigiendo-el-cumplimiento-del-paro-de-labores-del-proyecto-hidroel%C3%A9ctrico-los-planes>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/incumplen-fallo-que-ordena-detener-hidroelectrica-hidrocep-en-el-sector-de-pajuiles-tela/>

C-Libre denounces the defamation campaign against the human rights organizations (MADJ, CIPRODEH and ASONOG) accompanying the inhabitants of Azacualpa in their protest against the mining company MINOSA.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/estigmatizacion/886-campana-de-estigmatizacion-contra-organizaciones-de-ddhh>

"After more than two decades since the ILO Convention 169 was ratified and a decade after the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples was approved, the State of Honduras is imposing a Law of Prior Consultation for indigenous peoples with which it seeks to "comply" with the commitments made, while also dismantling the consultation to turn it into a mere administrative procedure."

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/08/15/la-consulta-previa-y-su-secuestro-ideologico-a-manos-del-estado-de-honduras/>

Feminist and women's rights organization held a press conference in which they discussed the first months of the illegal second term of JOH (see also yesterday and second link). Among other things, they highlight the lack of attention towards the specific challenges of indigenous women by the government. Their situation is even made worse by government policies, such as the regime's intention to force through a disputed consultation bill (see also previous article). The organization Las Hormigas further estimates that there are some 6000 environmental defenders criminalized in the country, 1700 of which are women.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/770-las-mujeres-indigenas-no-importamos-al-gobierno>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2246-gobierno-de-joh-militariza-los-espacios-publicos-y-ha-profundizado-la-violencia-hacia-las-mujeres>

Reporteros de Investigación investigated a femicide of an indigenous woman, María Irene Benítez Gonzalez, in Santa Elena, La Paz, which took place on August 12. The coordinator of the indigenous Lenca organization MILPAH and brother of the victim denounces that the supposed assassin belongs to a group forcing through a hydroelectric dam on the Chinacla River and he links it to the Nationalist congresswoman Gladys Aurora López.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/08/15/femicidio-en-santa-elena-la-paz-habria-sido-cometido-por-acosador-de-indigenas-opuestos-a-represas/>

Three campesinx organization denounced in a joint press release that through the use of fraud and corruption they have been robbed of their land.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/08/15/a-traves-de-fraude-y-corrupcion-se-les-despoja-de-sus-tierras-denuncian-campesinos-del-aguan/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published a welcome overview of the student protests that arose as a response to the increase in transport tariffs. Younger high schools students joined the protests, taking place at different schools in Tegucigalpa. C-Libre denounces that the National Police and Military Police are violently repressing them.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2250-estudiantes-de-educacion-media-amenazados-con-expulsiones-por-demanda-de-bono-de-transporte>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/15/colegios-de-tegucigalpa-en-paro-por-bono-de-transporte/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/887-represion-a-colegiales-que-protestan-contr-el-alza-al-transporte-publico>

Pasos de Animal spoke with representatives of different sectors of the public about the dialogue and why it failed. They denounce the lack of representation of civil society and victims of state repression. UN representative Igor Garáfulic, meanwhile, promises that the dialogue will continue, i.e. will start. Luis Zelaya and Salvador Nasralla demand that the presidential secretary Ebal Díaz does not participate in the dialogue.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2247-fracaso-el-dialogo-sectores-concuerdan-que-no-fructifica-por-la-falta-de-representacion-de-todos-los-actores>

<https://confidencialhn.com/politicos-anuncian-avance-y-prometen-que-si-habra-dialogo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/igor-garafulic-confirma-que-el-dialogo-politico-nacional-si-va/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-quiere-fuera-del-dialogo-politico-a-ebal-diaz-y-nasralla-lo-secunda/>

The MP under its illegally reelected Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla signed a cooperation agreement with USAID with the aim of promoting justice and reduce impunity.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/15/mp-y-usaid-firman-convenio-para-promover-acceso-a-la-justicia-y-reducir-la-impunidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/representante-de-eeuu-en-la-oea-se-reune-con-empleados-del-ministerio-publico/>

The MP intervened at the University Hospital linked to a corruption investigation. The Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) denounces that the hospital suffers from a governed-induced crisis which the intention to prepare the ground for privatization.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/15/ministerio-publico-interviene-el-hospital-escuela-universitario-en-medio-de-crisis/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/15/hospital-escuela/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-posibles-paralizaciones-por-crisis-hospitalaria/>

<https://tiempo.hn/atic-decomisa-documentos-heu/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will grant Honduras a \$412 million loan, 60 million will be dedicated to security.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mas-deuda-bid-prestara-a-honduras-400-millones-de-dolares/>

The Dutch Institute for Multi-Party Democracy announced to collaborate with the Clean Politics Unit.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/instituto-holandés-para-la-democracia-ratifica-apoyo-a-unidad-de-politica-limpia.html>

...is not grounded in reality.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-insiste-que-honduras-dejo-de-ser-uno-de-los-mas-violentos-del-mundo/>

16/08/18

Honduras Daily: Post-Electoral Violence; Political Prisoners; IACHR; Mining - Azacualpa, Minera Pinares; Hydroelectricity - Pajuiles; Journalists; Students - Repression; Transport Sector; Migration; Public Health; Economy; Corruption - Judicial Power; Liberal Party; and Living Archives of Past Dictatorships

ContraCorriente spoke with Mariela Hernández, whose brother was murdered by a Military Police agent last December as part of the post-electoral repression. She and other family members recently held a rally in San Pedro Sula to demand justice, but so far the JOH regime negates them this right. Mariela explains how the Human Rights Secretariat told her that it was not responsible for investigating crimes, but when she sought help at the MP or CONADEH, she was either greeted with intimidations or just silence. The second part of the article is dedicated to the murder of the 19-year old Kimberly Dayana Fonseca and her family's quest for justice.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/08/15/sin-castigo-militares-que-dispararon-a-matar-en-crisis-post-electoral/>

Criterio published a call by SOA Watch to have the political prisoners in Honduras released.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/16/libertad-para-los-presos-politicos-en-honduras-2/>

El Pulso published a third interview with a Honduran HRDs on the limitations of the recommendations by the IACHR. The former UNAH dean and HRD Juan Almeyda Bonilla explains that his hope weren't that high in the first place given that the IACHR will always be part of a very political body, the OAS.

<http://elpulso.hn/esas-comisiones-de-la-oea-son-una-ficcion-juan-almeyda-bonilla/>

The 4M Movement (The Meso-American Movement against the Extractive Mining Model) reviews a book from 2017 on mining protests in Honduras.

<http://movimientom4.org/2018/08/en-honduras-defender-la-vida-es-un-pecado/>

ConexiHon reports on the protests in Azacualpa against the mining company MINOSA and the article goes back to 2012, when the protests initiated. Back then, MINOSA first expressed its intention to expand its mining concession to the cemetery of Azacualpa. Over the years, in collusion with local authorities, the company had 26 community leaders criminalized and currently, they are conducting a smear campaign against the human rights organizations accompanying the community.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/772-azacualpa-poblacion-en-defensa-del-derecho-a-vivir-y-morir-en-paz>

El Tiempo reports on the growing resistance against the mining company Minera Pinares of Lenir Pérez, son-in-law of Miguel Facussé. Inhabitants of more than 10 communities protest that the mining project contaminates their water.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-crece-resistencia-a-mina-alutech/>

The German solidarity organization HondurasDelegation wrote an open letter to the Appeals Court requesting that it confirms the sentence leading to the closure of the hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP in Pajuiles.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/16/desde-alemania-urgen-a-corte-de-apelaciones-confirmar-sentencia-sobre-cierre-de-proyecto-de-hidrocep/>

The journalist Ely Vallejo was attacked by a police agent when covering a student protest (see below).

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/889-mujer-policia-golpea-y-dana-su-equipo-de-trabajo-de-periodista>

The second day in a row, state security forces violently evicted a student protests in three cities. The students demand lower prices for public transport. C-Libre denounces that in El Progreso, a civilian shot at the protesting students.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/890-nuevamente-fuerzas-policiales-reprimen-protestas-de-estudiantes-de-secundaria>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/888-civil-dispara-contra-colegiales-que-realizaban-manifestacion>

Organized cab drivers presented to Congress a citizens initiative demanding the reduction of fuel prices by 23 Lempiras signed by 20'000 citizens.

Heavy truck drivers threat with new protests if Congress does not make changes to the Transport Law that they think may harm them in the future.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presentan-al-parlamento-firmas-para-bajar-23-lempiras-al-galon-de-combustible/>

<https://tiempo.hn/en-caravana-los-taxistas-ley-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/transportistas-amenazan-con-paralizar-unidades-si-el-parlamento-no-modifica-norma-que-los-rige/>

A new report by UNICEF highlights the elevated risks of violence children face when deported back from the US and Mexico.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/16/ninez-deportada-del-triangulo-norte-de-ca-corre-mayor-riesgo-de-sufrir-violaciones/>

<https://www.unicef.org/lac/informes/desarraigados-en-centroam%C3%A9rica-y-m%C3%A9xico>

After Wednesday's intervention of the University Hospital by the MP, a labor union leader now recommends that the Health Secretariat takes control of the hospital (control is currently held by UNAH).

<https://confidencialhn.com/sugieren-que-hospital-escuela-pase-al-control-de-la-secretaria-de-salud/>

The former judge Liz Núñez Cardona will face trial for favoring two cousins linked to organized crime of the former vice-president of the Judiciary Council, Teodoro Bonilla.

<https://confidencialhn.com/enjuician-a-exfuncionaria-judicial-que-permitio-liberacion-de-primos-mafiosos-del-exconcejal-bonilla/>

13 Liberal congresswo/men may be expelled from their party for participating in the second inauguration of JOH after his illegal reelection.

