

01/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Transparency; Death Squads; MP; Bajo Aguán; Journalists; Right to Protest; and Streets Merchants vs. Police

Yesterday, the second day of the evidentiary hearing took place. It was supposed to be a two-day hearing, but it will continue on Monday. Omar Menjívar, who represents both Berta's family and COPINH, published a short 2-min video update on the hearing.

COPINH denounces that personnel at the Supreme Court of Justice discriminated against members of COPINH, limiting their access to the building and checking their bags while letting other people go through unchecked. COPINH denounced this to the judge on Friday, but she said that the security personnel of the Supreme Court was not her jurisdiction...

COPINH published a suspicious comment by the lawyer of one of the accused regarding COPINH's demand to have members of the Atala Zablah family questioned during the trial. The members in question are in the Administrative Council of DESA and are said to have been in close contact with Sergio Rodríguez Orellana and Douglas Geovanny Bustillo. The lawyer denounced this as an attempt to have witness testifying to incriminate themselves. COPINH's rightly asks what the lawyer knows about the culpability of the family members.

Sergio Rodríguez Orellana's lawyer, meanwhile, demanded that the trial should not focus on DESA, but on the accused individuals. Rodríguez Orellana is a DESA engineer and Douglas Geovanny Bustillo the former head of DESA's private security team.

<https://www.facebook.com/copinh.intibuca/videos/249852855670434/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/denuncia-publica-2/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/copinh-calls-for-support-from-the-diplomatic-community-at-hearing-on-saturday-september-1-in-relation-to-the-bertha-caceres-case/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/3185/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/3180/>

A new blow to the right to information and transparency has been given by the Honduran government when it declared in secrecy the environmental licenses and other environmental procedures presented to the Natural Resources and Environment Secretariat (MiAmbiente).

The next day, the JOH regime signed the Open Government Pact...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/08/31/gobierno-de-honduras-declara-en-secreto-las-licencias-y-todos-los-tramites-ambientales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/01/con-ley-de-secretos-encima-hernandez-ratifica-pacto-de-gobierno-abierto/>

The murder of two students after having been seized by three men sporting ATIC gear, caused a heated debate on death squads. C-Libre denounces that the two students had participated in the protest march on Thursday and afterwards they were taken.

Libre published a press release writing that death squads controlled by the JOH regime murdered the two students.

Investigative journalists Wendy Funes makes the link to the murdered regional head of ATIC, Sherill Yubissa Hernández, which ATIC officials wanted to portray as a suicide but forensic medicine contradicted this version.

El Pulso links the debate about death squads to the recently declared war on the Maras and Pandillas.

ATIC's press speaker claims that they weren't real ATIC agents.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/asesinato/898-secuestran-y-ejecutan-a-dos-estudiantes-que-participaron-en-acciones-de-protesta-publica>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2958-honduras-libre-responsabiliza-al-gobierno-hernandez-del-asesinato-de-estudiantes>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/09/01/opera-desde-la-atic-un-escuadron-de-muerte-con-las/>

<http://elpulso.hn/lo-que-nos-dice-el-asesinato-de-los-estudiantes/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/jovenes-encontrados-sin-vida-en-la-montanita-fueron-previamente-detenido-por-falsos-agentes-de-atic.html>

And amongst the controversies about the ATIC, the illegally reelected Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla was sworn in yesterday for a seven year term. He did not comment on the matter. Chinchilla's reelection was possible due to a deal between the National and Liberal Party. The latter got Arturo Sibrián Bueso as the Deputy Attorney General.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/01/juramentan-a-oscar-chinchilla-para-un-nuevo-periodo-de-siete-anos-frente-al-mp/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/reelecto-fiscal-general-no-se-ha-pronunciado-por-muerte-de-dos-colegiales/>

The Agrarian Platform denounces last weeks eviction by state security forces in collaboration with Dinant of the San Isidro cooperative. According to the Agrarian Platform, the 115 campesino families are in possession of their land titles.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/09/honduras-fuerzas-represivas-del-estado.html>

Cardinal Óscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga contributes to creating a hostile environment for journalists. After the newest scandal of sexual violence against children in the Catholic church, Rodriguez was mentioned together with other ranking Catholic officials as having covered the abuse. The accusations came from the former Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Carlo María Viganò. Nevertheless, Rodriguez blamed "hitmen journalists" for covering the story.

<http://elpulso.hn/cardenal-rodriguez-maradiaga-senala-que-acusaciones-contras-el-son-culpa-de-periodistas-sicarios/>

Since the coup d'état, some schools and colleges choose to participate in an alternative march on Honduras National Day on September 15. This year, the Education Minister tries to stop this by prohibiting schools from participating in non-official marches.

<https://tiempo.hn/prohiben-participacion-en-desfiles-no-oficiales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/vendedores-ambulantes-en-tegucigalpa/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/897-camarografo-a-punto-de-ser-linchado-por-vendedores>

02/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Commemoration, Trial; HRDs; Mining - Azacualpa; US; Militarization; FoE; Poverty - BID; Dialogue; Corruption - IHSS; and a Short History of Corruption in Honduras

"Two and a half years after the vile crime against Berta, we continue to refuse to accept the violent and unpunished death that was imposed on the Lenca people in resistance and the social movement in Honduras on the night of March 2, 2016. Today is a day in which people from diverse parts of the world join their voices to call for justice, as was done every day since the morning after the crime when we learned of the repugnant deed."

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/a-30-meses-de-la-siembra-de-berta/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxsO_jd1s9Q&feature=youtu.be

<http://movimientom4.org/2018/09/comunicado-m4-impunidad-del-gobierno-hondureno-en-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-exigimos-justicia-integral/>

Pasos de Animal Grande summarizes the first two days of the evidentiary hearing in the Berta Cáceres case.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2266-audiencia-en-caso-de-berta-caceres-defensa-de-empleados-de-desa-se-aponen-a-que-directivo-de-la-empresa-sea-citado-a-declarar>

In an open town hall meeting in Tela, inhabitants opposed extractive industry projects, especially mining and hydroelectricity. A local Libre councilor wanted to present a draft talking up the grievances of the inhabitants, when the Nationalist mayor started to attack him on stage...

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/09/02/alcalde-y-regidor-de-tela-se-van-a-los-punos-durante-cabildo-abierto-video/>

MADJ denounces on Facebook a new hate campaign against them, but also Pade Melo and other organizations such as COPINH and OFRANEH. MADJ links these attacks to the hydroelectric company HIDROCEP which tries to force through a power plant against peaceful public resistance in Pajuiles.

<https://www.facebook.com/MovAmplioHn/> (I did not find a direct link, so you have to scroll down a bit to: 31 August at 16:20)

Rights Again published a welcome overview with a lot of photos on the peaceful resistance by the inhabitants of Azacualpa against MINOSA, the subsidiary of the Canadian mining firm Aura Minerals. It lists several infractions by the company, the last being the cutting down of "hundreds of pine trees, just down the mountain side from the community of Azacualpa itself, even though they did not have a deforestation permit."

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/no-to-aura-minerals-destruction-of-azacualpa-cemetery>

INL and the FBI have offered workshops to the MP's special unit to investigate violent deaths in the Bajo Aguán.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/3351-clausuran-seminario-sobre-investigacion-de-casos-frios-impartido-por-agentes-del-fbi-tocoa-la-unidad-de-investigacion-de-muertes-violentas-del-bajo-aguan-umviba-participo-en-el-seminario-investigacion-de-casos-frios-auspiciado-por-la-oficina-de-asuntos-antinarcoticos-y-aplicacion-de-la-ley-inl-de-la-embajada-de-estados-unidos-se-le-conoce-como-casos-frios-a-aquellas-muertes-violentas-que-ocurren-y>

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1035964366263398400>

El Tiempo headlines: "In Honduras, every year the budget assigned to Education and Health decreases, while that assigned to Security is progressively increasing". According to the former president of the Central Bank, the budget assigned to health dropped from 15% to 10%, the one for education from 32% to 20%. At the same time, defense spending rose by 60% and the budget by the Security Secretariat rose by 20%.

<https://tiempo.hn/gasto-en-defensa-aumento-en-60-por-ciento-alerta-noe-pino/>

Even though Congress derogated the disputed Article 335-B of the reformed Penal Code, La Gaceta still has not yet published this decision. This means that the article violating freedom of expression is still in force.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1212630-466/derogaci%C3%B3n-del-335-b-del-c%C3%B3digo-penal-sigue-sin-publicarse-en-la-gaceta>

Even though they haven't worked and the World Bank recently had to correct its poverty estimate for Honduras upwards, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) lauds Honduras Bono Mejor program....And once more, Proceso Digital reproduces the debunked numbers by the IDB alleging that poverty fell in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/bid-promueve-las-transferencias-monetarias-en-honduras-y-pide-generar-empleo.html>

El Heraldo reports that the national dialogue, split in four round tables, will start today.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1212652-466/este-lunes-se-instalan-las-mesas-del-di%C3%A1logo-con-prioridad-de-temas>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/reformas-al-rnp-y-el-tse-son-prioridad-en-mesas-tematicas-del-dialogo-nacional.html>

A further case inside the IHSS corruption case goes to court today: the oral and public hearing against Benjamín Bográn will start today.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1212645-466/el-ministerio-p%C3%ABlico-busca-decimoquinta-sentencia-por-corrupci%C3%B3n-en-el-ihss>

<http://elpulso.hn/breve-historia-de-la-corrupcion-en-honduras-del-contrabando-de-la-colonia-a-textiles-rio-lindo/>

03/09/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Journalists; Death Squads; LGBTI; MACCIH; Corruption - Coalianza, IHSS, Laws; MP; Repression; Femicide; Congress; and BID's Priorities

"To mark the 20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, PBI is championing the nomination of the global community of Human Rights Defenders for the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize."

https://peacebrigades.org.uk/shoulder-shoulder-human-rights-defenders?utm_source=News&utm_campaign=a9c35caa5f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_06_18_04_31_COPY_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c529e82a92-a9c35caa5f-103640115

The situation of journalists and staff in general at Radio Progreso is very worrisome. In less than a week, OACNUDH published two press releases expressing its concerns. Now, C-Libre denounces that Radio Progreso journalist Héctor Maradiga has been followed for various minutes by car when he left the radio station on Saturday.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/intimidacion/899-seguimiento-a-periodista-al-salir-de-la-estacion-radial>

Criterio summarizes what happened so far regarding the murder of two students who were arrested shortly after attending an anti-government protest by men sporting ATIC uniforms. While ATIC disputes that the men belonged to them, the JOH regime is already working on a second excuse. The director of the National Anti Maras and Pandillas Force (FANAMP), Amílcar Hernández, alluded in a TV interview that the two students were members of a mara or pandilla...

Fusina announced that they will investigate the murders.

Casa Alianza denounces that the State only cares about washing its hands. According to El Tiempo, at least 121 UNAH students have been murdered in the last ten years.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/03/una-ejecucion-extrajudicial-que-embarra-a-la-atic/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fusina-investigara-asesinato-de-dos-jovenes-a-manos-de-la-atic/>

<https://tiempo.hn/casa-alianza-estado-le-preocupa-mas-lavarse-la-cara-que-investigar-ejecuciones/>

<https://tiempo.hn/unah-dice-han-muerto-121-estudiantes/>

Expediente Abierto together with various Honduran LGBTI organizations presented their report on the trans community in Honduras to employees of the justice and security branch. The event was funded by the US (INL). I already linked to the report last week, you can find it following the second link below.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/derechos-humanos/102-comunidad-trans-presenta-informe-sobre-violencia>

http://expedientepublico.org/images/Doc/Informe_Trans_2018.pdf

With the events in Guatemala regarding CICIG making headlines, it is feared that the MACCIH may face a similar fate. Antonio Rivera Callejas, Nationalist congressman, says that things in Honduras are different, but at the same time he also says that a profound analysis is needed to determine if its contract should be renewed or not.

<https://tiempo.hn/rivera-callejas-analizar-ampliacion-convenio-maccih/>

The Association for a More Just Society presented a report yesterday on irregularities involving the privatizing body Coalianza. They highlight no less than 14 irregularities including the lack of permits to start constructing to the explosions of the costs to twice or even three times the offered costs.

All these irregularities are linked to the construction of the so-called Tourism Corridor.

According to the Honduran Transparency International chapter, the "bad deals" by Coalianza may cost Honduras 2.4 billion Lempiras.

The private business lobby COHEP urged Coalianza and the involved company, Adasa, to clear up the mentioned irregularities.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/03/conozca-las-irregularidades-y-actos-renidos-con-la-ley-realizados-por-coalianza-en-el-corredor-turistico/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/03/descubren-serios-actos-de-corrupcion-en-corredor-turistico-y-exige-investigar-a-coalianza/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/concesion-del-corredor-turistico-del-atlantico-fue-dado-a-empresa-adasa-en-condiciones-favorables/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ti-honduras-pagar-300-millones-mala-negociacion-coalianza/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aconsejan-a-coalianza-y-adasa-que-esclarezcan-irregularidades-por-corredor-turistico/>

The oral and public hearing in the IHSS corruption case against Benjamín Bográn started yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/exdirector-del-cohep-es-enjuiciado-por-recibir-jugoso-soborno-por-megafraude-al-ihss/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/exdirector-del-cohep-acude-a-juicio-por-recibir-sobornos-en-el-megafraude-al-ihss/>

El Pulso explains the current debate about Article 184 of the Criminal Procedural Code by going back to its origins in 1999 and the subsequent reforms.