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-trama-expulsion-de-13-parlamentarios-liberales-por-acudir-a-la-segunda-asuncion-de-joh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/partido-liberal-cita-a-13-diputados-por-incumplir-linea-partidaria.html>

The Central Bank lowered Honduras growth prospects.
Radio HRD writes that economic growth is only half of what would be needed to reduce poverty.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-revisa-a-la-baja-crecimiento-en-2018-y-2019-pero-mantiene-inflacion.html>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/08/16/honduras-crece-a-la-mitad-de-lo-requerido-para-impactar-en-reduccion-de-la-pobreza/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-archivos-vivientes-que-la-dictadura-no-puede-borrar/>

17/08/18

Honduras Daily: Campesinx; Post-Electoral Repression; JOH; FPIC; Mining - Azacualpa, Minera Pinares; HRDs - Zacate Grande; FoE; Femicide; Dialogue; Public Health; Transport Sector; LGBTI; and Honduras' Three Kinds of Maras

Four young campesinos, all between 15 and 17 years old, died due to an explosion while tending their fields. Criterio reports that they may have stepped on a land mine.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/17/bomba-provoca-la-muerte-de-cuatro-menores-en-erandique-lempira/>

<https://tiempo.hn/lempira-cuatro-personas-mueren-al-manipular-artefacto-explosivo/>

Yesterday, I linked to the article by Jennifer Ávila for ContraCorriente on the ongoing impunity in post-electoral human rights violations. A shorter article of her together with Jeff Ernst and Catty Calderon was also printed in the Guardian. "More than six months after security forces in Honduras killed numerous protesters during a violent post-election crackdown, not a single indictment has been filed against the perpetrators of what the UN high commission for human rights has described as extrajudicial executions."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/17/honduras-post-election-killings-families-wait-in-vain-for-justice>

The General Coordinator of COFADEH, Bertha Oliva, called in representation of the Convergence against the Reelection (CCC) for a nation-wide protest against the JOH regime on August 30, the National Day of the Disappeared.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-llama-al-pueblo-a-movilizarse-este-30-de-agosto-dia-nacional-del-detenido-desaparecido/>

The Observatory of the Human Rights of Honduras' Indigenous Peoples (ODHPINH) held a well-attended assembly on Thursday. Six of Honduras indigenous peoples were present (Maya Chortí, Lencas, Pech, Miskitus, Tolupanes and Garífunas) and together they rejected the proposed Consultation Bill by the JOH regime.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/774-pueblos-indigenas-de-honduras-rechazan-anteproyecto-ley-de-consulta>

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/pronunciamento-de-los-pueblos-indigenas-de-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ley-de-consulta-libre-garifunas/>

El Tiempo reports of a confrontation in Azacualpa caused by the mining

company MINOSA. This happened after days of a smear campaign promoted by MINOSA in colusion with the local government (see also previous e-mails of this week).

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-conato-de-violencia-en-una-mina-de-azacualpa-copan/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2251-organizaciones-de-ddhh-culpan-a-gobierno-y-a-mineras-por-campana-de-desprestigio-en-su-contra>

A representative of the MiAmbiente secretary tries to blame the inhabitants of Guapinol, Colón if something were to happen to them because they dare protesting against a mine. The mine in question belongs to Lenir Pérez and Ana Facussé (see also yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/gobierno-responsabiliza-a-pobladores-de-guapinol-si-se-da-una-batalla-campal-por-oponerse-a-minera/>

The human rights organization ADEPZA emitted an alert denouncing the criminalization of the inhabitants of Puerto Sierra by the landowner Jorge Luis Cassis Leiva. ADEPZA's struggle for human rights is supported by a community radio station, the Voice of Zacate Grande. Thanks to an update to its equipment, the station was able to increase its coverage.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/aumenta-la-criminalizacion-en-zacate-grande/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-voz-de-zacate-grande-amplia-cobertura-e-incidencia/>

The journalist Jairo López denounces that his television program was arbitrarily shut down and he blames the Electric Energy Company (EEH) to be behind it. López has regularly reported on questionable behaviour by the company as on corruption in general.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/17/cierran-espacio-televisivo-a-periodista-critico-de-choluteca/>

The JOH regime installed a Inter-Institutional Commission to investigate femicides.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/gobierno-instala-comision-interinstitucional-para-investigar-muertes-violentas-de-mujeres-y-femicidios.html>

This week, we witnessed another failed attempt at a national dialogue. Radio Progreso explains why it did not work this time.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/empantanado-estan-intenciones-de-dialogo-politico-en-honduras/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2252-dirigenta-de-mujeres-politicos-gobernantes-responden-a-una-mafia-cuyo-unico-objetivo-es-protger-sus-intereses>

El Libertador got access to an audit of the University Hospital for the period 2014-2017 by the Supreme Audit Tribunal (TSC).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2944-honduras-auditoria-revela-debilidades-en-administracion-del-hospital-escuela>

The Cab Association of Honduras (Ataxish) warned of another strike if Congress does not attend their citizen initiative calling for a reduction in fuel prices (see also yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/taxistas-amenazan-con-tomas-si-el-parlamento-no-discute-iniciativa-ciudadana/>

As expected, the reform of the Adoption Law does not allow for the adoption of children by same-sex couples as the constitution prohibits it. The LGBTI community denounces this.

<https://confidencialhn.com/afirman-que-solo-matrimonios-heterosexuales-podran-adoptar-ninos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/homosexuales-hondurenos-denuncian-sana-legislativa-en-su-contra-en-honduras.html>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/las-maras-en-honduras-16-agosto-2018/>

18/08/18

Honduras Daily: Mining - Minera Pinares; Femicide; Corruption; Migration - TPS; Economy; and Breaking with Fear

The Coordination of Popular Organizations of the Aguán (COPA) reports on a meeting with state bodies regarding the mining project by Minera Pinares of Lenir Pérez (see previous e-mails this week). They denounce that the JOH regime ignored, e.g. that the mining concession affects the main area of the Carlos Escaleras Mejía National Park. Furthermore, they denounce being threatened and constantly harassed even though members of COPA should benefit from special protection measures by the IACHR. Accordingly, they call for international accompaniment.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/08/honduras-comunicado-publico-la.html>

Yesterday, I linked to an article reporting on JOH's announcement to install an Inter-Institutional Commission to investigate femicides. Pasos de Animal Grande now reminds us that this promise goes back to a decision in Congress in July 2016 to create the Investigative Unit of the Violent Deaths of Women as well as an accompanying inter-institutional commission. For two years nothing happened and after a meeting this Thursday with feminist and women's rights organizations, JOH made the above-mentioned announcement.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2253-mujeres-piden-al-gobierno-aplicacion-decreto-de-comision-investigadora-de-los-femicidios>

FOSDEH denounces that there are currently 67 trusts managing some 18 billion Lempiras without much oversight.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-denuncia-uso-oscuro-de-18-mil-millones-distribuidos-en-67-fideicomisos/>

Criterio reports on a "Caravan for Justice" which took off in Los Angeles in direction of Washington to demand support for those losing their Temporary Protection Status (TPS).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/18/caravana-para-pedir-apoyo-al-tps-sale-desde-los-angeles/>

The former head of Honduras' Central Bank, Hugo Noé Pino, warns that 2018 may come to a close with both higher inflation and higher poverty rates.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-cerrara-2018-con-mayor-inflacion-y-desempleo/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/romper-los-miedos-18-agosto-2018/>

19/08/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Sexual Violence; Migration; Dialogue; Public Health; Military Police; and What It Means to Be a Judge

Last Saturday, an unknown man was found murdered in La Ceiba. Now both

Proceso Digital and La Prensa reports that it was the environmental defender Hernán Méndez.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/lider-ambientalista-era-hombre-encontrado-sin-vida-en-la-ceiba.html>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1208552-410/matan-a-ambientalista-y-dejan-el-cuerpo-en-la-cuenca-que-proteg%C3%ADa>

According to Doctors without Borders, Honduras has the highest rate of sexual violence in Latin America.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/19/honduras-tiene-el-primer-lugar-de-violaciones-en-america-latina/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-numero-uno-en-casos-de-violacion-en-america-latina/>

"The changing profile of Central American migrants from young men seeking economic opportunities to a more vulnerable population of women and children fleeing violence is posing a challenge to NGOs that serve people before, during, and after their perilous journeys north." Meanwhile in Honduras, the JOH regime set up a media show asking Hondurans not to migrate while completely ignoring the root causes of migration.

<https://www.devex.com/news/ngos-grapple-with-shifting-demographics-of-central-america-s-migrants-and-refugees-93291>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/19/alegraos-oh-pueblo-de-honduras-la-inmigracion-ha-terminado/>

UN representative Igor Garafulic increases the rhetoric pressures regarding the dialogue, saying that the international community expects it to guarantee that its development and cooperation programs may continue without problems.

He also contemplates opening the dialogue thematically but also on the level of actors invited to participate.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/comunidad-internacional-expectante-por-inicio-del-dialogo-para-continuar-programas-en-el-pais-garafulic.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/garafulic-aspira-incorporacion-de-nuevos-actores-en-el-dialogo/>

The Honduran Medical Association (CMH) announced to hold assemblies starting today in protest against the low stock of pharmaceuticals in most medical centers.

The labor union SITRAMEDHYS supports these efforts.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/08/19/asambleas-informativas-con-plantones-a-nivel-nacional-realizaran-las-autoridades-del-cmh/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/08/19/sitramedhys-se-unira-a-las-acciones-de-protesta-del-cmh/>

Five years ago, the Military Police was created and has since been responsible for various assassinations, threats and repression.

Nevertheless, in the interview with its commander Tito Livio Moreno Coello by El Heraldo, this is not the topic. Moreno Coello wants the Military Police to grow even further and take up new tasks.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1208520-466/tito-livio-moreno-coello-la-polic%C3%ADa-militar-ha-sido-un-%C3%A9xito-pese>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/18/jueces-magistrados-y-conductas/>

20/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Post-Electoral Repression; Political Prisoners; Journalists; Mining - Azacualpa; FPIC; Students; Public Health; Poverty; Violence; Judicial Power; Congress; Organized Crime; Migration - US; Dialogue; and Trujillo Bay

Berta Zúniga Cáceres, the general coordinator of COPINH, is currently in Guatemala, where she informs about the trial against the material suspects in her mother's assassination. Berta announced that starting September 2, they will launch an international campaign calling for solidarity and accompaniment for the trial that is planned to start on September 10.