<http://elpulso.hn/es-inconstitucional-el-articulo-184-del-codigo-procesal-penal/>

Joaquín , human rights scholar and human rights defender at ERIC, published an important comment on the swearing in of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla. Readers of Honduras Daily should already know that, but it is important to repeat: Óscar Chinchilla has been elected in an illegal manner as Attorney General not once, but twice. Mejía Rivera explains what happened in 2013 during his first election, before highlighting three reasons why his reelection last year was illegal as well. On the occasion, El Pulso presents a short history of the MP and its Attorney Generals starting in 1994.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/03/historico-dos-veces-elegido-ilegalmente-fiscal-general/>

<http://elpulso.hn/oscar-fernando-chinchilla-juramentado-como-fiscal-general-del-pais-para-el-periodo-2018-2023/>

C-Libre denounces the repression by state security forces of protesting inhabitants in Quimistán, Santa Bárbara. They protested against the high fuel prices and the public transport fares.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/900-reprimen-a-pobladores-que-protestaban-por-altos-precios-a-combustible-y-al-pasaje-del-transporte-publico>

Three women were murdered yesterday, among them a 17-year old student. And as with the students murdered by alleged ATIC agents, the JOH regime reacts by claiming that women murdered in Honduras belong to maras and pandillas...

<http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1212821-410/colegiala-estudiante-muerta-san-manuel-jovencita-violencia-honduras>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1212951-410/apu%C3%B1aladas-mujer-asesinada-hotel-honduras->

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/03/gobierno-de-honduras-dice-que-a-las-mujeres-las-matan-porque-pertenecen-a-maras-y-pandillas/>

Nincy Perdomo published her newest installment of the Parliamentary Chronicles with the apt title "Family Business".

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-282931-08-2018/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) sets its own priorities regarding the national dialogue. The dialogue should take up important topics such as electoral fraud and human rights violations by state security forces having led to up to 33 murders. But for the IDB, "the most important thing is to be sure that the dialogue does not contaminate the economic development agenda"...

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-bid-espera-que-el-dialogo-en-honduras-no-contamine-la-agenda-de-desarrollo.html>

04/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, Agua Zarca; Death Squads; HRDs; Femicide; Extractivism; Rule of Law; Dialogue; Budget; Trans 450; Poverty; and Rethinking Tax Breaks

COPINH will hold a press conference today at 10am in Tegucigalpa to give an update on the evidentiary hearing and launch the campaign "DESA: Guilty" to highlight the complicity of the company in Berta's assassination. The legal team accompanying Berta's family and COPINH presented a writ of amparo against the court resolution denying members of COPINH the status of victims in the murder trial. The court further rejected the demand to have the owners of DESA and the Atala Zablah family testify.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/3241/>

<https://www.facebook.com/1602956593311447/posts/2142951782645256/>

<http://voicesinmovement.org/impunity-and-corruption-in-case-of-honduran-indigenous-leader-berta-caceres/>

The MP announced that they will legally pursue several local councilors in San Francisco de Ojuera for granting the permit to construct the reservoir for Agua Zarca.

<https://confidencialhn.com/formalizan-acusacion-penal-contra-exregidores-que-violaron-la-ley-respecto-al-embalse-agua-zarca/>

Human rights organizations held a rally outside the UN building in Tegucigalpa demanding an exhaustive investigation into the murder of the two students Gerson Meza and Mario Suárez. They were arrested after participating in an anti-government protest on August 31 by alleged ATIC agents and murdered shortly afterwards.

The mother of Gerson Meza said that after the arrest they were called by the tribunal to be present for their arrest. This contradicts the State's claims that they were not involved.

COIPRODEN calls out to journalists and media outlets to abstain from hate and smear campaign against the young. The two murdered students were denigrated by some media outlets as gang members.

Their murder caused a new discussion about death squads in Honduras. Oscar Miguel Marroquín argues that they have never really disappeared. And in the midst of this, students fear being persecuted as ATIC agents appeared at a high school asking for five students.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-planton-exigen-una-investigacion-exhaustiva-del-asesinato-de-2-jovenes-del-ith/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/04/en-planton-frente-a-naciones-unidas-exigen-justicia-para-estudiantes/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/04/madre-de-joven-asesinado-confirma-que-fueron-entes-del-estado-audio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hermana-de-joven-ultimado-exige-que-no-demonicen-la-memoria-de-su-pariente/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/04/coiproden-llama-a-los-medios-a-no-hacer-campanas-de-odio-y-estigmatizacion-de-los-jovenes/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/04/escuadrones-de-la-muerte-es-una-vieja-practica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefa-forense-revela-que-colegiales-ultimados-por-la-atic-habrian-usado-armas-cortas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/medicina-forense-promete-entregar-pistas-muerte-jovenes/>

<https://tiempo.hn/presuntos-agentes-de-atic-llegan-colegio-preguntan-estudiantes/>

Pasos de Animal Grande informs about the newest hate and smear campaigns against human rights defenders: Martín Fernández and Víctor Fernández from MADJ and Padre Melo from ERIC and Radio Progreso.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2268-gobierno-orquesta-campana-de-odio-y-desprestigio-en-contra-de-defensores-de-ddhh>

Jessica Isla denounces the "ridiculous" explanation by the JOH regime that the increase in femicide is linked to women becoming involved in organized crime. (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/04/cordial-invitation/>

Dropping even further in the ranking by the World Justice Project, Radio Progreso argues that Article 1 of the Constitution is being violated as

Honduras does not guarantee the rule of law. Honduras has the third worst position in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Rule of Law Index and ranks 103rd out of 113 countries. In matters of criminal justice, Honduras even ranks 111th out of 113 countries.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn/es-honduras-un-estado-de-derecha/>

https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/WJP-ROLI-2018-June-Online-Edition_0.pdf

The JOH regime emitted a ministerial agreement on August 8, which had been elaborated in the dark and which prohibits access to information about environmental licenses granted by MiAmbiente (see also Monday's e-mail). Libre congresswomen challenged this decision in Congress.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2267-diputados-interpelaran-a-ministro-de-miambiente-por-acuerdo-de-secretividad-en-licencias-ambientales>

Javier Suazo comments on the national dialogue, its weaknesses and its alternative, the plebiscite proposed by the Alignment against the Reelection.

UN representative Igor Garafulic announced that the discussions of the dialogue will be taped to counteract possible misunderstandings.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/195116>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-onu-grabara-todas-las-conversaciones-de-mesas-tecnicas-en-el-dialogo-politico/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/todas-las-conversaciones-seran-grabadas-para-evitar-malentendidos-advierte-garafulic.html>

The private business lobby COHEP is worried about the announcement of the new budget.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2960-alarma-de-empresarios-hondurenos-por-gasto-publico-2019>

Tegucigalpa's Nationalist mayor Nasry Asfura claims that the infrastructure project Trans450 will be ready in 2019. The project has been fraught with irregularities and the CNA already announced to investigate it for corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-aporte-de-ocho-millones-de-dolares-para-concluir-obras-del-trans450/>

FOSDEH reacts to the claims by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) that the social program Bono 10Mil has been effective in reducing poverty (see yesterday).

According to the secretary of the CGT labor union, Daniel Durón, 85% of working Hondurans do not benefit from the minimum wage.

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-bono-10-mil-no-ha-contribuido-a-reducir-la-pobreza-en-honduras-segun-fosdeh/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/09/04/daniel-duron-un-85-de-los-hondurenos-no-devengan-salario-minimo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-admite-que-se-deben-revisar-las-exoneraciones-fiscales-de-honduras/>

05/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Political Prisoners; Journalists; Corruption - Laws, Congress, US; Students - Assassinations, Protest; Death Squads; Mining; and False Nationalism

COPINH has launched a new website to accompany the trial with

information, news and analysis.

The website also focuses on the intellectual authorship of the murder, highlighting the role of DESA.

<https://berta.copin.hn/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/05/lanzan-campana-digital-desa-culpable/>

The evidentiary hearing came to a close yesterday. COPINH denounces that the court rejected "much of the evidence of our accusation that was intended to contextualize the climate of systematic attacks suffered by Berta for fulfilling her role as coordinator of COPINH that were part of the plan to neutralize and attack the struggle in defense of the territories against the plundering of private enterprises." The date of the trial was changed from September 10 to September 17 and COPINH calls out to everyone to accompany them.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/el-copin-hn-informa-sobre-las-conclusiones-de-las-audiencias-de-proposicion-de-pruebas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/05/juicio-oral-y-publico-de-la-causa-berta-caceres-sera-del-17-de-septiembre-al-19-de-octubre/>

The IACHR granted a hearing on the situation of the political prisoners in Honduras during the 169th session from October 1-5, 2018.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cidh-otorga-audiencia-tematica-sobre-los-presos-politicos-en-honduras/>

On January 13, the journalist César Silva was attacked by a man with a knife while on air. A nearby police agent was able to stop the attacker. Yesterday, a hearing against the attacker, Abelardo Mendoza Erazo, took place. Neither the MP, nor Mendoza Erazo appeared to the hearing, but the judge still decided on provisionally dropping the case...

The 20-year old son of the director of Radio Congolón was murdered.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2269-mp-no-fue-al-juicio-contr-a-hombre-que-pretendio-apunalar-a-periodista-cesar-silva>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/hijo-de-periodista-es-asesinado-a-cuadra-y-media-de-posta-policia-en-gracias.html>

El Pulso spoke with Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez. She is also a member of the congressional front in support of the MACCIH. She speaks about the upcoming consultation process on Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which has come under pressure because based on it persons accused of acts of corruption can be held in pre-trial detention. The same congressional front presented a complaint at the MP regarding the reform of Article 82 of Congress' organic law. The reform allows Congress to make changes to already approved bills if they detect "errors".

<http://elpulso.hn/no-combatir-la-corrupcion-es-mas-grave-que-lo-relativo-al-respeto-de-los-ddhh-doris-gutierrez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-al-ministerio-publico-que-investigue-alteracion-de-la-ley-del-parlamento/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/frente-parlamentario-presenta-denuncia-contr-a-articulo-82-de-la-ley-organica-del-cn.html>

The Constitutional Chamber demanded information from the MP on a group of nine congresswo/men accused of corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-al-ministerio-publico-que-explique-por-que-son-acusados-nueve-congresistas/>

Luis Zelaya, president of the Liberal Party, traveled to the US yesterday to meet with congresswo/men and discuss among other things the expansions of the Magnitsky Act to Central America.

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/38-politica-nacional/luis-zelaya-viaja-a-eeuu-a-reunirse-con-congresistas-para-hablar-de-corrupcion-y-ddhh.html>

The Center for Women's Rights condemns the violence against students. In just a bit over one week, four students have been murdered. Instead of thoroughly investigating the cases, state actors denigrate the victims (see also yesterday).

Both CIPRODEH and Casa Alianza also emitted press releases condemning the violence against Honduras' youth.

The former UNAH lecturer and Honduran writer Galel Cárdenas holds the JOH regime responsible for the situation, a regime that does not even allow dissent from poor students protesting for lower public transport fares so that they can afford to travel to university.

As a response to these recent murders, Libre demands that state security forces no longer can cover their faces.

The MP and ATIC denied sharing information with El Tiempo regarding which agency will investigate the murder of the students.

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/juventud-hondurena-condenada-a-la-muerte-y-el-silencio/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/05/ciprodeh-condena-la-violencia-contr-la-ninez-adolescencia-y-juventud/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/09/honduras-ante-el-secuestro-tortura-y.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-con-ejecuciones-arbitrarias-pretenden-inmovilizar-la-sociedad/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/788-el-horror-de-la-demencia-represiva>

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-con-ejecuciones-arbitrarias-pretenden-inmovilizar-la-sociedad/>

<https://tiempo.hn/quien-investiga-la-muerte-de-los-jovenes-ejecutados-en-la-montanita-atic-la-dipol-o-la-dpi/>

Radio Progreso reports on how the student body continues to protest and to demand lower public transport fares or vouchers for students. As part of the protests, six schools are being occupied in San Pedro Sula.

<http://wp.radioprogressohn.net/en-medio-de-amenazas-y-persecucion-continua-toma-de-colegios-publicos-en-san-pedro-sula/>

Congress' vice-president Denis Castro Bobadilla believes that extrajudicial killings take place in Honduras. He demands a strong and independent forensic medicine department.