The community radios affiliated with COPINH together with Radio Progreso started a weekly emission on Berta Cáceres which can be listened to online.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/775-acompanamiento-y-solidaridad-internacional-esperan-en-proximo-juicio-contra-imputados-por-crimen-de-berta-caceres>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/hija-de-lider-indigena-asesinada-en-honduras-pide-acompanamiento-en-juicio.html>

<http://www.radioscomunitarias.info/radio-novela-justicia-para-berta-justicia-para-los-pueblos/>

Criterio published some additional information about the planned protest on August 30 organized by the Alignment against the Reelection (CCC).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/20/plataforma-social-de-honduras-organiza-protesta-en-rechazo-a-la-crisis-economica-politica-y-social/>

Pablo Ruiz of SOAWatch wrote an open letter to the five Honduran political prisoners, Edwin, Raúl, Gustavo, José and Edy.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/carta-para-la-libertad-de-los-presos-politicos-en-honduras/>

Radio Dignity, affiliated with MADJ, is being threatened with closure and its staff is being threatened by people linked to the company HIDROCEP. MADJ accompanies a public protest in Pajuiles against a hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP.

Pasos de Animal Grande published some more information on recent attacks by the police against journalists covering the student protests (see also further down).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2255-radio-dignidad-opera-bajo-amenazas-de-grupos-poderosos>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2254-policia-sigue-atacando-a-los-periodistas-que-cubren-manifestaciones>

The Association of International Cooperation (Espacio ACI), which consists of 30 international NGO with presence in Honduras, emitted a press release expressed its concerns about the defamation campaign against human rights organizations (ASONOG, MADJ and CIPRODEH) and HRDs by the mining company MINOSA (for further information about the situation in Azacualpa, see last week).

See attachment

El Pulso reports from the protest by Honduras' indigenous and Garífuna organizations against the imposed consultation bill.

<http://elpulso.hn/que-pasa-con-la-nueva-ley-de-consulta-previa-e-informada/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the authorities threaten student leaders protesting against high public transport prices with expulsion. The Education Secretary Marcial Solís denied agency to the students by claiming that outside actors are promoting the protests.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2256-dirigentes-estudiantiles-que-conducen-tomas-de-colegios-estan-amenazados-por-activistas-del-partido-nacional>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretario-de-educacion-denuncia-que-encapuchados-azuzan-las-protestas-de-colegiales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ministro-solis-acusa-a-actores-ajenos-a-la-educacion-de-estar-detras-de-tomas-de-centros.html>

Suyapa Figueroa, the president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), reiterates her fear that the crisis in the public health system may have been willingly imposed to favor the privatization of public health services.

JOH announced the creation of a Special Commission to Transform the Health System in Honduras.

The Human Rights Secretariat announced to survey some 5000 people about the state of Honduras' public health system.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/20/crisis-en-salud-puede-ser-jugada-del-gobierno-para-privatizar-los-servicios-medicos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-hernandez-crea-comision-para-la-transformacion-del-sistema-de-salud.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/20/con-encuestas-pretenden-solucionar-problematica-de-salud-publica-en-honduras/>

FOSDEH denounces the high salaries by some public officials in one of the poorest countries in Latin America.

ConfidencialHN lists some of these salaries.

The economist Julio Raudales proposes reducing some of the high salaries to increase the budget allocated to education and health.

<https://confidencialhn.com/funcionarios-de-la-nacion-mas-pobre-del-mundo-tienen-sueldos-de-europa-fosdeh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/despilfarro-los-mejores-sueldos-de-honduras-estan-en-la-administracion-central/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-minuciosa-revision-del-gasto-en-salarios-de-funcionarios/>

ConfidencialHN reports on a new debate about violence in Honduras including the voices of the Commerce Chamber, UNAH's Violence Observatory and the former president of COHEP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/epidemia-mortal-honduras-tiene-medalla-de-bronce-en-los-panamericanos-de-la-violencia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/camara-de-comercio-capitalina-preocupada-por-repunte-de-la-violencia-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/investigadora-reconoce-que-los-homicidios-en-el-pais-son-una-epidemia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/repunte-de-violencia-muestra-que-en-honduras-llegar-a-viejo-es-un-reto-empresaria/>

ConfidencialHN reports on a questionable rotation inside the Judicial Power. The judge that just ordered the release of the seized possessions belonging to Ramón Matta Waldurraga was rotated to another position. Matta Waldurraga handed himself over to US authorities in 2017 because of presumed links to drug trafficking. Political analyst say that this undermines judicial independence.

<https://confidencialhn.com/purga-de-guante-blanco-rotan-a-juez-que-desembargo-bienes-asegurados-a-matta-waldurraga/>

<https://tiempo.hn/analistas-traslados-en-el-poder-judicial-pone-en-precariedad-independencia-de-jueces/>

Nincy Perdomo shares once more with us what happened last week in Congress.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-141516-08-2018/>

Yesterday, the former mayor of Talanga, Jorge Neptalí Romero Mejía, was acquitted. He had been accused of illicit association with the Mara MS-13.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/20/alcalde-de-talanga-sale-libre-de-vinculaciones-con-la-ms-13/>

<https://tiempo.hn/queda-en-libertad-el-ex-alcalde-de-talanga-jorge-neftali-romero/>

The IACHR granted special protection measures to migrating children who have been separated by their parents by US authorities.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/20/cidh-otorga-medidas-cautelares-para-proteger-ninos-migrantes-separados-de-sus-familias-en-ee-uu/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cidh-otorga-medidas-cautelares-a-ninos-migrantes-separados-en-ee-uu.html>

UN representative Igor Garafulic once more claims that the dialogue will start soon, the newest date is next Tuesday, August 28.

And as if on cue, newspaper outlets close to the regime suddenly claim that Manuel Zelaya recognizes JOH's illegal reelection victory...Zelaya immediately reacted on Twitter denouncing "the manipulation of my declaration".

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1208841-410/honduras-dialogo-nasralla-liberales-onu>

<https://tiempo.hn/fuerzas-politicas-dialogo-garafulic/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1208799-466/mel-zelaya-reconoce-triunfo-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-en-las-elecciones>

<https://twitter.com/manuelzr/status/1031724854960181253>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-bahia-de-trujillo/>

21/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Femicide; Women's Rights; Extractivism; Violence - Youth; Corruption - Congress, Pandora; Public Health; US - Ambassador; Dialogue; Education; General Budget; and to Be or Not to Be...a Regime

COPINH will hold a press conference today at 10:30am in Tegucigalpa to denounce that the MP continues to fail to investigate proof they have gathered and to share it with COPINH's and Berta's family's lawyers. Sandra Cuffe just published a great article in English on this. "The trial of eight men charged with the murder of Honduran activist Berta Cáceres is right around the corner, but prosecutors may be heading to trial without important evidence. More than two dozen electronic devices seized in related raids as far back as 2016 were never subjected to analysis, according to an official response to Cáceres's relatives from the Office of the Prosecutor for Crimes Against Life, a document that has not yet been made public."

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/fiscalia-no-ha-analizado-prueba-a-un-mes-del-juicio-por-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/21/copinh-denuncia-que-el-ministerio-publico-no-ha-analizado-prueba-que-tiene-en-su-poder-desde-mayo-de-2016/>

<https://truthout.org/articles/honduran-prosecutors-withhold-evidence-in-berta-caceres-murder-case/>

ContraCorriente published the tragic story of Yeni Ferrera - a femicide which could have been averted, had the Honduran State just acted upon receiving her cry of help as a victim of domestic violence.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/08/20/un-femicidio-que-el-estado-pudo-evitar/>

The Center for Women's Rights (CDM) organized a public forum on sexual and reproductive rights. Some of the presentations can be watch on their Facebook page.

OACNUDH' director, Maria Soledad Pazo, participated and part of her contribution was published on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/CDMHonduras/videos/539234709866269/?fref=mentions>

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/posts/2236179009956218>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2946-prohibir-pastilla-de-emergencia-violacion-derechos-reproductivos-en-honduras>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2257-la-falta-de-una-firma-del-ministro-de-salud-imposibilita-el-uso-de-la-pae-en-honduras>

ASONOG, CIPRODEH and MADJ denounce that extractive companies control and manipulate State institutions to force through their projects. These three human rights organizations are currently under attack for accompanying the inhabitants of Azacualpa in their peaceful resistance against a mining project by MINOSA.

COPINH published a critical commentary on the term "sustainable development" and how it has been used for extractive practices in opposition to indigenous peoples.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/21/companias-extractivistas-controlan-y-manipulan-instituciones-del-estado-para-desarrollar-sus-proyectos-asonog/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/desarrollo-sostenible-una-forma-muy-conveniente-de-nombrar-el-despojo-y-avasallamiento-de-los-territorios-2/>

The Children and Youth Rights Observatory reported 71 violent deaths of children and young adults under 30 in June. 43 of them were even younger than 23 years of age. 3422 children and young adults under 23 have been murdered since JOH became president in January 2014.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/casa-alianza-71-ninas-ninos-y-jovenes-fueron-asesinados-en-el-mes-de-junio/>

Just about three months ago, Congress made negative headlines about corruption in the use of departmental funds. As a reaction, Congress eliminated the Departmental Development Fund on July 12. Now, just a month later, Nationalist congressman Mario Pérez introduced a bill asking once more for the creation of a departmental fund...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/21/diputado-mario-perez-presenta-proyecto-de-ley-para-que-se-restablezca-el-fondo-departamental/>

One of the accused in the Pandora corruption case, Franklin Erick Toruño, reacts to his accusation by presenting an administrative writ of amparo at the Constitutional Chamber.

<https://confidencialhn.com/implicado-en-trama-corrupta-pandora-interpone-recurso-contrala-maccih-y-ufecic/>

<https://tiempo.hn/defensor-de-implicado-en-caso-pandora-presenta-recurso-de-amparo-contra-ufecic-maccih/>

JOH announced on Monday the creation of a special commission on public health (see yesterday). Its official name is now National Health Commission and the former UNAH dean Julieta Castellanos was announced as one of its members. The commission will be headed by the Secretary of Health, Octavio Sánchez. Castellanos's nomination raises some question, as the body responsible for the University Hospital, one of the most obvious cases of the failings of public health in Honduras, is administrated by UNAH.

Accordingly, the labor leader José Luis Baquedano denounces her nomination. The Medical Association Honduras (CMH) is equally critical. ConfidencialHN published the executive decree which enables the intervention.

CONADEH recommends increasing the health budget.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/21/julieta-castellanos-integra-comision-interventora-de-salud/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/responsabilizan-a-exrectora-de-la-unah-e-interventora-sanitaria-por-crisis-en-el-hospital-escuela/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cmh-miembros-comision-salud-menos-idoneos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/colegio-medico-tiene-pocas-esperanzas-en-comision-de-transformacion-en-salud.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/publican-decreto-para-intervenir-el-sistema-sanitario-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/recomiendan-fortalecer-presupuesto-destinado-al-sector-salud/>

Today, the confirmation hearing for the new US ambassador to Honduras, Francisco Palmieri, will take place in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Even though it says online that the hearing won't be webcast, I was told that this is an error and you should be able to watch it online.

<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/nominations-082218>

CIPRODEH's director Wilfredo Ménez holds the Honduran UN system responsible for not putting the post-electoral human rights violations front and center of the dialogue.

Criterio published a critical commentary on the dialogue by the Pro Honduras Network which speaks of an obscure pact promoting the dialogue and highlights the role of the US.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/21/el-pacto-oscuro-detras-del-dialogo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/lamentan-falta-de-justicia-para-los-fallecidos-tras-las-elecciones-de-2017/>

On Monday, Education Minister Marcial Solís claimed that the student protests were motivated by outside forces (see yesterday). Yesterday, he announced the criminalization of students participating in protests, speaking of "re-educative and disciplinary measures".

<https://confidencialhn.com/funcionario-pide-sanciones-para-los-que-interrumpan-clases/>

The General Budget 2019 will grow by 10 billion Lempiras according to the Finance Minister Rocío Tábora.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presupuesto-general-de-honduras-aumentara-en-10-mil-millones-para-2019/>

"A country's political leaders are likely to be called a "regime" when they do not follow US dictates, and are less likely to be categorized as such if they cooperate with the empire. (...) Consider, by contrast, coverage of Honduras. The country is hardly lacking in characteristics associated with a "regime." (...) According to a Factiva search, the phrase "Honduran regime" has never appeared in the Times, Journal and Post in the years following the coup, and collectively they used the

phrase "regime in Honduras" once: It appeared in a Washington Post article (3/31/16) about the assassinations of Honduran indigenous leader Berta Cáceres and other environmentalists in the region, in a quote by a professor critical of US support for Latin American dictatorships. While Honduras's three post-coup presidents have governed a country where "impunity for human rights abuses remains the norm," according to Human Rights Watch, these leaders have almost never been described as running a "regime." A Post editorial (9/5/09) included the only appearance of "Micheletti regime" in any of the three papers. "Lobo regime" returns zero search results. The New York Times (2/16/16) has used "Hernández regime" once, but Factiva indicates that the Post and Journal never have. Searches for "regime in Tegucigalpa" or "Tegucigalpa regime" produced zero results."

<http://fair.org/home/a-regime-is-a-government-at-odds-with-the-us-empire/>

22/08/18

Honduras Daily: HR; Berta - Trial; Corruption - Laws, US; Journalists; Forced Disappearance; Worker's Rights; Extractivism; Students; Dialogue; Drinking Water; BID; Drug Trafficking; ENEE; and Chasing the Dragon, Part 8

Nationalist congressman Marco Velázquez presented a worrisome bill yesterday. Its aim is to "create a strategy to control popular protests".

<https://tiempo.hn/mocionan-en-el-congreso-nacional-para-crear-una-estrategia-que-controlle-las-protestas/>

COPINH and its legal team in the assassination case of Berta Cáceres held a press conference yesterday to inform about the upcoming trial against the material authors as well as the unwillingness of the MP to thoroughly investigate the case and share information with the victims (see also yesterday's e-mail).

COPINH also published an interview with one of the lawyers accompanying them, Víctor Fernández. He shares information about the evidentiary hearing, i.e. the presentation of the proof used in the upcoming trial starting on September 10, which should take place today and tomorrow.

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/copinh-comunicado-de-prensa-22-08-2018/>

<https://nicaraguaymasespanol.blogspot.com/2018/08/copinh-denuncia-pacto-de-impunidad-en.html>

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/entrevista-a-victor-fernandez/>

As was feared by those fighting corruption in Honduras, Congress made the first attempt yesterday to reform the Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code. This article currently allows to hold accused in corruption cases in pre-trial custody. The controversy about the law arose around the Pandora corruption case when the defense teams of most of the 38 accused chose the strategy to claim that the article is unconstitutional. Yesterday, congressman and president of Congress' Human Rights Commission presented a bill to reform Article 184. The MACCIH reacted immediately warning that such a reform would weaken the fight against corruption.

<http://elpulso.hn/procesados-por-corrupcion-podria-beneficiarse-de-aprobarse-reforma-al-articulo-184/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/presentan-iniciativa-para-reformar-articulo-184-del-codigo-procesal-penal.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/22/modificar-el-articulo-184-debilitaria-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-maccih/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2947-alarmada-maccih-por-diputados-que-buscan-blindaje-manoseando-codigo-penal>

ConfidencialHN cites US congresswoman Norma Torres on the consequences of the soon to be established list of corrupt Honduran officials. She

mentions visa restrictions and the blocking of US bank accounts.

<https://confidencialhn.com/politicos-corruptos-y-mafiosos-del-triangulo-norte-tienen-mucho-que-perder-congresista-de-ee-uu-norma-torres/>

The case of journalist Jairo López may turn into one of the emblematic cases to show the limits of the protection mechanism in Honduras. In the newest deterioration, the Preventive Police Force now negates him police protection even though the protection mechanism ordered it.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2258-no-son-cuentos-policia-se-revela-ante-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-y-abandona-patrullajes-para-periodista-jairo-lopez>

Defensores en Línea reports on the case of Óscar Elías López Muñoz who was forcefully disappeared on August 21, 2011. Six men claiming to be from the National Criminal Investigation Unit (DNIC) came to his house, beat him up in front of his wife and children and took him with him. His family has not heard from him since and demands justice.

Next week on August 30, Honduras will commemorate the Day of the Forcefully Disappeared. The Honduran poet and journalist Félix Cesario published a new books with poems for the occasion called "Times of Terror".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/siete-anos-de-silencio-e-impunidad-donde-esta-oscar/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tiempos-del-terroruna-potente-obra-poetica-en-memoria-de-los-detenidos-desaparecidos/>

Radio Progreso denounces that half of the workers in Honduras' maquilas suffer from health problems.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-mitad-de-las-obreras-que-laboran-en-maquilas-hondurenas-presenta-problema-de-salud/>

The Second Meso-American Encounter of Indigenous Social Communicators in Defense of Water took place in Guatemala. Radio Progreso was present and reports on the topics discussed. The participating communicators highlighted the need to accompany communities in peaceful resistance against extractive industry projects.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/comunicadores-indigenas-de-mesoamerica-se-articulan-para-enfrentar-proyectos-extractivos/>

First they ridicule you, then they criminalize you and then you get vouchers for public transport. Something like this seems to happen in Honduras. The Secretary of Education, who just a day before had threatened to expel protesting students, now announced yesterday to work on a project offering vouchers for public transport to students. State security forces still go after protesting students. On Tuesday night, two students were beaten and arrested. CIPRODEH further denounced that the police did not even let the public prosecutor see the students to receive complaints for mistreatment.

<https://confidencialhn.com/61248-2/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/educacion-aprueba-bono-de-mil-lempiras-para-150-mil-estudiantes.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/22/policia-golpea-salvajemente-a-dos-estudiantes-del-instituto-central-vicente-caceres/>

El Heraldo reports that decisions at the National Dialogue will be made by consensus.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1209497-466/decisiones-del-dialogo-honduras-seran-por-consenso>

Inhabitants in Juticalpa, Olancho protest that a drinking water plant installed more than three months ago still does not work.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/22/proyecto-de-agua-de-juticalpa-no-se-pone-en-funcionamiento-por-enredos-politicos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2948-politicos-irresponsables-niegan-agua-a-ciudadania-de-juticalpa-honduras>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) confirmed the \$400 million loan to Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bid-anuncia-prestamo-de-400-millones-de-dolares-para-honduras/>

ConfidencialHN reports on the Pyrrhic work of Fusina in destroying landing stripes of drug traffickers which are then just rebuild.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mientras-ffaa-hondurenas-destruyen-narcopistas-capos-las-reconstruyen-en-tiempo-record/>

FOSDEH criticizes the lack of information by the JOH regime on the financial state of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE),

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-ve-pocas-posibilidades-de-que-la-enee-pueda-recuperarse-financieramente/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/22/ministerio-publico-desarrolla-operacion-dragon-viii/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-promete-dar-duros-golpes-con-el-octavo-operativo-del-dragon/>

23/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Journalists; LGBTI; CCC; Dialogue; Corruption - First Lady, Laws; Public Health; Public Transport - Protests; Congress - Gender Equality; World Bank; an a Honduran Woman Challenges Trump

Ten international and national human rights organizations wrote a public letter to the illegally re-elected Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla denouncing the numerous irregularities witnessed so far in the Berta Cáceres trial.