<https://confidencialhn.com/vicepresidente-del-legislativo-afirma-que-en-honduras-si-hay-ejecuciones-extrajudiciales/>

Radio Progreso reports on the successful attempt by the communities in Tela, Atlántida to declare their region free of mining.

<http://wp.radioprogressohn.net/tela-se-suma-a-los-municipios-libre-de-proyectos-extractivistas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/05/el-falso-nacionalismo/>

06/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Indigenous Women; Hydroelectricity; Bajo Aguán; Corruption - US, Health Secretariat; US - HR, Police Training; ATIC; Students - ATIC, JOH; 2017 Elections; MP - Elections; Budget - Soccer; Int. Cooperation; and the Head Offices of Corruption

The Coalition against Impunity held a press conference on the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing in the Berta Cáceres case. They reiterated

their ongoing accompaniment of the process while denouncing the lack of access to important information granted to COPINH's and the family's legal team as well as the negation by the court to recognize COPINH as a victim in the process. They go on to denounce the lack of investigation into the intellectual authorship by the MP and the dozens of complaints filed by Berta Cáceres before her death. The Coalition against Impunity condemns the defamation and misinformation campaign against COPINH by DESA using a private law practice.

Pasos de Animal Grande published a useful summary of the evidentiary hearing.

The 2002 Nobel Peace Laureate Martin Almada published a public letter to Berta's family and COPINH joining them in their call for justice.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/pronunciamento-de-la-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-ante-el-juicio-de-la-causa-berta-caceres/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2271-tribunal-de-sentencia-protectorio-a-los-autores-intelectuales-del-crimen-contra-berta-caceres>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/premio-nobel-alternativo-pide-justicia-para-berta-caceres/>

The National Network of Indigenous Lenca Human Rights Defenders from La Paz (Redhil-Paz) commemorated on September 5 the International Day of the Indigenous Woman. They demanded justice in the case of Berta Cáceres as well as the protection of all indigenous women defending their commons, their bodies and their land.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/exigimos-justicia-y-respeto-para-las-mujeres-indigenas-hondurenas/>

The IACHR asked COFADEH for more information regarding the situation of the indigenous Lenca peacefully resisting a hydroelectric plant on the Reitoca river. The concession for the project lies with Progelsa and the company responsible for building the dam is SERMACO, which belongs to the head of the Liberal Party in Congress Elvin Santos. Santos is currently being investigated as part of the Pandora corruption case.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-cidh-solicita-informacion-sobre-indigenas-lencas-de-reitoca-que-rechazan-proyecto-hidroelectrico/>

The general secretary of ANACH, Gerardo Navarro, denounces the persecution and harassment of Marcial López, the president of the La Despertar cooperative in Santa Lucía, Trujillo, Colón. López is supposed to benefit from special protection measures granted by the IACHR.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/no-se-respetan-medidas-de-proteccion-otorgadas-por-la-cidh-a-campesinos-del-aguan/>

COFADEH met with the new human rights officer of the US embassy, Nate Rettenmayer.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/embajada-estadounidense-conoce-la-situacion-de-ddhh-en-honduras-desde-la-perspectiva-del-cofadeh/>

The director of CESPAD, Gustavo Irías, provides an analysis of US interests in the fight against corruption in Honduras. This question rose to prominence once more when both the headquarters of the National and Liberal parties were searched by ATIC. "However, their [US'] current interest in national security requires them to corral and displace a sector of the traditional elite, probably the most corrupt and, therefore, the most uncomfortable one. But that does not mean facilitating the modification, nor putting at risk, the status quo prevailing in Honduras, which is functional to US interests. For that very reason, in the end it is not a simple strategy against corruption, rather there is an interest in reconfiguring the internal political forces. Hence, it was not a coincidence that the seizures [of the party headquarters] coincided on the same day and time, with the signing of the agreement to start the political dialogue between the National

Party, the Liberal Party and Salvador Nasralla." It is worth to read the his complete analysis, the gist of which is that the US is trying to build a political opposition close to their interests consisting of the Liberal Party (in the hand of Luis Zelaya and, therefore, they need to weaken his internal rival Elvin Santos) and Salvador Nasralla, while weakening Libre.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/06/politica-anti-corrupcion-intentan-los-eeuu-desplazar-al-partido-nacional-del-poder-en-honduras/>

ConfidencialHN accuses the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) to have lowered its anti-corruption fighting profile since Carlos Hernández and Omar Rivera have been included in the purging committee of the National Police Force. The article mainly focuses on corruption in the health sector and the role of ASJ.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-cambio-de-privilegios-carlos-hernandez-y-asj-ha-callado-profunda-corrupcion-en-salud/>

The United States Government Accountability Office reported the following: "[US] Agencies have established objectives and delivered training to professionalize police in Central America's Northern Triangle but have not consistently done so to promote police respect for human rights. U.S. strategies include objectives to professionalize police, and the Departments of State (State) and Defense (DOD) and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have delivered related training (see figure). These strategies also highlight the importance of police respect for human rights, but agencies have few objectives or other control mechanisms to ensure police receive related training."

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/694282.pdf>

A family member of Sherill Jubissa Hernández, the murdered regional ATIC department head, demands that ATIC abstains from investigating the case holding them responsible for the murder.

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-queremos-que-la-atic-investigue-el-crimen-de-sherrill-yubissa-hernandez/>

Against the will of Libre, Congress denied questioning the head of ATIC in the murder case of the two students Gerson Daniel Meza Medina and Mario Enrique Suárez Gómez.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/06/congreso-de-honduras-se-niega-a-interpelar-a-director-de-la-atic-por-crimen-de-estudiantes/>

UNAH students benefiting from state support denounce that the JOH regime is trying to oblige them to participate in the official state march on September 15.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/06/gobierno-obliga-a-beneficiarios-de-la-beca-20-20-a-presenciar-desfiles-del-15-de-septiembre/>

After the illegal and fraudulent reelection of JOH last year, several complaints were filed with the Constitutional Chamber. So far, the chamber has not commented on these complaints. A group of congressmen and a former public prosecutor demanded in writing that the chamber will decide on a constitutional challenge to the electoral results.

<https://confidencialhn.com/exigen-a-sala-constitucional-que-se-pronuncie-por-recurso-que-reclamanulidad-de-pasadas-elecciones/>

Yesterday, a constitutional challenge was also presented against the illegal reelection of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/09/06/presentan-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-en-la-reeleccion-del-fiscal-general-oscar-chinchilla/>

The Nationalist congressman Jaime Villegas asked for a 70 million Lempiras budget for the National Autonomous Football Federation of Honduras (Fenafuth) for 2019. This would more than triple the State's contribution to their budget compared to this year.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/06/en-medio-de-crisis-en-salud-y-educacion-diputado-pide-l-70-millones-para-la-fenafuth/>

Honduras renewed a cooperation agreement worth \$254 million with various international donors to fight poverty.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1214030-410/gobierno-convenio-combatir-pobreza-honduras-hambruna->

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/casas-matrices-de-la-corrupcion/>

07/09/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Journalists; Mining - Los Pinares; Zacate Grande - ZEDE; Corruption - CNA, Coalianza, de Lobo, Trans450; Dialogue - Political Prisoners; Organized Crime; Budget; Political Parties; and Media Power in Honduras

Reporteros de Investigación reports about a very worrisome event involving the human rights organization ACI PARTICIPA. Armed and hooded assailants entered a house in which HRDs stayed over night. They stole evidence gathered by ACI PARTICIPA for a report on the risks HRDs face.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/09/07/hombres-encapuchados-entran-en-la-madugada-a-vivienda-para-atacar-equipo-de-aci-participa/>

Police agents attacked journalists belonging to Radio Progreso when the latter covered a student protest on the highway to El Progreso.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/901-fuerzas-policiales-golpean-y-lanzan-gas-pimienta-a-periodistas-de-radio-progreso>

MADJ denounces the attack against members of the protest camp in Guapinol near Tocoa, Colón. Shots were fired at them and MADJ denounces it as part of a harassment strategy by the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares.

El Tiempo also reports on the incident and writes that the men who shot at the inhabitants were security guards of the mining company belonging to Lenir Pérez.

The local Municipal Committee in Defense of the Commons in Tocoa demands an end to the mining projects in the region.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/09/08/Solidaridad-ante-ataque-en-Guapinol>

<https://tiempo.hn/disputa-minera-guardias-de-lenir-perez-disparan-contra-pobladores-varios-heridos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tension-en-campamento-por-la-vida-en-tocoa/>

The mining ministry INGEOMIN reports that mining exports have increased by \$30 million this year compared to the same period last year.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/09/07/en-mas-de-30-millones-de-dolares-se-ha-incrementado-las-exportaciones-mineras/>

ContraCorriente reports from Zacata Grande in Honduras' south about "expulsion and resistance between mangroves". The article talks to Nancy, who two years ago was deported from the US and returned to Zacate Grande, where she may be expelled once more due to a planned Zone for Employment and Economic Development (ZEDE).

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/09/07/expulsion-y-resistencia-entre-los-manglares/>

The MACCIH and the MP's anti-corruption body UFECIC celebrate its first year of collaboration.

<https://www.oas.org/es/sap/dsdme/maccih/new/docs/MCH-007.18-MACCIH-OEA-y-UFECIC-MP-celebran-primer-anio-de-trabajo-conjunto.pdf>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounces a new attack to get rid of their director Gabriela Castellanos.

<https://confidencialhn.com/coordinador-del-cna-denuncia-a-oposicion-por-campanita-para-provocar-salida-de-castellanos/>

Radio Progreso published a summary of the recently highlighted irregularities by ASJ with the Touristic Corridor signed off by Coalianza.

<http://wp.radioprogressohn.net/informe-revela-irregularidades-en-concesion-de-corredor-turistico/>

The former president Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo claims that the rights of his wife are being violated. Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo is currently facing corruption charges and she had several unsuccessful trials to get out of pre-trial detention.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/07/a-mi-rosa-le-siguen-violentado-su-derecho-de-defensa-pepe-lobo/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) plays an ominous role in Honduras. Just a while back it promoted JOH's social program which is widely seen as having failed in reducing corruption. Now it praises the Trans450 transparency project, even though there have been various corruption charges leveled against it and the CNA just recently announced a new investigation.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-bid-justifica-corrupcion-en-fallido-proyecto-trans450/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-bid-cometio-acto-irresponsable-al-aprobar-proyecto-trans-450/>

This week the national dialogue officially started. Two out of the four roundtables began working, the one on human rights and the one of electoral reforms.

The smaller parties demand a seat at the table(s).

<http://wp.radioprogressohn.net/con-propuesta-de-amnistia-para-presos-politicos-arranca-dialogo-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/ud-propone-una-quinta-mesa-de-mediacion-en-el-dialogo-politico.html>

The representative of Salvador Nasralla presented a draft at the human rights roundtable demanding amnesty for the political prisoners.

<http://wp.radioprogressohn.net/con-propuesta-de-amnistia-para-presos-politicos-arranca-dialogo-en-honduras/>

InSight Crime presents five of the main ways the MS13 launders money; i) Auto Theft and Resale, ii) Shell Companies and Property, iii) Small Businesses, iv) Loan Sharking, and v) Money Transfers.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/5-ways-ms13-launders-money/>

Yesterday, the Finance Secretariat confirmed that the budget for 2019 will be 261'500 million Lempiras - more than 50% of Honduras GDP. The president of the Honduran Association of Economists, Julio Raudales, observes that the budget tends to increase every year but without any perceivable benefit for the population.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2963-insolito-gobierno-hondureno-gastara-mas-del-50-de-la-produccion-nacional-en-2019>

<https://confidencialhn.com/economista-lamenta-que-presupuesto-general-no-esta-beneficiando-a-los-hondurenos/>

The current Nationalist vice-president Ricardo Álvarez will launch a political movement called Solidarity (sic!) to promote his own presidential aspirations for 2021.

<https://confidencialhn.com/vicepresidente-de-honduras-anuncia-creacion-de-movimiento-que-respaldaria-su-candidatura/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/06/el-poder-mediatico/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/06/iluminismo-y-autodisciplina-elementos-para-una-regulacion-etica-ciudadana-de-los-medios-de-comunicacion/>

08/09/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Mining - Los Pinaers; Bajo Aguán; and Congress

This Wednesday, the human rights defender Henry Rodriguez was threatened by police agents belonging to the COBRAS special force when he was observing with another HRD a peaceful protest in Choluteca. The police agents told them: "We will kill you and make you disappear." Two days later, armed men entered his apartment taking with them his computer and files about documented cases of human rights violations (see also yesterday's e-mail).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2274-hombres-encapuchados-entran-en-la-madrugada-a-vivienda-para-atacar-equipo-de-aci-participa>

The recent escalation in the repression of the peaceful protest against a mining project by Inversiones Los Pinares continues to cause concern. Private security guards shot at protesters gravely hurting the young man Rigoberto Hernández López. Both COPA and COPINH published press releases condemning the attack as well as the indifference of the JOH regime.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2273-grupo-armado-enviado-por-minera-ataca-campamento-y-deja-un-herido-en-guapinol-colon>

<http://movimientom4.org/2018/09/comunicado-copa-empresa-inversiones-los-pinares-con-capital-financiero-nacional-e-internacional-y-familia-facusse-contrata-grupos-armados-y-derrama-sangre-en-tocoa-colon/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/condenamos-de-manera-contundente-las-acciones-de-la-empresa-minera-inversiones-pinares/>

According to the Agrarian Platform, a Honduran active in a paramilitary force in the Bajo Aguán region was arrested in Mexico.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/09/honduras-peligroso-integrante-del-grupo.html>

ASJ's Omar Rivera denounces that some members of Congress make themselves look foolish presenting unimportant bills instead of proposing laws that would benefit the Honduran people.