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/organizaciones-denuncian-irregularidades-en-el-proceso-por-el-asesinado-de-berta-caceres/>

OACNUDH published a press release expressing its "profound concern about the threats against the Radio Progreso journalist and human rights defender Sandra Maribel Sánchez." Sandra Maribel Sánchez received a death threat by phone on August 21.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/23/oacnudh-expresa-su-preocupacion-ante-amenazas-contra-la-periodista-sandra-maribel-sanchez/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2260-hija-de-la-gran-pu-no-sabes-como-quedan-las-boconas-le-dicen-por-llamada-a-periodista-sandra-maribel-sanchez>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/23/amenazas-a-periodista-sandra-maribel-sanchez-son-un-reconocimiento-a-su-capacidad-critica-y-de-analisis-padre-melo/>

The Sexual Diversity Committee of Honduras, a network of various LGBTI organizations, published a press release condemning the smear campaign against one of its members, the LGBT Association Arcoíris. They believe that state actors try to split the LGBTI movements.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2259-ante-campana-de-desprestigio-organizaciones-lgtbi-de-honduras-dan-contundente-respaldo-a-asociacion-arcoiris>

Rodolfo Cortés Calderón supports the call by the Alignment against the Re-Election (CCC) for nation-wide protests on August 30 against the JOH regime.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/776-el-30-a-nos-convoca-la-convergencia-popular-contra-el-continuisimo>

Criticism about the dialogue grows, both by civil society actors such as Radio Progreso as well as the political opposition. Gilberto Ríos Munguía calls the current setting of the dialogue a "bipartisan monologue". The above mentioned CCC held a press conference at COFADEH's yesterday. They highlighted the need to return to a constitutional order before sitting down for a dialogue. "The current political dialogue will not arrive at that solution and much less will it find the necessary consensus that will lead to the construction of a country of justice, democracy and welfare for all, because the regime only bets on its consolidation, therefore it seeks to legitimize and legalize its crime of treason."

Bertha Oliva, the general coordinator of COFADEH, calls the dialogue "the worst error".

<http://wp.radioprogresohn.net/de-dialogos-y-sorderas-23-agosto-2018/>

<http://elpulso.hn/dialogo-bipartidista-opinion/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/convergencia-contra-el-continuisimo-no-puede-haber-dialogo-si-antes-no-se-retorna-al-orden-constitucional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/califican-como-el-peor-de-los-errores-el-dialogo-nacional/>

The former First Lady Rosa Elena de Lobo demanded in a hearing yesterday that she could await her trial outside of prison. She will find out on Monday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ex-primera-dama-de-honduras-esta-solicitando-poder-defenderse-en-libertad/>

<https://tiempo.hn/pronto-se-conocera-si-rosita-continua-en-prision-o-se-defiende-en-libertad/>

The debate about the Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code goes into the next round (see also yesterday). The MP emitted a statement that the article does not violate constitutional nor international law ratified by Honduras. This seems to take away part of the argument build up by the defense teams officials accused of corruption. Previously, the US embassy, i.e. its chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton, tweeted that they are closely observing Congress and its attempt to reform the Article 184. They also linked to a MACCIH press release from the previous day denouncing the reform as weakening the fight against corruption

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) told the press yesterday evening that the main driver to derogate or reform the article is fear by those facing corruption charges.

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva initially, i.e. before Fulton's Tweet, told the press that the reform represents a sovereign decision by Congress.

Then afterwards, both he and the National Party seemed to take a step back speaking of consulting various sectors before taking a decision.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/23/articulo-184-no-vulnera-la-constitucion-ni-tratados-internacionales-sobre-dd-hh-ministerio-publico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ee-uu-al-parlamento-hondureno-los-estamos-observando-ante-posible-reforma-al-184/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-sigue-de-cerca-reforma-al-articulo-184-y-advierte-evaluar-consecuencias.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/23/quienes-buscan-reformar-o-derogar-el-articulo-184-temen-requerimiento-fiscal-por-corruptos-cna/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/las-reformas-al-articulo-184-son-una-decision-soberana-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tras-tuitazo-de-fulton-parlamento-y-partido-nacional-reculan-en-modificacion-al-184/>

<https://tiempo.hn/presidente-del-cn-no-someteremos-a-votacion-iniciativas-orientadas-a-reformar-el-articulo-184-del-cpp/>

El Pulso published an interview with the president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH). She argues that the new intervention commission presented this week by the JOH regime is not in Honduras' general interest, but the commission rather represents the interests of certain economic groups.

<http://elpulso.hn/comision-interventora-no-representa-los-intereses-de-honduras-suyapa-figueroa/>

<http://elpulso.hn/existe-consenso-en-necesidad-de-intervencion-del-sistema-de-salud-lo-que-no-es-quien-ni-como/>

Radio Progreso reports on the ongoing protests by both students and cab drivers against the rise in fares for public transport. Radio Progreso argues that in a country with a poverty rate of 68%, such protests are more than legitimate.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/estudiantes-y-taxistas-continuan-en-lucha-por-rebaja-a-las-tarifas-de-transporte-y-el-combustible/>

COIPRODEN demands that the Honduran State should listen to the demands of the protesting students rather than having state security forces attack them and the legal system criminalize them. The regime did not listen and its security forces once more went after protesting students yesterday.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/23/estado-de-honduras-debe-atender-las-peticiones-y-no-criminalizar-la-protesta-de-los-estudiantes-coiproden/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policias-y-estudiantes-se-enfrentan-en-batalla-campal-en-una-populosa-zona-de-tegucigalpa/>

El Libertador reports on the "Parliamentarian Academy - Women Politicians: constructing more democracy, more equality". Congress' Gender Equality Commission agreed to develop some joint actions together with this initiative.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2949-honduras-voto-popular-no-basta-para-igual-trato-a-diputadas-en-el-legislativo>

The Honduran Central Bank signed a cooperation agreement with the World Bank regarding the National Survey of Household Incomes and Expenditures (ENIGH).

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/bch-y-bm-firman-convenio-de-cooperacion-para-desarrollo-de-encuesta-de-hogares.html>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/hondurena-que-demando-a-donald-trump-pide-respeto-para-migrantes-amparados-bajo-el-tps/>

24/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Political Prisoners; Mining - Azacualpa; Poverty; US - China; Corredor Seco; Military Police; and Poetry to the Rescue

And again, the evidentiary hearing in the Berta Cáceres case has been postponed. It has been reprogrammed to take place on August 31 and September 1. The article by El Tiempo also includes an attack by the Canadian lawyer Brian Greespan against the GAIPE report. This is part of a planned denigration campaign by DESA against COPINH and their legal team.

<https://tiempo.hn/reprograman-audiencia-de-proposicion-de-pruebas-en-caso-bertha-caceres/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/reprograman-la-audiencia-de-medios-probatorios-para-los-implicados-en-el-caso-bertha-caceres.html>

Libre presented a bill in Congress which would grant amnesty to the political prisoners held since the post-electoral crisis.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/presentan-decreto-de-amnistia-para-liberar-presos-politicos-encarcelados-por-protestar-contr-el-fraude-electoral/>

Defensores en Línea spoke with an inhabitant of Azacualpa, Copán, where the people have been peacefully protesting against the mining company MINOSA. The company is exhuming bodies from the local graveyard to expand its mining concession against the will of the people and two court orders.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/empresas-extractivistas-no-respetan-ni-la-vida-ni-la-muerte-en-honduras/>

Expediente Público argues in a new article that economic growth so far failed to help the poor in Honduras. In 2017, Honduras' economy grew by 3.9%, the fifth fastest growing economy in Latin America. At the same time, Honduras is the third most unequal country in the world and it is estimated that more than 6 million people live in poverty. The cost of their monthly basic goods has grown from 69\$ in 2001 to 106\$ in 2017. As a consequence, only 26% of parents believed in 2013 that their children will have it better than them, back in 2004, the number was 59%.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/seguridad-y-violencia/99-mas-inversion-en-seguridad-y-defensa-mayor-pobreza-en-honduras>

The Trump administration did not welcome El Salvador's decision to officially recognize China. "The White House on Thursday accused China of "apparent interference" in El Salvador's domestic politics after the Central American nation established diplomatic ties with Beijing this week." US Chargé d'affaires in Honduras reacted immediately via Twitter: "Countries seeking to establish or expand relations with China may be disappointed in the long run. It's important for the Honduran people to evaluate who has been, and will continue to be, a close, steadfast partner in seeking an ever-improving future for this promising country." The Honduran press labels this as a threat. The president of the Honduran Economists Association Julio Raudales rather advocates for a rapprochement with China.

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/24/world/asia/taiwan-el-salvador-china.html?ref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Famericas&action=click&contentCollection=americas®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=2&pgtype=sectionfront

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/24/ee-uu-reevalua-su-relacion-con-el-salvador/>

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1033120672581648386>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/24/ee-uu-amenaza-a-honduras-sobre-consecuencias-si-busca-establecer-relaciones-con-china/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-debe-acercarse-a-la-republica-popular-china-para-lograr-fuertes-inversiones/>

Javier Suazo published a critical analysis of the JOH regime's response to the challenges of the so-called Corredor Seco (dry corridor).

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194924>

JOH praises the internationally criticized Military Police on its fifth anniversary, the same institution that is responsible for several murders of Honduran citizens during the post-electoral repression. "The people can walk calmly thanks to the Military Police"...His speech is full of unsubstantiated claims and I have an upcoming article in Envío which debunks most of them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-de-honduras-el-pueblo-se-desplaza-tranquilamente-gracias-a-la-policia-militar/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-policia-militar-aniversario/>

"Pero otra Honduras de potente aurora,

decidida y total vengadora

alza la frente perseguida y bella...

...Pues una noble juventud se agita

bajo su cielo, y en su voz gravita

el porvenir fundido en una estrella".

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/solo-la-poesia-nos-salva/>

25/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Forced Disappearance; Corruption - Trans-450; and Two Dialogues

On Friday, the evidentiary hearing in the Berta Cáceres took place before it was postponed again (see yesterday's e-mail). COPINH denounces that the National Police Force denied entry to the hearing to Laura Zúniga, daughter of Berta Cáceres, and members of COPINH.

<https://www.facebook.com/1602956593311447/posts/2136471223293312/>

With the International Day of the Disappeared coming up on August 30, Defensores en Línea reports on the situation in Honduras, where after the 1980s, forced disappearance started to be used again during and after the coup d'état and last year's post-electoral repression.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/agosto-sombrio-para-victimas-de-desaparicion-forzada/>

The MP informed that they have four line of investigations into the failed infrastructure project Trans-450.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/fiscalia-tiene-abiertas-cuatro-lineas-de-investigacion-del-proyecto-trans-450.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-esta-investigando-presunta-corrupcion-en-el-trans450/>

Libre started its "Dialogue with the People" yesterday. The UN-led dialogue will start on Tuesday morning.

<https://confidencialhn.com/zelaya-instala-dialogo-popular-con-la-dirigencia-y-bases-de-libre/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-el-pueblo-quiere/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/dialogo-nacional-arrancara-a-las-10-00-de-la-manana-el-martes.html>

26/08/18

Honduras Daily: Corruption - Laws; Drought; Budget; and Meanwhile at the PARLACEN

This weekend, Omar Rivera also started to speak up against the proposed reform of the Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code. He points out that there was no opposition to the article when it was introduced in 2013 and if it is reformed now, as it also starts to affect politicians suspected of corruption, this would send a bad signal.

<https://confidencialhn.com/depurador-policial-y-oenegeista-se-muestra-alarmado-por-intentona-de-modificar-el-184/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/26/por-que-cuando-se-aprobo-el-184-que-sirvio-para-golpear-narcos-y-mareros-nadie-dijo-nada/>

The FAO warns that the drought affecting Central America threatens the food security of some 2 million people. In Honduras, over 80% of the corn and frijol harvest was lost.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/26/sequia-amenaza-la-seguridad-alimentaria-de-2-millones-de-personas-en-centro-america-fao/>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/08/1017712>

The president of the Central Bank of Honduras, Wilfredo Cerrato, informed that JOH intends to send the budget for 2019 to Congress before September 15. Before, he will discuss it with his cabinet. The budget is projected to raise to 253 billion Lempiras. Proceso Digital even reports of a 260 billion Lempiras budget, which would mean a 6% increase compared to this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-discutira-y-analizara-el-presupuesto-general-de-honduras-antes-de-enviarlo-al-parlamento/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/congreso-nacional-trabaja-ya-en-un-presupuesto-de-260-mil-millones-de-lempiras-para-el-2019.html>

The Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) awarded the Honduran congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez for her dedication to promote women's rights.

<https://tiempo.hn/doris-gutierrez-galardon/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/doris-gutierrez-sera-galardonada-por-el-parlacen-como-mujer-destacada-de-honduras.html>

27/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - Impunity; CCC; Corruption - First Lady, Laws, Judiciary Council; Children's Rights; Dialogue; Liberal Party; Congress; Education; National Police; and Paved Roads for Esparta

Over 50 regional and international human rights organizations published a press release expressing their concern about "the persistent negligence of the Honduran authorities in the investigation process" and that the MP has not yet investigated crucial evidence two weeks before the trial against the material authors is set to start. Last week, the evidentiary hearing should have taken place but it was

postponed once more. COPINH published a new article on this. COPINH wants the trial to be live streamed, but its request was denied. Yesterday, they tried once more.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/honduras-organizaciones-internacionales-denunciamos-negligencia-estatal-caso-bera-caceres>

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/ministerio-publico-queda-al-descubierto-al-no-querer-presentar-informacion-relevante-en-el-caso-de-bera-caceres/>

<https://www.facebook.com/1602956593311447/posts/2138645259742575/>

On August 27, 2014, human rights defender and campesina leader Margarita Murillo was assassinated. She is one of the 15 HRDs who should have benefited from special protection measures by the IACHR, but who have been murdered nonetheless since 2009. "The land she sowed cries for justice".

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/margarita-murillo-a-cuatro-anos-de-su-asesinato/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cuatro-anos-de-impunidad-ante-el-crimen-de-margarita-murillo/>

Defensores en Línea published another call for this Thursday's protest against the JOH regime organized by the National Alignment against the Reelection (CCC).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/no-hay-fecha-para-resistir-y-proponer/>

A judge decided yesterday that the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo has to continue awaiting her trial in prison.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/27/juez-reafirma-la-medida-de-prision-preventiva-para-rosa-elena-bonilla-de-lobo/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2952-la-rosa-ofrecio-hoy-16-millones-para-ser-juzgada-en-libertad-juez-no-acepto>

The former head of CONADEH, Ramón Custodio, joins the debate about the Article 184. According to him, it does not violate any human rights and it should remain in force.

The president of the Judicial Power, Rolando Argueta, announced that they will emit their verdict in September.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ex-defensor-del-pueblo-no-ve-ilegalidad-en-articulo-184-penal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/poder-judicial-de-honduras-emitira-en-septiembre-una-opinion-sobre-el-184/>

The recent arrest of the former members of the Judiciary Council has been labeled a success. Now, once more, it could turn out to be a short-lived one. The president of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC), Jose Juan Ponedá, declared that the process against them should rather be of administrative instead of penal nature.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-tsc-aclara-que-acusacion-contr-exconcejales-debio-ser-civil-y-no-penal/>

The Human Rights Secretariat with the support of UNICEF installed a body to monitor the recommendations made to Honduras regarding the rights of children.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presentan-informe-sobre-recomendaciones-internacionales-de-ddhh-en-la-ninez-hondurena.html>

This morning at 10am, the dialogue is planned to start. A representative of the Liberal Party and Salvador Nasralla as well as a representative of the government and the National Party will take place. This means that the JOH regime is represented twice and Libre continues to boycott

the dialogue denouncing it as a way to whitewash the electoral fraud and the post-electoral human rights violations. Ebal Díaz announced that JOH won't be present because his agenda is already full...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/27/no-hay-temas-vetados-o-prohibidos-para-el-dialogo-igor-garafulic/>

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-asistira-al-dialogo-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-no-acudira-al-lanzamiento-del-dialogo-politico-por-tener-cargada-la-agenda/>

The Liberal Party seems in self-destruction mode. It published in La Gaceta the creation of a disciplinary panel. The president of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, wants to go after its members who participated at the second inauguration of JOH. ConfidencialHN claims that this attempt is further linked to Zelaya trying to deprive Elvin Santos of power, the head of the Liberal Party in Congress.

<https://confidencialhn.com/partido-liberal-publica-en-la-gaceta-decreto-del-nuevo-tribunal-disciplinario/>

<https://tiempo.hn/partido-liberal-publica-decreto-del-tribunal-disciplinario/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-emprende-operacion-para-deshacerse-de-elvin-y-personajes-incomodos-en-el-liberalismo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-a-luis-explicar-como-financio-plan-para-neutralizar-disidentes-liberales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-partido-liberal-no-puede-tener-un-traidor-y-conspirador-ambicioso-dirigiendolo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/estrategia-divisoria-de-luis-conseguira-a-liberales-otra-vez-una-derrota-humillante/>

Nincy Perdonó summarizes another week in Congress.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-2123-08-2018/>

There is talk about an intervention committee for the Secretary of Education. Such committees have recently already been announced for the RNP and the Secretary of Health, always accompanied by criticism. In a column for El Pulso, Julio Raudales explains what Honduras' education sector needs according to him.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-alma-de-los-pueblos/>

The purging committee hasn't made headlines for some times, but now they announce to purge another 78 police officials.

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-la-purga-de-unos-78-oficiales-de-la-policia-nacional-de-honduras/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/luego-de-5-dias-de-caminata-gobierno-se-compromete-a-pavimentar-carretera-en-esparta-atlantida/>

28/08/18

Honduras Daily: HR - US; Mining - Tocoa; Corruption - Pandora, Laws; Public Health; Electric Energy; Dialogue;

"In the coming weeks, the U.S. State Department will decide whether to

certify that Honduras has met a number of conditions required for the release of full funding under the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act. One of these conditions is that Honduras is taking effective steps to protect the ability of human rights defenders, opposition party members, journalists, and other civil society activists to work without interference. The U.S. State Department is likely to claim that Honduras is complying; never has the State Department done otherwise. But international human rights experts and Honduras' own governmental human rights office, CONADEH, have consistently found that the work of human rights defenders and other civil society activists has been impeded in Honduras, often directly by government agents. Various international organizations have called out the U.S. government's continued certification of Honduras as a direct interference into the work of defenders and civil society activists who are facing egregious levels of violence for the work that they do."

<https://pbiusa.org/content/us-should-not-sign-violence-honduras-1>

COPA denounces that armed groups threaten the peaceful protest camp against the mining project by Inversiones los Pinares near Tocoa, Colón. They call out to national and international organizations to accompany their protest.

<http://movimientom4.org/2018/08/comunicado-copa-en-defensa-del-agua-y-la-vida-campamento-guapinol-por-la-dignidad/>

The Pandora corruption case made headlines again yesterday. The MP's corruption fighting body UFECIC announced a widespread seizures of 46 properties, 9 companies and various goods linked to the Pandora case. The MACCIH collaborated in these efforts.

Criterio published the complete list of the seizures.

ATIC, the body conducting the seizures, also sought out the seats of both the National and the Liberal Party.

Luis Zelaya, president of the Liberal Party, finds it suspicious that on the day the dialogue started (see further below), this happened.