<http://elpulso.hn/eso-de-andar-ahi-jugando-a-ponerle-nombre-de-frutas-y-verduras-a-las-fechas-del-calendario-y-destenir-la-bandera-es-una-desatinada-forma-de-legislar/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/diputados-presentan-proyectos-intrascendentes-para-la-poblacion-critica-omar-rivera.html>

09/09/18

Honduras Daily: September 15; Violence; Penitentiary System; Congress; and Justice in Honduras?

Already in recent weeks, the JOH regime announced measures to increase the participation in the official State march on September 15, e.g. by forcing students who receive scholarships to participate. But with the recent headlines of murdered students, more and more students announced not to participate. The government reacted by offering prizes for the best presentations during the marches, 21 prizes in total. The first prize is a trip for 170 students to Roatán.

At the same time, the Education Secretary, Marcial Solías, reiterated that the participation at the alternative march (which exists since the coup d'état) is forbidden and slogans such as "Fuera JOH" will not be tolerated.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/09/gobierna-otorgara-premios-a-estudiantes-para-que-vayan-a-desfilar/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2964-gobierno-hondureno-prohibe-canciones-con-fuera-joh-en-desfile-patrio>

11 days after the murder of two students by men in ATIC uniform, four persons (among them two minors) were murdered by men in police uniform on Saturday evening.

<https://tiempo.hn/sujetos-vestidos-de-policias-asesinaron-a-las-cuatro-personas-en-la-smith/>

ConfidencialHN announced that five inmates had escaped from the El Porvenir prison in Francisco Morazán.

The deputy director of Honduras penitentiary system, German McNeil, later confirmed the escape but he claimed that only one inmate had successfully escaped.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cinco-reos-se-escapan-del-penal-de-minima-seguridad-de-el-porvenir/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/1-o-5-subjefe-penitenciario-admite-fuga-de-reos-de-penal-de-minima-seguridad/>

The new Congress produced a record-like 696 bills, but only 60 of them have gone on to be discussed in the commissions.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1214770-466/apenas-60-proyectos-dictaminados-de-m%C3%A1s-de-700-presentados-ante-el-congreso>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/09/justicia-en-historia/>

10/09/18

Honduras Daily: Mining - Los Pinares; Journalists; Corruption - Laws, ASJ; US - Billy Joya; Budget; Public Health; Political Opposition; Children's Rights - Militarization; and Where Am I?

After weeks of negative headlines including the criminalization of peaceful protesters and an attack with fire arms against them leaving one young man badly hurt (see Sunday's e-mail), Avispa Media now reports that the mining company by Lenir Pérez, Inversiones Los Pinares announced the close shop in Guapinol, near Tocoa, Colón.

La Prensa seems to confirm this. At the same time, the article in La Prensa shows that they won't go quietly. The mining company further denigrates and criminalizes the local protesters and human rights organizations and blame them that international investors will go to other countries and 2000 people will lose their jobs.

<https://avispa.org/honduras-tras-represion-violenta-anuncian-cierre-de-mina-en-el-aguan/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1214745-410/honduras-miner%C3%ADa-cierre-minera-tocoa->

August ended with OACNUDH emitting two press releases in less than a week expressing its concerns about the threats, denigration and attacks suffered by journalists at Radio Progreso. State security forces have not listened and last Friday, Radio Progreso journalist Inmer Gerardo Chévez was brutally attacked by the police. He was covering a student protest, when two police agents attacked him without warning, spraying tear gas directly into his face. According to the protection mechanism for HRDs, he should benefit from special state protection...

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2275-enesimo-ataque-policias-pretendian-dejar-ciego-de-por-vida-a-periodista-de-radio-progreso>

C-Libre director Edy Táborá presents a useful explanation on the discussion about the Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code, its origin and its importance. He proposes to expand the discussion to include the control of state institutions by powerful actors. One of the actors he has in mind is Congress' president Mauricio Oliva. "[He] has a conflict of interests and the law of the legislative power establishes that nobody is allowed to participate in the discussion of bills causing conflicts of interests. But he is being investigated for corruption which may include money laundering and so this article applies to him and he is not allowed to participate in the discussion in Congress; he may do so as a citizen, but not as a congressman.

<http://elpulso.hn/los-jueces-fueron-cooptados-por-la-corrupcion-edy-tabora/>

ConfidencialHN published the second part of an investigative report into the role of ASJ in the fight against corruption in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/padrinos-de-la-corrupcion-asj-jugo-a-dos-aguas-para-ser-la-consentida-del-poder/>

Last week, Gustavo Irías, director of CESPAD, published a controversial analysis of the most recent anti-corruption efforts taking place in Honduras and how they could be a sign that the US is trying to create for themselves a more comfortable partner in the form of the Liberal Party under Luis Zelaya and Salvador Nasralla. This claim caused some discussions and a new, interesting, contribution comes from Moisés Ulloa.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/10/el-nuevo-orden/>

Billy Joya, the former head of the Battalion 3-16, held responsible for forced disappearances in the 80s, told the press yesterday that the US had canceled his visa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/billy-joya-revela-que-eeuu-le-quito-la-visa-no-sabe-por-que/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/billy-joya-revelo-que-estados-unidos-le-cancelo-la-visa-de-ingresso.html>

FOSDEH denounces that the main goal of the new general budget is to pay off national and international creditors while, once more, neglecting the health and education sector.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-aumento-del-presupuesto-general-de-honduras-sera-para-pagar-pesada-deuda-externa/>

ConfidencialHN highlights a case of conflict of interests with the new intervention commission for the public health sector inaugurated by the JOH regime last month. Amanda Madrid is both part of the commission as well as part of the NGO Predisan which controls a part of a regional hospital in Juticalpa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/oenege-presidida-por-interventora-de-salud-controlara-servicios-en-hospital-de-juticalpa/>

Both Luis Zelaya and Salvador Nasralla announce difficult times for Honduras on Twitter.

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-y-zelaya-anuncian-en-twitter-tiempos-dificiles-para-honduras/>

The National Party, meanwhile, holds its meeting at an army base as its headquarter is still seized as part of the Pandora corruption investigation.

<https://tiempo.hn/a-falta-de-sede-partido-nacional-se-reune-en-local-de-la-fuerza-aerea-hondurena/>

Honduras celebrated the Children's Day. According to UNICEF, some 475'000 children have to work in Honduras. Save the Children laments that Honduras does not have a National Plan for the Protection of Children.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/10/475-mil-ninos-en-honduras-no-celebran-su-dia-porque-estan-trabajando/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2967-honduras-casi-500-mil-menores-no-celebraron-dia-del-nino>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/09/10/en-el-dia-universal-del-nino-save-the-childrens-aboga-por-un-plan-nacional-de-proteccion-a-la-ninez/>

Children's Day is also an important opportunity to remind the international community about the worrisome militarization program for children in place in Honduras: "The Guards of the Fatherland".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/10/lavado-militar-de-cerebro-en-las-mentes-de-los-ninos-de-honduras/>

<https://contracorriente.red/multimedia/ilustraciones/>

11/09/18

Honduras Daily: HR Situation; Berta - Trial; Extractivism; Mining - Los Pinares, Azacualpa; Corruption - US, Laws; Judicial Power; Femicide - Orphans; Penitentiary System; Catholic Church; National Police; Dialogue; National Party; and a Bloody Democracy

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the August 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/2018/09/1808_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

With the trial planned to start next Monday, the Meso-American Movement against the Extractive Mining Model published an interview by Radio Mundo Real with Bertha Zúniga, the general coordinator of COPINH and daughter of Berta Cáceres.

COPINH published two video messages on Berta and the upcoming trial. COFADEH's Bertha Oliva summarizes the attempt of Berta's family, COPINH and Honduras' human rights organization as follows: "We are seeking justice in the midst of a dictatorship."

<http://movimientom4.org/2018/09/desafiar-al-sistema-de-justicia/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/pascualita-habla-de-bertha/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/video-ella-murio-hablando-la-verdad/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/caso-berta-caceres-buscamos-justicia-en-medio-de-una-dictadura/>

OFRANEH published some welcome additional information on the JOH regime's stealthy attack on right to information. In August, it came to light that a ministerial agreement had revoked the right to information regarding environmental licenses. OFRANEH concentrates in its article mainly on the undue role played by the MiAmbiente state secretariat.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/09/11/honduras-licencias-ambientales-y-la-ley-del-silencio/>

With the announcement of the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares to close shop in Guapinol, a new smear and criminalization campaign started against social movements and HRDs (see also yesterday). Criterio challenges some of the economic arguments brought forward by the supporters of mining. According to FOSDEH, mining is responsible for only 0.67% of GDP and employs 0.0005% of the active labor force. Its social and environmental impact, meanwhile, are enormous. As with many defamation campaigns before, Presidential Minister Ebal Díaz does not allow the local communities to have any agency, rather they speak of "external forces" which are behind the protest. Probably not by accident, the same day the infamous president of AHPPER, Elsía Paz, denigrates all social movements opposed to hydroelectric projects, claiming that they are violent and they cost Honduras millions of foreign investment.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/11/resistencia-en-comunidades-frente-a-modelo-extractivo-tiene-sus-razones/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1215458-466/fuerzas-externas-estarian-detras-de-boicot-a-minera-de-colon>

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-que-grupos-violentos-tienen-en-suspenso-265-millones-de-dolares/>

In a press conference, MADJ's coordinator Víctor Fernández denounced the threats and the criminalization campaign they and the inhabitants in Azacualpa face for peacefully protesting against the mining company MINOSA and its ongoing practice of exhumations in the local graveyard, against court orders. MADJ also holds responsible the Canadian government given that MINOSA is a subsidiary of Aura Minerals with its seat in Canada.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-cementerio-y-la-mina-de-azacualpa/>

The president of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, was in the US recently. Back in Honduras, he claims that the US plans to increase its efforts against corruption in the Northern Triangle and it will make use of its Global Magnitsky Act (see monthly report for more on this act).

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-trae-un-mensaje-de-ee-uu-los-corruptos-de-honduras-seran-colocados-en-ley-magnitsky/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ley-magnitsky-desatara-huracan-en-clase-politica-hondurena-advierte-luis-zelaya.html>

El Pulso spoke with HRD Wilfredo Méndez about corruption and especially the Article 184 of the Penal Procedural Code. While the IACHR recommended to reform it, the MACCIH maintained its importance. Both institution are part of the OAS, but come to different conclusion about Article 184.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-honduras-el-que-gobierna-es-el-crimen-organizado-representado-en-el-gobierno-wilfredo-mendez/>

Criterio shines a light on the invisible victims of femicide. While femicide in itself does not get the attention such a grave problem would deserve, even less attention is paid to the thousands of orphans that result from the widespread murder of women. In 2016, 8% of Honduras' children were orphans.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/11/las-victimas-invisibles-en-honduras-y-la-desidia-del-estado/>

ConfidencialHN reports that some 40 members of the Judicial Power are currently being investigated.

<https://confidencialhn.com/40-expedientes-de-jueces-con-problemas-legales-tiene-en-su-poder-la-fiscalia-10-ya-renunciaron/>

Conaprev denounces that so far this year they received double the amount of complaints regarding mistreatments of inmates compared to 2017.

<https://confidencialhn.com/alertan-que-abusos-contraprivados-de-libertad-se-duplicaron-durante-el-2018/>

InfoVaticana once more shines a critical light on the Catholic Church in Honduras and its Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga.

<https://infovaticana.com/2018/09/10/la-insostenible-situacion-de-maradiaga-en-honduras/>

The purging commission announced the purge of some 70 police agents yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/reinician-purga-en-la-policia-nacional-de-honduras-depuran-a-70-agentes/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/comision-depuradora-cancela-a-70-policias-mas.html>

The National Party left the national dialogue yesterday after Salvador Nasralla spoke about the possibility to move forward the coming elections to 2019.

<https://confidencialhn.com/nacionalistas-se-levantan-de-la-mesa-del-dialogo-porque-nasralla-hablo-de-adelantar-elecciones/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1215473-466/el-partido-nacional-abandona-mesa-por-tuit-de-salvador-nasralla-sobre-las>

The National Party has further problems inside its own institution with politicians already planning a possible presidential run.