The National Party tried to challenge the seizure of their headquarter.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/3364-juez-ordena-se-aseguren-bienes-y-se-congelen-cuentas-bancarias-a-involucrados-en-caso-pandora>

<https://www.oas.org/es/sap/dsdme/maccih/new/docs/MCH-006.18-MACCIH-colabora-con-UFECICMP-aseguramiento-bienes-origen-ilicito-valor-equivalente-Caso-Pandora.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/28/conozca-la-lista-de-los-bienes-asegurados-por-caso-pandora/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2954-caso-pandora-juez-ordena-quitar-bienes-y-congelar-cuentas-bancarias-incluye-a-partidos-nacional-y-liberal>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-partido-liberal-esta-sorprendido-porque-la-autoridad-le-quito-su-oficina/>

<https://tiempo.hn/presentan-recurso-evitar-sede-partido-nacional-asegurada/>

The US continues to pressure Honduras not to derogate Article 184. Just a day after the president of the Judicial Power, Rolando Argueta, announced that they will decide on the matter next month, US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton met with him.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fulton-presiona-al-poder-judicial-para-que-no-se-deroge-el-184-del-codigo-procesal-penal/>

In his analysis of the new intervention body of the Health Secretariat, Juavier Suazo cites the former director of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), Carlyle Guerra de Macedo: "The centralization process of bureaucratic power, so common in our region, is not accidental. It is, in fact, an expression of the need to concentrate the power of the elites, a way of preventing social participation in political decision making."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/194997>

Radio Progreso reports on a new price regime, i.e. higher prices, for electric energy which will come into force next month. Consumer protection organizations denounce the price increase as unjustified given the poor quality of energy services in Honduras.

<http://wp.radioprogressohn.net/en-septiembre-entrara-en-vigencia-nuevo-trancazo-a-la-energia-electrica/>

Criterio reports that it will be JOH who in the end will have to recognize the agreements coming out of the dialogue which started yesterday. Discussions will be held at four round tables: i) the 2017 electoral process and the reelection; ii) human rights, iii) constitutional reforms and strengthening of the rule of law, and iv) electoral reforms.

ConfidencialHN published the agreement signed by the parties present at the dialogue. It also lists the topics the parties want to discuss at the above mentioned round tables. The National Party and the Executive Power does not mention the assassinated protesters, rather it wants to investigate the threats against and deaths of police agents and soldiers. In a radio emission, JOH announced the importance to investigate the presence of organized crime during the election. He already used this in November, unbelievably claiming that Maras support the Opposition Alliance. The US praises the start of the dialogue.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/28/hernandez-sera-quien-reconocera-los-acuerdos-del-dialogo-que-se-instalo-hoy-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asistentes-al-dialogo-politico-firman-acuerdo-para-respetar-resultados-de-negociaciones/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1211262-466/dialogo-politico-abordara-unos-50-temas-en-dos-meses>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-reitera-que-se-tiene-que-analizar-la-infiltracion-del-crimen-en-las-elecciones-de-2017/>

<https://tiempo.hn/heide-fulton-gran-paso-instalacion-dialogo-nacional/>

29/08/18

Honduras Daily: CCC; Journalists - Bajo Aguán; MASSVIDA; Corruption - Pandora, Laws, Judicial System; Dialogue; Palm Oil; Labor Rights; Taiwan; Migration; and an Uncomfortable Ally

For months, the Alignment against the Reelection has prepared a nationwide protest for today, August 30, the International Day of the Forcefully Disappeared. It is a protest against the JOH regime, against his illegal reelection and they demand the investigation of the post-electoral human rights violations as well as the release of the remaining five political prisoners. Yesterday, the Security Secretariat published a press release through the National Police threatening to repress the protesters.

<https://twitter.com/Conexihon/status/1034995819605319680>

"I don't give a f*** if you are a journalist". A soldier assigned to the National Defense Secretariat told this to the journalist Dasaev Aguilar who filmed outside the secretariat. He wrongly told him that it is forbidden to film there.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/obstruccion-informativa/895-militar-obstruye-labor-informativa-de-periodista>

The social communicator and MUCA leader Vitalino Álvarez was physically attacked by soldiers when he covered the eviction of the San Isidro farm. The Agrarian Platform sent out an alert regarding the eviction.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/29/comunicador-social-es-agredido-por-militares-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/08/honduras-alerta-urgente-traves-de.html>

The Social Environmental Movement for Life (MASSVIDA) in Honduras' south met for a first regional gathering. In total, 45 grassroots organizations took part accompanied by various human rights organizations such as FOSDEH, the Network of Human Rights Lawyers and the International Platform against Impunity.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/783-movimientos-del-sur-realizan-encuentro-para-enfrentar-problematicas-de-la-region>

The seizures of properties, companies and goods continued for a second day in the Pandora corruption case.

The Administrative Office of Seized Goods (OABI) now administers these goods.

Political analyst Víctor Meza sees in the intervention of both the National and Liberal headquarters something unprecedented, which reflects a new US priority to combat corruption in Honduras. Time will tell if this is really the case. So far the fight against corruption has fallen short of any meaningful convictions.

The Liberal Party formed a commission to recuperate their belongings. Its president Luis Zelaya accuses the National Party to be behind it to weaken them as a political force.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-siguen-quitando-bienes-a-implicados-en-pandora/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/continuan-hoy-aseguramientos-de-bienes-en-implicados-en-caso-pandora.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/liberales-y-nacionalistas-sabran-muy-pronto-si-pueden-volver-a-utilizar-sus-sedes-incautadas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/oabi-administrara-78-bienes-y-l-9-5-millones-por-caso-pandora.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/intervencion-de-partidos-politicos-es-una-fase-mas-en-la-desaparicion-del-tradicionalismo-victor-meza/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/29/liberales-nombran-comision-de-juristas-para-recuperar-bienes/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2956-con-nuestro-hogar-nadie-se-mete-advierte-luis-zelaya-a-joh>

The Honduran political elite sends mixed messages regarding the Article 184. Congress' president Mauricio Oliva now seems to favor a reform again. And so does the private business lobby COHEP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-parlamento-admite-excesos-en-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio-y-articulo-184-penal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-pide-reformar-el-articulo-184-del-codigo-procesal-penal/>

The former judge Liz María Núñez was found guilty of abuse of authority but not for breach of legal duty (prevaricato) and, therefore, does not have to await her sentencing in prison. Núñez had acquitted two accused cousins of the former vice-president of the Judiciary Council, Teodoro Bonilla.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hallan-culpable-a-exjueza-por-abuso-de-autoridad-y-absuelta-por-prevaricato-sera-liberada/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/condenan-por-abuso-de-autoridad-y-la-absuelven-por-prevaricato-a-exjueza-liz-maria-nunez.html>

With the start of the dialogue yesterday, both Radio Progreso and El Pulso publish critical commentaries.

Sociologist Eugenio Sosa demands the politicians participating in the dialogue to be honest and not present it as the grand solution to the political crisis.

Labor leader Carlos H. Reyes sees contradictory movements talking place in Honduras. On the one hand, the dialogue started pushed by the UN and the US. On the other hand, US pressure also led to the intervention of the Nationalist and Liberal headquarters which undermines the dialogue. Esdras Armado López, who is infamous for changing political parties, filed a complaint demanding that Salvador Nasralla cannot participate at the dialogue as his new party "Salvador de Honduras" has not been officially recognized yet.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/con-la-ausencia-de-actores-claves-inicia-dialogo-politico-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/dialogo-comandos-insurreccion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sociologo-pide-a-politicos-que-no-vendan-el-dialogo-como-solucion-total-de-crisis/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/aseguramientos-a-bienes-de-partidos-politicos-es-un-golpe-al-costado-del-dialogo-segun-carlos-h-reyes.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/esdras-lopez-solicita-partido-salvador-de-honduras-no-este-en-el-dialogo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/29/esdras-amado-lopez-presenta-recurso-de-amparo-para-que-nasralla-no-participe-en-dialogo/>

El Tiempo reports how the ever spreading palm oil monocultures threaten the Jeannette Kawas National Park.

<https://tiempo.hn/parque-jeannette-kawas-entre-cenizas-siembra-palma-africana/>

More than a 100 former employees of Venadito protested outside the company against their unjustified firing.

<https://confidencialhn.com/obreros-despedidos-de-confiteria-venadito-exigen-pago-completo-de-prestaciones/>

JOH reaffirmed Honduras' ties with Taiwan.

Political analyst Víctor Meza compares this on betting on a dead horse and blames US pressure.

<https://confidencialhn.com/adios-china-continental-joh-reafirma-lazos-diplomaticos-con-taiwan/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-temor-a-los-gringos-honduras-sigue-apostandole-al-caballo-perdedor/>

The number of deported Hondurans this year is already higher than the total of 2017.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/deportaciones-de-hondurenos-en-2018-ya-supera-total-del-ano-pasado.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/29/hernandez-es-un-aliado-incomodo-para-ee-uu-victor-meza/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/29/el-turno-de-los-corruptos/>

30/08/18

Honduras Daily: CCC -Protests; Political Prisoners; COPINH; Journalists; FPIC; Forced Disappearance; Berta - Trial; LGBTI; Surveillance - Students; Domestic Violence; Corruption - Pandora, National Party, JOH; Hydroelectricity - BID; and Criminal Law Populism

Against the threats by the JOH regime (see yesterday), Hondurans took to the streets to follow the calls by the Alignment against Reelection for a nationwide protest.

At the final rally of the protests, Padre Melo announced a plebiscite for the coming months in all regions of Honduras to return to a constitutional order. After three months of preparation, it should take place in November and include three questions on restoring the constitutional order; the economic model of extractivism, and whether JOH should stay in power.

COFADEH together with about a dozen other human rights organizations published a statement demanding the immediate resignation of JOH, the release of the five remaining political prisoners and that all the charges are dropped against all of the criminalized protesters. They further demand justice for the 34 victims documented by COFADEH during the post-electoral repression.

The US-Canadian Honduras Solidarity Network published an call of solidarity.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/30/masiva-movilizacion-en-honduras-contra-el-regimen-de-hernandez/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ccc-anuncia-plebiscito-popular-para-retornar-al-orden-constitucional/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/7739-2/>

<http://www.hondurassolidarity.org/2018/08/30/august-30-2018-solidarity-with-the-convergencia-en-contra-el-continuismo/>

The Free Edwin Espinal Team denounces that the Appeals Court rejected the appeals in the case of the two political prisoners Edwin Espinal and Raul Alvarez and upheld their pretrial detention.