<https://tiempo.hn/con-expulsion-advierte-joh-a-correligionarios-que-buscan-pre-candidaturas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/10/campanas-prematuras-son-una-groseria-contrael-pueblo/>

"But such contempt [of life] also clearly shows that the supposed democracy of which the illegitimate government of Juan Orlando Hernández speaks is built on blood spilled by the murderous and scot-free bullets of the illegal powers and those of military and police power."

<https://joaquinmejiaarivera.blogspot.com/2018/09/una-democracia-sangrienta.html>

12/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Death Squads; Extractivism - Env. Licenses, Hydroelectricity, Mining - Los Pinares; Journalists; Campesinxs; Impunity; Public Health; Drug Trafficking - Police; National Party; Corruption - IHSS; Economy; and Measuring Away Poverty?

15 international human rights organizations formed an Observation Mission of the Oral and Public Trial in the murder case of Berta Cáceres and the attempted murder of Gustavo Castro. They will hold a press conference today at 10.00am in Tegucigalpa.

The Network of Women Human Rights Defenders announced a protest for this Sunday, the day before the trial is planned to start, in front of the Supreme Court.

See Attachment

<https://twitter.com/redefensorashn/status/1039917873047789568>

Oscar Miguel Marroquín started a series of articles on death squads in Honduras. He argues that the murder of over 100 environmental defenders questioning not only local projects but a development model in general which benefits powerful groups is sufficient ground to believe that death squads are operating in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/12/demandas-democraticas-y-escuadrones-de-la-muerte-2/>

I linked to an important article by OFRANEH yesterday on the state-mandated secrecy around environmental licenses for extractive projects. Javier Suazo published an analysis of this "environmental silence" and he links it with State efforts to promote investment by reducing all possible obstacles such as preparing an environmental impact study. According to Suazo, an environmental license can not be granted in as little time as one day.

Twelve environmental and human rights organizations demanded the derogation of the ministerial keeping information about environmental licenses a state secret.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/195282>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/792-organizaciones-y-ambientalistas-exigen-derogar-acuerdo-que-mantendra-informacion-de-concesiones-en-secretividad>

Defensores en Línea reports on the situation on Chinda, Santa Bárbara where the hydroelectric project El Tornillito was imposed against the will of the indigenous Lenca inhabitants last year. Radio Progreso reports on how the 16 communities once more came together in peaceful opposition. On August 30, they held a town hall meeting reconfirming their 15 year old struggle and declaring once more their land free of mining.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-tornillito-la-amenaza-en-chinda/>

The inhabitants of the Florida sector near Tela, Atlántida have a large trajectory in defending their territory from imposed mining projects. They successfully resisted the mining company Minerales Victoria belonging to Lenir Pérez. But since last year, a new company, Honduras Ore Mining Company, is trying to impose its project in the region.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/comunidades-de-tela-atlantida-se-declaran-en-resistencia-permanente-contra-explotacion-minera/>

After having left the Florida sector, Lenir Pérez became active with another mining company, Minera Los Pinares, in Guapinol, Colón. I have widely linked to the situation there, which deteriorated over the last weeks with the arrival of armed men linked to the mining company. Teh San Isidro Labrador Parish of Tocoa published a press release in support of the local people. It further denounces the smear campaign against the local leader Juan López.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2278-iglesia-catolica-de-tocoa-respalda-lucha-por-el-agua-y-la-vida>

The journalist Gilda Silvestrucci has suffered various attacks in the recent past, including a beating by soldiers in January this year. She is also the victim of constant harassment via social media. Her own investigation has shown that the son of a Supreme Court judge is behind the harassment but neither the MP nor the Protection Mechanism have reacted to her officially filed complaint.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2277-hijo-de-magistrada-amenaza-por-redes-sociales-a-la-periodista-gilda-silvestrucci>

Radio WBEZ in Chicaco published a radio interview with Carlos Porfirio Armijo, the National Secretary for Education and Training at the CNTC (National Center of Rural Workers). "Carlos joins Worldview to discuss his work as an indigenous community organizer in Honduras and the struggles he faces while fighting for social justice."

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/worldview/grassroots-organizers-in-honduras-with-a-lesson-for-america/90d0c3c3-feeaa-4dcc-8913-52d4af099ef4>

Last year on September 8, state security forces brutally attacked four human rights defenders and eight students as part of a wider repression of student protests. Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that Honduras' courts shelved the appeal by the HRDs against the court ruling which let the accused police officials free of charge.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2276-a-un-ano-del-brutal-ataque-recurso-de-apelacion-por-absolucion-de-oficiales-torturadores-esta-engavetado>

The labor union Sitramedhys demands that Eduardo Espinal, the director of the hospital in Tocoa be fired. The hospital suffers from a Leptospirosis outbreak and the director tried to keep quiet about it.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/crisis-en-el-hospital-de-tocoa-refleja-abandono-del-sistema-de-salud-en-honduras/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/09/12/confirmados-ocho-casos-de-leptospirosis-en-tocoa-por-confirmar-80-cuadros-mas/>

"Revelations from a drug trafficking case in New York illustrated the depth of police collusion with criminal groups in Honduras, which included murdering rivals and safeguarding drug loads. (...) On one occasion in October 2011, Valladares mounted a death squad partly composed of police officers to assassinate a Cachiros' rival known as "El Sapo," or "The Toad." (...) Valladares, who pleaded guilty in May 2018 and admitted to conspiring with the Cachiros for nearly a decade, also recruited between eight and ten police commissioners for the Cachiros, according to El Heraldo. Once on the Cachiros' payroll, these commissioners were tasked with ensuring the safe passage of drug shipments. (...) Despite the gravity of the situation, the political will needed to lastingly deal with corruption appears lacking. Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández had promised to tackle the issue during his campaign in 2017, but his contested reelection has left him with little political capital. What's more, Hernández' own brother has been implicated by Rivera Maradiaga's court testimony."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-top-cop-killed-for-cachiros/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1215821-466/los-cachiros-pagaron-jueces-indica-informe-de-la-dea>

Salvador Nasralla presented a complaint at the MP for abuse of authority, influence peddling and breach of the duties of public servants against an army official and two Nationalist congressmen. He accuses them of illegally using military installations for a political meeting.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/12/nasralla-denuncia-ante-el-mp-al-jefe-de-la-fah-y-diputados-por-mitin-politico-en-sede-castrense/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nasralla-pide-al-gran-jefe-que-examine-actuar-de-chinchilla/>

An appeal by the former board member of the IHSS, Benjamín Bográn, was rejected. He still faces corruption charges.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/12/declaran-sin-lugar-amparo-a-favor-de-benjamin-bogran/>

"The Central American Institute of Fiscal Studies (Icefi) presented the 10th edition of Macro-fiscal Profiles of Central America, which contains a summary of the fiscal situation of the region as 2018 comes to an end.

It concludes that the fiscal situation of the Central American States has gradually deteriorated as a consequence of political instability and lack of long-term planning."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/12/centroamerica-la-inestabilidad-politica-complica-la-situacion-fiscal-del-istmo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-anuncia-nuevo-mecanismo-de-medicion-de-la-pobreza-en-honduras/>

13/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Indigenous People; HRDs - Defamation; FPIC; Mining - Los Pinares; Corruption - Impunity, Congress; Bajo Aguán; Extradition; Budget; and China and the US in Honduras

An expert mission to observe the Berta Cáceres trial consisting of 17 national and international human rights organization presented itself to the public yesterday.

They also held a press conference which COPINH published on its Facebook page (the second article links to it).

See Attachment

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/organizaciones-conforman-mision-de-expertos-para-observar-el-primer-juicio-por-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2279-llega-a-honduras-delegacion-internacional-para-observar-el-juicio-del-crimen-contra-berta-caceres>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/comision-de-expertos-seguira-juicio-por-crimen-de-ambientalista-berta-caceres.html>

"11 years after the adoption by the United Nations of the Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, COPINH once again claims the right of the Lenca people and the indigenous peoples of Honduras to self-determination, to the non-imposition of projects that violate the mere existence of the communities.

In the face of the media attacks against the indigenous and popular communities in resistance against projects that generate death and desolation in the people and that destroy the common good and the natural inheritance, which, as the only one, can guarantee the life of humanity, COPINH demands the respect of the rights of the indigenous communities that is enshrined in the UN declaration of September 13, 2007."

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/13-de-septiembre-a-11-anos-de-la-adopcion-por-parte-de-la-onu-de-la-declaracion-sobre-pueblos-indigenas/>

In its press release on the anniversary of the UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights, COPINH speaks about media attacks. One prominent culprit is the Honduran Association of Renewable Energy Producers (AHER) and its president Elsie Paz. She launched a new attack on Wednesday (see yesterday's e-mail). OFRANEH also denounces its "insidious campaign against the defenders of Mother Earth". A press release by the private business lobby also levels accusations against human rights defenders. They denounce "violent protests" that impede economic development.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/09/13/la-aher-y-su-campana-insidiosa-contra-defensores-de-la-madre-tierra/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sera-cierto-cohep-denuncia-que-grupos-delictivos-han-paralizado-la-economia/>

This new wave of attacks by the business sector is linked to their

lobbying in favor of a disputed consultation bill.

<https://confidencialhn.com/renovables-piden-al-parlamento-aprobar-ley-de-consulta-para-neutralizar-protestas/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/09/13/la-asociacion-hondurena-de-energia-renovable-solicita-a-los-diputados-del-congreso-nacional-actuar/>

El Tiempo offers an overview of the current situation in Guapinol, Colón, after the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares announced its withdrawal (see Monday's e-mail). Many observers see this as a strategy to raise pressure on the peacefully resisting communities which are presented as the culprits for stopping economic investment.

<https://tiempo.hn/minera-de-lenir-perez-inicia-campana-para-que-gobierno-intervenga-en-conflicto/>

OACNUDH, the MACCIH and CEJIL organized a panel discussion on the challenges to investigate corruption and human rights violations in Honduras. Both the former Attorney General from Guatemala, Claudia Paz y Paz, and the head of the Transitional Justice and Flight against Impunity in Colombia, Camilo Bernal, participated and shared their experience.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/13/operadores-de-justicia-analizan-desafios-de-la-investigacion-de-la-corrupcion-y-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/operadores-de-justicia-dialogan-sobre-desafios-de-la-investigacion-de-casos-de-corrupcion-y-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica/18-politica/centroamerica-es-una-region-debil-institucionalmente-dice-directora-de-cejil.html>

The last human rights monitor by the Honduras Forum Switzerland (August) highlighted two important developments in the fight against corruption. First, an appeal to the Constitutional Chamber by Congress' president Mauricio Oliva to protect him from a corruption investigation. The chamber had accepted his request, but not in one voice, so the plenary session of the Supreme Court had to decide, which they did yesterday. The Supreme Court ordered the suspension of the investigation by UFEVIC. They have to inform him now in detail about the investigation. Criterio thinks that many officials and congresswo/men investigated for corruption will demand the same treatment. Second, in one of the rare moments of hope regarding anti-corruption efforts, a higher court revoked the alternative measures to imprisonment for the former members of the Judiciary Council and ordered their preventive imprisonment in August. Nevertheless, the month ended with an ominous statement by the president of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC), Jose Juan Ponedá. He declared that the process against them should rather be of administrative instead of penal nature. Yesterday, the Supreme Court decided that all the accused can leave pre-trial detention.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/13/corte-ordena-suspender-investigacion-contra-mauricio-oliva/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/admiten-recurso-interpuesto-por-presidente-del-cn-para-conocer-investigaciones-de-la-ufecic.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/13/miembros-del-consejo-de-la-judicatura-a-defenderse-en-libertad/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1216000-466/corte-suprema-de-justicia-admite-recurso-de-amparo-a-favor-de-exconcejales>

The Supreme Court received two writs of amparo linked to corruption investigations against two groups of congresswo/men.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sala-de-lo-constitucional-tiene-insumos-para-pronunciarse-sobre-amparos-que-involucran-a-diputados.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/09/13/sala-constitucional-analiza-expedientes-de-caso-red-de-diputados/>

The US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton welcomes the arrest of Osvin Naun Caballero Santamaría in Mexico. He is accused of having committed various murders in the Bajo Aguán.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/eeuu-aplaude-acciones-conjuntas-para-arresto-de-osvin-caballero.html>

Another Honduran citizen accused of drug trafficking will be extradited to the US.

<https://confidencialhn.com/autorizan-extradicion-a-ee-uu-de-presunto-operador-del-cartel-de-los-hermanos-valle/>

The Finance Secretariat presented the proposed budget for 2019 to Congress yesterday. Congress will discuss it now in the commission.

<https://tiempo.hn/el-84-del-presupuesto-de-2019-se-financiara-con-fondos-internos-segun-finanzas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/compromisos-de-joh-con-eeuu-impiden-alianza-economica-con-china-continental/>

14/09/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Extractivism; Violence; Corruption - Judicial Power, IHSS, Health Secretariat; Military Police; Independence; and Congratulations Valle de Ángeles

"This week, human rights NGO Peace Brigades International (PBI) is publishing an open letter in support of the ground-breaking nomination of the global community of Human Rights Defenders for the Nobel Peace Prize. The letter has gathered over 200 signatures from civil society and human rights organisations across the world. (...) The release of the open letter is accompanied by a public petition, which can be signed at change.org."