Some media outlets wrongly reported that a COPINH leader was arrested in Las Vegas, Santa Bárbara, accused of having burnt down the townhouse in June.

COPINH published a statement clarifying this. They also highlight the fact that this wrong statement was published just on the day of the national protest against the JOH regime. Maybe it was intended as a strategy to further denigrate social movements.

<https://tiempo.hn/detienen-a-dirigente-del-copinh-en-santa-barbara/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/aclaracion-publica-del-30-08-2018/>

The organization Free Press Colón (PLC) filed a complaint against soldiers for abuse of authority and threats against journalist. This took place during Wednesday's eviction of the San Isidro cooperative

(see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/30/periodistas-de-colon-denunciaran-militares-por-abuso-de-autoridad-y-ataque-contra-la-prensa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/desalojo-en-tocoa-colon-honduras/>

The congresswo/men of the Indigenous Peoples Commission held a forum yesterday to inform about the JOH regime's intention to force through a Consultation Bill against the will of Honduras' indigenous peoples.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2263-diputados-de-comision-de-pueblos-indigenas-gobierno-de-joh-quiere-una-ley-de-consulta-previa-para-grupos-de-poder>

Defensores en Línea published a poem by Lylia Benabid on the occasion of the International Day of FORced Disappearance
OACNUDH published a press release reminding the Honduran State about the commitments its made and it asks it to reconsider accepting the possibility of individuals to present cases directly to the UN Committee against Forced Disappearance.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/detenidos-desaparecidos/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/posts/2243816832525769>

COPINH published a video invitation on Youtube asking the international community to accompany the trial in the murder case of Berta Cáceres.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdHq_uTMLRQ&feature=youtu.be

Expediente Público published an exhaustive report on the situation of the trans community in Honduras as well as the LGBTI community in general, how it changed over the years and what its main demands are.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/derechos-humanos/100-comunidad-trans-en-honduras-una-lucha-constante-por-vivir>

ConexiHon got access to state documents proving that state intelligence forces spied on on the student movement MEU last year. ConexiHon feels reminded of the dark days of the National Security Doctrine in the 80s in Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/785-inteligencia-policial-monto-vigilancia-por-siete-meses-al-meu>

Reporteros de Investigación reports on a case of domestic abuse in which the victim was adviced not to press charges because her husband is a mayor and, therefore, "a public figure".

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/08/30/el-alcalde-me-decia-que-me-iba-a-cortar-la-lengua/>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez demands that the Pandora case goes beyond being just a media spectacle.

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-que-espectaculo-por-pandora-termine-en-sanciones-contra-verdaderos-culpables/>

Criterio reports that the Pandora corruption investigation created a division inside the National Party. Activist in El Paraíso blame JOH, his deceased sister Hilda Hernández and Roberto Ordoñez for the theft of the money linked to the Pandora case. They do this in defense of their own congressman, Celín Discua.
Discua is own of the main accused in the Pandora case and yesterday, ATIC continued to seize property from him.
Ebal Díaz, the presidential secretary, denies a possible division in the National Party.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/30/nacionalistas-de-el-paraiso-responsabilizan-a-hilda-hernandez-roberto-ordonez-y-juan-hernandez-del-uso-de-los-fondos-de-la-sag/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-mas-bienes-a-los-parlamentarios-elvin-santos-y-celin-discua-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/atic-asegura-bienes-diputados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretario-de-la-presidencia-niega-division-del-nacionalismo/>

The Liberal Party says something similar to the National Party activists in El Paraíso. Its secretary Octavio Pineda locates the presidency as the main hub of corruption in the country.

<https://tiempo.hn/presidencia-de-la-republica-incrustada-corrupcion-segun-liberales/>

About a week ago, the president of the Central Bank of Honduras announced that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) offered Honduras a \$400 million loan, among other things for the electricity sector. Now, El Heraldo headlines that the money won't be used projects generating electric energy. But if you read the article, it says that only expensive projects and those with negative environmental and social impacts won't be financed. By this, the IDB means solar and coal projects, but not hydroelectric projects, one of the biggest sources of social conflict in Honduras...

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1211907-466/bid-no-financiara-la-generacion-de-energia-en-el-pais>

<http://elpulso.hn/populismo-penal-el-pecado-original-del-articulo-184/>

31/08/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs; Journalist; CCC - Protest; Political Prisoners; MACCIH; CICIG; Corruption - Hondutel; Congress; Death Squads; Liberal Party; Workers' Rights; and the Challenges of Honduras' Left

Yesterday, the evidentiary hearing in the murder case of Berta Cáceres took place and it its planned to continue today. COPINH summarizes the circumstances of the first day in court as follows: "An evidentiary hearing without evidence". They denounce that the MP still has not shared crucial information with them.

COPINH informs on Facebook that members of the Atala Zablah family will be questioned in the coming trial.

Before the evidentiary trial had started yesterday, Pasos de Animal Grande interviewed COPINH's general coordinator Berta Zúniga Cáceres.

<https://copinh.org/2018/08/audiencia-de-proposicion-de-pruebas-sin-pruebas/>

<https://www.facebook.com/1602956593311447/posts/2140805539526547/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2265-en-juicio-por-crimen-de-berta-caceres-hidroelectrica-desa-a-la-carga-con-bufete-internacional-para-desprestigiar-al-copinh>

OACNUDH expressed its concern about the threats and denigration campaigns against Radio Progreso. Already a week ago, OACNUDH published a press release regarding the threats against journalist Sandra Maribel Sánchez. Yesterday, they followed-up with another press release denouncing the smear campaign against Radio Progreso's director Padre Melo.

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/posts/2244530865787699>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/oacnudh-preocupada-por-campana-de-desprestigio-contr-el-padre-ismael-moreno/>

"We decided to be silent because we can not touch issues such as corruption where some officials and local authorities of this department are involved because if we mention these issues we run the risk of losing our lives and endangering our family." Journalists in La Paz, La Paz, shared this somber view with Pasos de Animal Grande.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2264-el-silencio-ahoga-la-informacion-en-la-paz-y-los-periodistas-caminan-sobre-arenas-movedizas>

ConexiHon and especially Defensores en Línea published additional articles and photos of Thursday's protest against the JOH regime. Defensores en Línea also published the speech held by Bertha Oliva, COFADEH's general coordinator.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/786-convergencia-contr-el-continuismo-se-movilizo-a-un-solo-grito-fuera-joh-y-convoca-un-plebiscito-popular>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/convergencia-contr-el-continuismo-se-movilizo-masivamente/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/discurso-de-berta-oliva-en-el-dia-nacional-del-detenido-desaparecido/>

One main demand of Thursday's protest was the liberation of the political prisoners.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/exigen-al-regimen-de-joh-liberar-a-presos-politicos/>

CLALS has published its newest and fifth edition of the MACCIH Monitor covering the time of May 1 to July 31, 2018. "The sum total of these events is that, after passing through several weeks this spring when its relevance and even existence were in doubt, MACCIH seems to have regained its footing. It has shown a relevance with the Pandora case, indicting very senior political elites. In contrast to the initial indictments of the Legislators' Network case from December, those arrested were mostly officials of the two main traditional parties and include party leaders. (...) However, the obstacles the mission faces have not waned, as seen in the Pandora case. The announcement (after this period covered by this MACCIH Monitor) of a legislative initiative to reduce preventive detention for many serious crimes - including homicide, kidnapping, extortion, drug trafficking - in order to let officials and legislators go free while accused of corruption, shows the levels that those favoring impunity will go."

See Attachment

Current events in Guatemala could also negatively affect the fight against corruption in Honduras. Cars by the Armed Forces surrounded yesterday the UN-backed international anti-corruption body CICIG in Guatemala.

The same day, Guatemala's president announced not to renew CICIG's mandate. Some 60 national, regional and international human rights organizations condemned the decision.

The US embassy in Guatemala emitted a press release highlighting the importance of CICIG.

And the former head of MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor, speaks of difficult times.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/08/31/vehiculos-militares-rodean-la-sede-de-la-cicig-en-guatemala/>

See Attachment

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/08/31/eeuu-se-pronuncia-ante-decision-de-jimmy-morales-sobre-la-cicig/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/jimenez-mayor-senala-que-son-tiempos-dificiles-para-la-region-centroamericana-con-la-no-renovacion-de-cicig.html>

The former director of Hondutel, Marcelo Chimirri, was found guilty of abuse of authority and fraud.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/31/condenan-a-marcelo-chimirri-por-abuso-de-autoridad-y-fraude/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2957-tribunal-condena-a-marcelo-chimirri-por-abuso-de-autoridad>

Civil society organizations presented a new project yesterday which intends to monitor Congress.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/31/presentan-plataforma-web-para-monitorear-labores-del-congreso-nacional/>

ConfidencialHN and El Tiempo report that two young men detained by men sporting ATIC uniforms appeared murdered only hours later. ConfidencialHN believes that this and previous events indicate to the presence of death squads in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/escuadrones-de-la-muerte-dos-jovenes-son-asesinados-por-sujetos-vestidos-como-agentes-de-la-atic/>

<https://tiempo.hn/atic-raptaron-asesinados-en-la-montanita/>

The Liberal Party continues to make headlines with internal disputes. Two Liberal Party leaders now announced that some of them are willing to join Libre. At the same time, a meeting between the two disputing factions took place in Tegucigalpa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dirigentes-del-partido-liberal-amenazan-con-unirse-a-libre/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/entre-comidas-y-risas-autoridad-liberal-y-parlamentarios-rebeldes-buscan-reconciliarse/>

FOSDEH denounces the 2010 Employment per Hour Law as an aberration. Labor unions are currently preparing a constitutional challenge against the law.

<https://tiempo.hn/aprobar-ley-de-empleo-por-hora/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/31/problemas-politicos-y-filosoficos-de-la-izquierda-hondurena/>