<https://mailchi.mp/e8e3d372950b/pbi-honduras-human-rights-defenders-nobel-prize?e=ca0b78aad2>

https://www.change.org/p/human-rights-defenders-for-the-nobel-peace-prize?recruiter=899393469&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=share_petition&utm_term=undefined

Radio Progreso shines a light on the corporate media in Honduras and its role in promoting an extractivist vision while denigrating social movements opposing it.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/una-misma-mirada-de-dos-juanes-14-sept-2018/>

Last month, the assassination of Honduras' youth made headlines with the brutal murder of two students by men wearing ATIC uniforms. Giorgio Trucchi shows in a new article that this killing continues even though it left the headlines. According to numbers by Casa Alianza, some 60 youths are murdered every month in Honduras.

The head of the Armed Forces, Rene Ponce, thinks that the question of violence is all about perception and that there is no country with 100% security...

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/195332>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-nivel-de-inseguridad-en-honduras-depende-de-la-percepcion-jefe-de-las-ffaa/>

Pasos de Animal Grande speaks with the head of the investigation unit at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Odir Fernández. They speak about the role of the Supreme Court in impeding corruption

investigations as lat seen two days ago with the decision to suspend the investigation of Congress' president Mauricio Oliva (see yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2280-cna-sala-constitucional-de-la-csj-favorece-con-fallos-a-sectores-privilegiados>

The Sentencing Tribunal dropped the charges of money laundering against Benjamín Bográn in the IHSS corruption case. As a result, he was able to leave pre-trial detention. The court found him guilty of graft ('cohecho'), but the resulting prison sentence be turned into paying a fine...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/14/dejan-en-libertad-a-benjamin-bogran-acusado-por-el-saqueo-al-seguro-social/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2972-justicia-hondurena-absuelve-a-implicado-en-desfalco-de-ihss>

ConfidencialHN published its third installment on the investigative report into the role of the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) in the "structural corruption" at the Health Secretariat.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asj-callo-despilfarro-por-cambio-de-software-para-controlar-medicamentos/>

A second lieutenant at the Military Police was found guilty of simple homicide. In 2016, Chemís Xavier Paz Cruz murdered Elías Yiret Elvir Ramírez.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/declaran-culpable-a-subteniente-de-la-policia-militar-por-homicidio-simple.html>

Honduras as well as Central America as a whole celebrates its Independence Day. As always since the coup d'état, there will be two marches in Honduras. In the weeks up to today, there have been several not-so-veiled threats against schools and students wanting to participate in the opposition march. Yesterday, the Education Secretary said that there won't be any sanctions for schools that don't want to march, he did not comment on what happens to those who march, but not in the right one.

The US sends Honduras its good wishes.

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretario-de-educacion-promete-que-no-habra-sanciones-para-colegios-que-no-desfilen/>

<https://tiempo.hn/simpatizantes-de-libre/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/09/14/eeuu-felicita-a-honduras-por-el-197-aniversario-de-independencia/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2973-valle-de-angeles-entre-las-50-mini-urbes-mas-bellas-del-mundo>

15/09/18

Honduras Daily: Independence; Political Prisoners; Militarization; Berta - Trial; Electoral Reforms; Corruption - Judicial Power; and the Right to Grow Old

Yesterday, Hondurans took to the streets in the yearly independence celebrations. Since the coup d'état in 2009, there have always been two parallel marches, one by the regime, one by civil society and the opposition. State security forces repressed the popular march both in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.

In Tegucigalpa, C-Libre reports on the arrest of at least 6 protesters. C-Libre denounces that UNE-TV journalists and camerapersons were attacked by the police and soldiers covering the march and its repression.

During the celebrations of the official march, a tear gas grenade went off in the National Stadium causing chaos.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2974-brutal-represion-policial-irrupio-en-desfile-de-oposicion-hondurena>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/903-gas-lacrimogeno-y-violencia-contra-manifestantes-en-el-dia-de-la-independencia-patria>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/con-represion-culmina-movilizacion-del-15-de-septiembre-en-capital-hondurena/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/904-nuevamente-policias-y-militares-atacan-a-periodistas-y-camarografos-de-une-tv>

<https://tiempo.hn/lanzan-bomba-lacrimogena-estadio-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/festejo-del-15-de-septiembre-deja-caos-y-vandalismo-en-marcha-oficialista-y-opositora-atacan-prensa/>

<https://www.facebook.com/hedme.castro/videos/2063908290328467/>

During the parallel march, there was a call for the release of the remaining five political prisoners.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/795-amnistia-ya-reclama-comite-para-liberacion-de-presos-politicos-en-honduras>

The Military Police held a show (of force) during the official march in the National Stadium.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/09/15/policia-militar-realiza-espectacular-presentacion-video/>

COPINH together with other social movements launched a last call for national and international accompaniment and solidarity for the Berta Cáceres trial starting tomorrow.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/convocamos-al-acuerpamiento-mundial-justicia-para-berta-caceres-y-el-rio-gualcarque/>

The presidential secretary Ebal Díaz talks with ConfidencialHN about possible electoral reforms such as a better identification system and a two-round presidential election.

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-apresurar-proceso-de-identificacion-para-evitar-acusaciones-de-fraude-electoral/>

The president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta Pérez, defends the Judicial Power for accepting an appeal by Congress' president Mauricio Oliva suspending a corruption investigation against him.

<https://confidencialhn.com/recurso-a-favor-de-oliva-ante-investigacion-secreta-fue-basada-en-ley-presidente-del-judicial/>

The same day, Argueta Pérez demands a higher share for the Judicial Power of the funds coming from the security tax ('tasa de seguridad'). Maybe Oliva can help him now with this...

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-de-csj-lamenta-que-poder-judicial-no-ha-recibido-tantos-fondos-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad.html>

"What's it like to live in Honduras today — and why do so many people want to leave? Those are the questions that photojournalist Tomas Ayuso, who grew up in the Central American country, explores in a project he calls "The Right To Grow Old.""

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2018/08/19/635041889/photos-its-hard-to-grow-up-and-grow-old-in-honduras>

16/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Extradition - Pepe Lobo; and Auditing PPPs

"Berta Cáceres murder trial set to begin in climate of suspicion - Eight men accused of involvement in Honduran activist's death prepare to stand trial but family calls for broader inquiry"

This morning at 8:30am, COPINH will hold a press conference just outside the court.

https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/sep/16/bertha-caceres-murder-trial-set-to-begin-honduras?CMP=share_btn_tw

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-hora-del-juicio/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/17-septiembre-h-830am-conferencia-de-prensa/>

These last days, rumors spread that there is an extradition request for the former president Porfirio 'Pepe' Lobo. The president of the Supreme Court told the media yesterday that there is no such request.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-poder-judicial-dice-que-no-hay-pedido-de-extradicion-para-pepe/>

The JOH regime announced an audit of the Public Private Partnerships granted by the Coalianza.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1216884-466/gobierno-auditar%C3%A1-los-proyectos-concesionados-por-coalianza>

17/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - Defamation; Mining - Los Pinares; Independence - Repression; Femicide; Dialogue; Budget; Public Health; National Police; and New Accusations against the Cardinal

Even before the trial in the murder case of Berta Cáceres and the attempted murder of Gustavo Castro started, COPINH sent out an alert that DESA has paid protesters to seek a confrontation with them in front of the Supreme Court. The police did not intervene.

Furthermore, COPINH presented legal challenges against the judges of the trial court because "[t]he three judge panel responsible for this case has failed to guarantee our rights as victims and even the rights of the accused by allowing the Public Prosecutor to conceal information, and as a consequence, the truth, showing partiality constitutive of a crime."

Then, as the trial finally began, it was suspended again within 10 minutes. The judges failed to give a new date. This raises many problems, one is that Honduran law does not allow for pre-trial detention longer than 2.5 years without an actual trial. Four of the eight accused reach this limit by November 2.

Before the suspension was made public, InSight Crime had written that "[t]he murder trial of environmental activist Berta Cáceres in Honduras could open a small window into the nexus between criminal networks and elites, but will more likely illustrate just how difficult it is to prosecute powerful families."

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/video-alerta-desa-ha-enviado-un-grupo-de-personas-a-confrontarse-con-copinh/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/nota-de-prensa-del-copinh-17-de-septiembre-2018-espanol-english/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/familia-de-bertha-caceres-y-copinh-recusan-a-tribunal-de-sentencia/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1041770541579825152>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/video-se-suspende-la-audiencia/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/firmeza-en-exigencia-de-justicia-para-berta-caceres/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/berta-caceres-murder-trial-honduras-fall-short/>

MADJ wrote an open letter to Honduras' business people, among them COHEP and AHPER, to stop their smear campaigns the their attempts to criminalize the work of local communities peacefully opposing extractive projects and the HRDs accompanying them.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/09/18/Se%3%B1ores-empresarios-Basta-de-tantas-mentiras-y-violencia>

One of the victims of this new defamation campaign are the inhabitants of Guapinol near Tocoa, Colón, who opposed the mining project by Lenir Pérez. Vienna Herrera traveled for ContraCorriente to the community to report from there on a peaceful protest that goes back to 2014. The Trujillo Diocese denounces in a press release that the state body INHGEOMIN illegally granted Inversiones Los Pinares an environmental license.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/09/17/una-mina-una-carretera-y-la-lucha-por-el-agua/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/17/inhgeomin-ha-concedido-licencia-ambiental-a-la-empresa-los-pinares-con-una-serie-de-ilegalidades/>

C-Libre denounces repression by state security forces against students on the independence day marches last Saturday. They list cases in several Honduran cities.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/907-represion-a-estudiantes-protestantes-durante-los-desfiles-de-las-fiestas-patrias>

The Women's Tribunal against Femicide "Gladys Lanza" condemns the high level of violence against women and state indifference. Since 2005, 5440 women have violently lost their lives and 96% of their cases remain in impunity.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/17/por-enesima-vez-mujeres-de-honduras-exigen-justicia-por-femicidios/>

Yesterday, the national dialogue started its third week. ContraCorriente criticizes that the dialogue has moved away from its initial intention (at least by some participants) to present binding agreements to a talking shop coming up with mere suggestions.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/09/17/un-dialogo-que-se-convertira-en-sugerencias/>

Javier Suazo summarizes the newly proposed budget for 2019 as a "plan without a plan".

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/195380>

Some weeks ago, it was made public that the Honduran State owes a private company offering dialysis, Diálisis de Honduras, some 250 million Lempiras. The debt has not gone away and the company now stopped the treatment of some 3000 patients.

CONADEH also demanded state action to guarantee the medical attention of the patients.

Yesterday evening, the Health Secretariat and the company announced that the treatment would not be stopped.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2976-enfermos-renales-de-honduras-al-borde-de-muerte-gobierno-debe-mas-de-200-millones>

<https://confidencialhn.com/enfermos-renales-exigen-al-gobierno-saldar-deuda-para-que-reanuden-tratamientos/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/09/17/conadeh-nada-justifica-poner-en-riesgo-la-vida-de-los-paciente-renales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/dialisis-honduras-y-salud-acuerdan-no-interrumpir-tratamientos-a-pacientes.html>

La Prensa reports on irregularities with the police purge. Some officials and agents should have been purged months ago, but they still received their paychecks.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1217205-410/policia-acusado-narco-salario-honduras-comision-depuradora->

<https://confidencialhn.com/cura-bernardo-font-acusa-al-cardenal-rodriguez-de-mentiroso-y-vividor/>

18/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Journalists, Trial; Post-Electoral Violence; Journalists; Violence - ATIC; Militarization; Corruption - Health Secretariat; Gulf of Fonseca; JOH; Deportation; Int. Cooperation; Electoral Reform; Education; Transparency; and the Face of Injustice

The Meso-American Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders emitted an alert yesterday denouncing the defamation and criminalization of the international journalist Nina Lakhani. Lakhani, who regularly writes on Honduras for the Guardian, is currently in Honduras covering the Berta Cáceres trial. The Independent Campesinos of the Aguán (ACIVA) accuses her in a press release of international interference and they ask the JOH regime to prosecute her. I have not previously heard of this organizations and it sounds rather like an astroturf-organization, i.e. a fake grassroots organizations founded by powerful interests groups.

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2150840808523020&id=1602956593311447

Lakhani continued to cover the trial and published a summary for the Guardian of Monday's event: "The long-awaited trial into one of Central America's most notorious murders has been thrown into disarray after the judges were formally accused of abuse of authority and a cover-up." COPINH published a video of its legal representative Victor Fernández explaining the content and the motivation of the legal challenges filed by them.

Giorgio Trucchi published an article on the protests outside the court by indigenous, Garífuna and and campesina women demanding justice for Berta while also highlighting that the criminalization against them continues.

ContraCorriente published another interesting article on the trial focusing on one of the accused, Sergio Rodríguez.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/17/bertha-caceres-trial-postponed-judges-accused>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/video-el-abogado-victor-fernandez-nos-explica-en-que-consiste-la-recusacion-y-el-por-que-del-mismo/>

<http://www.rel-uita.org/honduras/nos-estan-criminalizando-igual-que-a-bertha/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/09/18/juicio-bertha-caceres-dudas-al-sistema-y-un-imputado-especial/>

The MP announced yesterday that ATIC arrested the preventive police agent Olvin Fernando Gonzáles Velásquez. He is held responsible for the murder of the minor Virgilio Jared Ávila Gonzáles in December 2017 during the post-electoral protests.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/18/orden-de-captura-a-policia-por-muerte-de-menor-durante-protesta-despues-de-las-elecciones/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-confirma-policia-mato-a-joven-en-protesta-pos-electoral-de-diciembre/>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with one of the directors at UNE-TV, a media outlet whose journalists and camerapersons have been victims of state violence on several occasions in the last months.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2282-une-tv-en-la-mira-del-gobierno-de-joh-dice-coordinador-de-prensa>

In its monthly report on the situation of children and the youth, Casa Alianza reports that 82 Hondurans below 30 were murdered in July, 57 of them were younger than 23. These numbers are based on the study of media reports and are likely to underestimate the gravity of the situation. Casa Alianza cites UNAH's Violence Observatory which says that only about 40% of all murders are covered by the media.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/163-personas-murieron-en-forma-violenta-durante-julio-57-eran-jovenes-menores-de-23-anos/>

Jaime Flores denounces that ATIC so far failed to present proof beyond mere statements that the two young students had not been murdered by ATIC agents on August 30.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/18/o-con-pruebas-lo-demuestran-o-fue-la-atic-la-que-ejecuto-a-los-dos-estudiantes/>

According to information by the Military Police, 45 schools are currently militarized in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2978-alarmante-45-colegios-de-honduras-estan-militarizados>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) held a public event in San Pedro Sula informing about acts of corruption from the last three years worth 3 billion Lempiras.

The CNA also informed about new acts of corruption, among them one involving children of public officials and the social program "Bono Diez Mil".

Marlin Oscar Ávila published an interesting commentary on the CNA and how it developed from a mere talking shop to an important actor in the fight against corruption in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/18/cna-destapa-nuevos-actos-de-corrupcion-por-mas-de-3-mil-millones-de-lempiras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-hijos-de-funcionarios-esta-involucrados-en-programa-bono-diez-mil/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/18/lo-delicado-de-la-politica-anti-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

The Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) disputes the revelations made by ConfidencialHN in a three-part investigative report on the role by the ASJ in covering up corruption at the Health Secretary.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asj-niega-ocultamiento-de-informacion-en-caso-de-corrupcion-en-salud/>

Last month, El Pulso published three articles on the controversial infrastructure project in the Gulf of Fonseca, the dredging around the Henecán harbor. Nincy Perdomo and Rodrigo Baires Quezada investigated who is behind the project and found two names, Basilio Fuschich Hawit and Albert Alamán García Power.

<http://elpulso.hn/nombres-tras-proyecto-puerto-henecan/>

Workers in one of the social programs by the JOH regime, "Con Chamba

Vivís Mejor", protest against outstanding paychecks.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/18/empleados-de-con-chamba-vivis-mejor-exigen-que-les-paguen-4-meses-atrasados/>

The number of deported Hondurans has increased by over 50% this year.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2977-casi-54-mil-hondurenos-han-sido-deportados-en-2018>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced a new cooperation with Honduras to reduce the risks of drought. Taiwan also announced \$2.5 million to help families affected by the drought.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-bid-establece-cooperacion-tecnica-para-mejorar-el-corredor-seco/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/09/18/taiwan-apoyara-con-asistencia-alimentaria/>

The three main parties don't agree on how and even if it legal to regulate the presidential reelection.

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-propone-reglamentar/>

JOH announced a "Major Education Reform". Congress will discuss an increase in teachers' wages.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/09/18/presidente-hernandez-anuncia-la-segunda-etapa-de-la-gran-reforma-educativa/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cn-admite-iniciativa-ciudadana-para-un-incremento-salarial-al-magisterio.html>

Some 200 million Lempiras spent in last year's electoral campaign are not completely accounted for.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1217544-466/politicos-hondurenos-no-justificaron-200-millones-de-lempiras-en-gastos>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/jhony-andres-salgado-el-rostro-de-la-injusticia-en-honduras/>

19/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Post-Electoral Violence; Political Prisoners; Extractivism - Defamation; Femicide; Budget; Public Health; Corruption; Fiscal Policy; Electoral Reform; and a Papaya-Phone

COPINH published further information on the temporary suspension of the Berta Cáceres trial. The new article also includes a link to the two complaints filed for abuse of authority, concealment, breach of the duties of a public servant and denial of justice. According to the law, the State has 72 hours to answer to the complaints, but the Appeals Court only received them yesterday. Legally, they should present their answer in the next 24 hours.

A petition has been launched to demand due process and justice for Berta.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/juicio-por-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-se-suspende-ante-violaciones-al-debido-proceso-de-parte-del-tribunal/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2283-recusan-tribunal-de-sentencia-para-que-no-siga-conociendo-del-caso-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres>

<http://movimientom4.org/2018/09/exigimos-un-juicio-justo-para-berta-caceres-y-el-copinh/>

After months of national and international pressure, the JOH regime arrested the first police agent held responsible for one of the post-electoral assassinations. Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the leadership of the National Police back up the accused and pay with state funds for his lawyers.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2284-el-pueblo-asumira-los-costos-de-la-impunidad-policia-que-asesino-a-manifestante-tendra-abogados-pagados-por-la-secretaria-de-seguridad>

The team of Salvador Nasralla presented yesterday a bill at the National Dialogue which would give amnesty to the political prisoners. UN representative Igor Garafulic awaits two to three proposals coming out of the dialogue for next week which will be presented to Congress.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesor-de-nasralla-espera-que-los-presos-politicos-sean-absueltos-de-sus-pecados/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1217942-466/di%C3%A1logo-arrojar%C3%A1-primeros-consensos-la-otra-semana>

Radio Progreso published an important overview of the defamatory campaign against communities in peaceful resistance against mining and hydroelectric projects as well as human rights organizations accompanying them. Even though the JOH regime has promised on the international stage to uphold the work of HRDs, it helps promote a dangerous environment for defending human rights as does Honduras' business lobby for example in the form of COHEP. COHEP just yesterday held another press conference presenting human rights organizations as the main obstacle for millions in investment in Honduras. This is just one of many press conferences and press releases on this topic in the last few weeks.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/se-agudiza-campana-para-desprestigiar-defensa-de-bienes-naturales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-asegura-que-perdidas-por-proyectos-renovables-son-multimillonarios/>

Nincy Perdomo highlights a recent event in Honduras which stands for the normalization of violence against women.

<http://elpulso.hn/violencia-contra-la-mujer/>

Oxfam held a workshop with Honduran congresswomen on a gender responsive state budget.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/19/parlamentarias-incidiran-en-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-con-enfoque-de-genero/>

Calls grow louder that the Honduran State should undo the privatization of the dialysis services whose consequences caused some unrest in the last weeks as the private company threatened to suspend its services due to unpaid bills.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/19/servicio-de-hemodialisis-no-es-de-calidad-y-solo-sirve-para-enriquecer-empresas-privadas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-lugar-de-pagar-a-empresarios-el-estado-puede-comprar-maquinas-de-dialisis/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/pagar-deuda-a-dialisis-de-honduras-y-atender-pacientes-en-centros-de-salud-propone-diputada-arriaga.html>

On Tuesday, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) informed about recent corruption cases in Honduras (see yesterday). In total, they presented more than 70 possible investigations of which only 12 to 15 have been prosecuted. Its director Gabriela Castellanos demands that all of them are being investigated. At the same time, there is some

criticism that the CNA informed about these corruption cases without mentioning any names.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2979-cna-presento-mas-de-70-lineas-de-corrupcion-a-fiscalia-hondurena>

El Pulso published an interesting article about tax exemptions in Honduras including an interview with Fosdeh's deputy director Ralph Flores, who criticizes the lack of oversight and transparency.

<http://elpulso.hn/un-pais-de-exoneraciones-fiscales/>

The sociologist Eugenio Sosa does not believe that the presidential reelection has widespread popular support.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/19/en-la-atmosfera-de-honduras-la-reeleccion-no-tiene-apoyo-eugenio-sosa/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/09/17/mujer-intenta-ingresar-un-telefono-a-la-carcel-escondido-en-una-papaya/>

20/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Extractivism - Pajuiles, Reitoca, Transparency; Impunity - ATIC; National Police - Torture; Education - Violence; ENEE; Infrastructure; Dialogue; and the End of Music?

COPINH published an English translation of yesterday's article on the temporary suspension of the trial.

The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders organized a forum "Don't Worry, Compa" as part of the activities accompanying the Berta Cáceres trial. On the occasion of the forum, Giorgio Trucchi spoke with OFRANEH's coordinator Miriam Miranda.

"The Nobel Peace Laureates of the Nobel Women's Initiative call on the Honduran government to ensure that there is a fair and just trial for those individuals being charged with the murder of Berta Cáceres".

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/berta-caceres-murder-trial-suspended-in-face-of-violations-to-due-process-by-the-court/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/195452>

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/mujeres-premio-nobel-de-la-paz-istan-al-gobierno-de-honduras-a-garantizar-un-juicio-justo-en-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-espanol-english/>

FOSDEH economist Ismael Zepeda explains that Honduras does not have to rely on an extractive development model. This is also a reaction to the renewed defamation campaign against communities and human rights organizations by the government and the business lobby which wrongly claim that protests against mining projects threaten some 10'000 jobs in Honduras.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/honduras-puede-vivir-sin-modelo-extractivo-sostiene-economista-del-fosdeh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-se-podria-africanizar-con-la-explotacion-del-medioambiente-advierte-economista/>

MADJ denounces the flow reduction of the Pajuiles river which they link to the construction activities of thy hydroelectric company HIDROCEP.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/09/21/Reducido-el-caudal-del-r%C3%ADo-Mezapa-en-Pajuiles-Tela-1>

The indigenous Lenca community in Reitoca denounces the defamation campaign by the business lobby and especially Elsa Paz, who not only is the president of the Association of Renewable Energy Producers but also a representative of the company Progelsa, which faces protests for building a hydroelectric dam on the Petacón river.

<https://confidencialhn.com/comunidad-lenca-advierde-que-impedira-construccion-de-represa-en-rio-petacon/>

C-Libre demanded more information from the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) on the ministerial agreement denying access to environmental licenses of extractive projects (see last week). C-Libre denounces that the agreement is illegal.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/803-acuerdo-de-mi-ambiente-es-ilegal-en-el-fondo-y-en-la-forma-denuncia-c-libre>

More than three months ago, the regional head of ATIC in Santa Rosa de Copán, Sherill Yubissa Hernández, was murdered. Her case has been mentioned on various occasions in these e-mails as ATIC tried to present it as a suicide while forensic evidence indicated that she was murdered. Expediente Público published an overview focusing on the head of the Forensic Department, Julissa Villanueva, who is still pursuing the case and who now faces threats herself. The article also highlights further problems inside ATIC and the unwillingness by the illegally reelected Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla to act.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/perfiles/105-las-amenazas-de-la-impunidad-en-contra-de-la-directora-de-medicina-forense>

Defensores en Línea reports on a trial beginning next Monday. During the coup d'état in 2009, the teacher and human rights defender Agustina Flores (she is also the sister of Berta Cáceres) was tortured by police agents while being held in custody for 21 days. Two police agents now face trial.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/agustina-flores-primera-presa-politica-del-2009-encarara-al-sistema-judicial/>

This week, JOH announced another intervention of the education system. Yesterday, he nominated the committee and little surprise, he relies once more on his close allies at the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) and the Evangelical Confraternity.

<https://confidencialhn.com/otra-vez-mas-joh-nombra-a-miembros-de-asj-y-confraternidad-evangelica-en-interventora-de-educacion/>

Expediente Público reports on the violence faced by students at and on their way to school. In recent years, violence has become one of the main reasons for students dropping out of school.

<http://expedientepublico.org/index.php/comunidad/104-cuando-las-escuelas-dejaron-de-ser-espacios-seguros-en-honduras>

The MP emitted an arrest warrant against the head of the National Electric Company (ENEE), Jesús Mejía, for abuse of authority and breach of duties of public servants.

He claims that he is a victim of collusion between a judge and a public prosecutor.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/20/mp-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-gerente-de-la-enee/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jesus-mejia-juez-y-fiscal-se-coludieron-para-emitir-requerimiento-fiscal-en-mi-contra/>

The JOH regime announced infrastructure investment of almost \$600 million for the next four years.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1218113-410/honduras-invertir%C3%A1-114400-millones-en-construcci%C3%B3n-y-reparaci%C3%B3n-de-carreteras>

El Heraldo claims that preliminary agreements were found during the National Dialogue on the reform of the RNP and the TSE as well as on an amnesty for political prisoners. But regarding the last topic, this seems still unbelievable as the National Party continues to claim that there are no political prisoners in Honduras. The article also raises a possible threat in the case such an amnesty would be granted to state security forces responsible for assassinations.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1218211-466/consensos-sobre-el-tse-rnp-y-amnist%C3%ADa-primeros-resultados>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/20/sin-la-mineria-no-seria-posible-escuchar-la-musica-de-una-guitarra-gobierno-de-honduras/>

21/09/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Berta - Trial, Journalists; Penitentiary System - HRDs; Femicide; Insecurity; Corruption - Judicial Power; Campesinxs; and a Cynical Change of Mind

Once more, the situation in Honduras compels the OACNUDH to denounce the smear campaigns against human rights defenders. They are especially concerned about the situation of Martin Fernández from MADJ and Padre Melo from Radio Progreso.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH>

On September 5, COPINH challenged a court ruling which did not allow them to be an official part of the Berta Cáceres trial as victima of her murder. An appeal court admitted the challenge but it did not authorize COPINH's incorporation in the trial.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/video-corte-hondurena-admite-amparo-interpuesto-por-socios-de-copinh-pero-sin-autorizar-su-incorporacion-inmediata-en-el-proceso/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/justicia-para-berta-caceres-es-justicia-feminista-y-territorial/>

COPINH expresses its solidarity with the journalist Nina Lakhani who was the victim of a new smear campaign this week. Lakhani has covered Honduras for the Guardian for years and is currently reporting on the Berta Cáceres trial.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/el-copinh-expresa-su-solidaridad-con-la-periodista-nina-lakhani/>

The Human Rights Roundtable denounces that the JOH regime violates the Penitentiary System Law by not allowing human rights organizations such as CPTRT to attend inmates.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2286-alerta-gobierno-obstaculiza-labor-de-derechos-humanos-en-las-carceles-de-honduras>

Nincy Perdomo published a second article on the normalizing of violence against women in Honduras, this time focusing on the role of the media.

<http://elpulso.hn/violencia-mujeres-medios-de-comunicacion/>

Even though the US regularly supports the questionable narrative by the JOH regime about more security in Honduras, it still does not recommend its citizens traveling there.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/21/ee-uu-pide-a-sus-ciudadanos-reconsiderar-viajar-a-honduras-por-altos-niveles-de-inseguridad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-alerta-de-ee-uu-sobre-viajes-a-honduras-es-para-proteger-a-sus-ciudadanos/>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/honduras-travel-advisory.html>

An anti-corruption court informed yesterday about the trial against the former members of the Judiciary Council. They will be tried for abuse of authority and embezzlement of public funds. Their case made headlines on several occasions, first because they were arrested and sent to pre-trial detention, second, because the charges against them were changed so they could leave pre-trial detention. The second step is still in process and currently they are awaiting the signatures of the Supreme Court judges to leave pre-trial detention. According to La Prensa, they will be released today.

<https://confidencialhn.com/enjuiciaran-a-exconcejales-de-la-judicatura-por-abuso-de-autoridad-y-malversacion-de-dinero-publico/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1218535-410/ma%C3%B1ana-saldr%C3%A1n-en-libertad-exconsejeros-de-la-judicatura>

According to the coordinator of Vía Campesina in Honduras, Rafael Alegría, there are at least 7000 campesinxs in Honduras who face legal proceedings, the majority due to land conflicts.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/siete-mil-campesinos-tienen-procesos-judiciales-en-honduras-denuncia-rafael-alegria.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2982-ahora-si-pastor-golpista-a-favor-de-reeleccion-en-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/evelio-reyes-se-decanta-por-la-reeleccion-y-dice-que-mel-zelaya-tiene-derecho-a-participar.html>

22/09/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Defamation; Extractivism - Oil; Transparency; Political Opposition; Electoral Reforms; Corruption - Judicial Power; Fire Arms; Penitentiary System; and a New Development Model

Defensores en Línea commemorates feminist and human rights defender Gladys Lanza who died on September 20, 2016.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-extrana-lucha-y-solidaridad-de-gladys-lanza/>

With the recent increase in hate and defamation campaigns against HRDs, COFADEH warns that such campaigns always precede the assassination of HRDs.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/las-campanas-de-descredito-y-de-odio-siempre-preceden-la-muerte/>

OFRANEH denounces that the JOH regime signed a contract with BG Group to explore and exploit oil reserves in the Caribbean Sea without consulting the affected indigenous communities. The project risks leading to the eviction of Miskitu, Garífuna, Pech and Tawahka indigenous communities. According to the former president of the business lobby COHEP, Juliette Handal, the contract signed with BG Group is "predatory and nefarious".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/21/sin-consultar-a-comunidades-gobierno-de-honduras-suscribio-contrato-con-bg-group/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/21/contrato-con-bg-group-es-nefasto-y-leonino-juliette-handal/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on a further decrease of transparency by the JOH regime as more and more information (and power) is concentrated in the 'casa presidencial'. When journalists consult public officials, they hear more and more than no information can be given on a certain

topic because "this is managed from the 'casa presidencial'".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2287-periodistas-denuncian-que-funcionarios-no-hablan-porque-hay-concentracion-de-la-informacion-en-casa-presidencial>

COFADEH met with young PINU councilor Marlon Calles from Marcala, La Paz. He denounces being harassed and threatened for accompanying local opposition to hydroelectric projects and denouncing acts of corruption.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/regidor-de-la-alianza-de-oposicion-en-marcala-se-encuentra-en-condicion-de-riesgo/>

The discussion about regulating the presidential reelection brings forward a worrisome understanding of politics by the National Party. Its party head in Congress, Mario Pérez, labels a plebiscite to ask Hondurans about what they think of a presidential reelection a "unnecessary waste" and rather just sits down with Manuel Zelaya to discuss the reelection.

Zelaya reiterated that Libre will asks its members on January 27 on their view about the presidential reelection.

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle published a critical comment on the debate about the reelection.

<https://confidencialhn.com/califican-como-gasto-innecesario-realizar-un-plebiscito-y-referendum/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-es-necesario-el-plebiscito-hay-que-sentarnos-con-mel-para-regular-la-reeleccion-mario-perez.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mel-afirma-que-se-deben-buscar-soluciones-politicas-a-la-reeleccion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/22/el-infantilismo-en-la-politica-vernacula-y-la-reeleccion/>

Even though the face in total over 600 counts of corruption, the former members of the Judiciary Council were released from pre-trial detention yesterday (see also e-mails from the previous days). They present themselves as innocent victims.

<https://confidencialhn.com/salen-del-presidio-los-exconcejales-de-la-judicatura-se-defenderan-en-libertad/>

<https://tiempo.hn/exconcejales-no-hemos-cometido-delito/>

This week, Congress approved a new Fire Arms Control Bill. El Tiempo highlights the main difference to the existing law.

<https://tiempo.hn/prohibiciones-ley-control-de-armas/>

El Tiempo reports on a mumps outbreak in the Támara prison.

<https://tiempo.hn/al-menos-62-reos-tienen-paperas-en-tamara-confirmando-la-secretaria-de-salud/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/construir-nuestro-propio-modelo-de-desarrollo/>

23/09/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Extractivism - Mining; Church - Political Opposition; Transport Sector; Public Health; Corruption - IHSS; Drug Trafficking; and Lack of Social Progress

Defensores en Línea portrays Ermin López, a human rights defender at the indigenous Lenca organization MILPAH who faces threats for opposing a hydroelectric project by Nationalist congresswoman Gladys Aurora.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensor-de-los-bienes-comunes-de-chinacla-vive-bajo-amenazas/>

The JOH regime announced the creation of a special task force "to resolve mining conflicts". The article by La Prensa also includes some useful information on the mining concessions granted by the Honduran Institute for Geology and Mines (Inhgeomin) - 274 up until October 2017.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1218263-410/mineria-honduras-minas-exploracion-conflictos-mineros->

On such "mining conflict" takes place in Guapinol in Tocoa, Colón, where Lenir Perez and his company Inversiones Los Pinares try to impose a mine against the will of the local communities. El Tiempo reports that a meeting between the municipality and community representatives took place. The latter demand a public consultation about the mining activities in their area.

<https://tiempo.hn/alcalde-y-protestan-buscan-solucion-problematica-mina-lenir-perez/>

Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez once more uses his Sunday sermon to denigrate the political opposition.

<https://confidencialhn.com/maradiaga-arremete-contra-libre-su-ideologia-y-vandalismo-genera-dolor-y-muerte/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cardenal-rodriguez-condena-vandalismo-de-libre-contra-la-iglesia-y-llama-a-reflexionar.html>

The Cab Drivers Association (Ataxis) announced an emergency meeting to discuss possible strike actions as Congress rejected a citizen initiative to lower fuel prices by 23 Lempiras.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/09/23/a-la-carga-nuevamente-el-sector-transporte-se-anuncia-paralizacion-de-unidades-a-nivel-nacional/>

Communities in Tocoa, Colón reject the planned privatization of the San Isidro Hospital.

<https://tiempo.hn/pobladores-tocoa-temen-privatizacion-hospital-san-isidro/>

La Prensa got access to a report by the Intervention Committee of the IHSS. The report highlights that the financial aftermath of the corruption scandal will be felt until 2048.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1219042-410/saqueo-ihss-casos-corrupcion-mario-zelaya-honduras-robo->

El Heraldo reports on the drug trafficking activities of the Montes Bobadilla cartel which came to light during trials in the US.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1219026-466/l-1200-millones-movio-clan-de-los-montes-en-ocho-anos>

Honduras once again ranks last of the Central American countries in the Social Progress Index.

<https://www.socialprogress.org/?code=HND>

24/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs; Hydroelectricity - Reitoca; Extractivism - Petrol; IACtHR; HR; Dialogue - Fraud; Femicide; Corruption - Trusts, Judicial Power; Migration; Congress; Fishing; Drug Trafficking; and the Consciousness of Hondurans

It has been a week since the trial in the Berta Cáceres case was suspended and according to the law, the court should have resolved the

legal challenges by now.

https://elpais.com/internacional/2018/09/24/america/1537746116_801594.html?id_externo_rsoc=TW_CC

ConexiHon reports on the criminalization of four inhabitants of Playa Blanca, a community in Zacate Grande. They face up to five years in prison for their efforts to defend the use of the public beaches for fishing.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/807-pobladores-podrian-pasar-cinco-anos-en-la-carcel-por-defender-las-playas>

The Indigenous Lenca Council of Reitoca accuse the company PROGELSA to harm the local environment and the Petacón river. They also denounce a defamation campaign against them promoted by PROGELSA and the Association of Renewable Energy Producers (AHPER) and its president Elsia Paz.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/808-pueblo-lenca-denuncia-campana-de-desprestigio-y-contaminacion-del-rio-petacon>

The Environmental Law Institute of Honduras (IDAMHO) warns of the possibly devastating consequences of an oil spill just outside the Honduran Caribbean coast. The concession to exploit Honduras' maritime oil reserves was discussed at a recently held forum organized by IDAMHO (see also Sunday's e-mail).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/810-sombrio-contrato-petrolero-amenaza-el-caribe-hondureno>

In the aftermath of the coup d'état, the magistrate Tirza Flores Lanza and the judge Guillermo López Lone were fired. After nine years of struggle and a 2015 ruling by the Inter-American Court on Human Rights (IACtHR), they finally succeeded by being reintegrated into the Honduran Judicial System.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/honduras-magistrada-y-juez-destituidos-durante-golpe-estado-son-reincorporados-sus-puestos>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/09/25/Saludamos-el-reintegro-de-Magistrada-y-juez-destituidos-durante-golpe-de-Estado>

<http://www.poderjudicial.gob.hn/Documents/CertResCasoLopezLoneSept2018.PDF>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/09/24/reintegran-a-magistrada-y-a-juez-destituidos-durante-golpe-de-estado/>

In another attempt to divert attention away from human rights violation by state actors, the JOH regime wants the UN to declare gangs and drug traffickers as the main human rights violators in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/24/hernandez-pide-a-la-onu-que-reconozca-a-las-maras-y-pandillas-como-violadores-de-dd-hh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/hernandez-pedira-a-onu-declarar-a-maras-pandillas-y-narcotraficantes-principales-violadores-de-ddhh.html>

The Liberal Party presented during the National Dialogue a document which links the National Party with maras as well as with vote buying activities.

The OAS, meanwhile, announced that they will send a team to Honduras to help with the analysis and the drafting of an electoral reform.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/24/partido-liberal-presenta-documento-que-vincula-al-partido-nacional-con-maras-y-compra-de-votos/>

<https://twitter.com/CCEPLH/status/1044406923314057216/photo/1>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oea-respaldara-a-honduras-con-analisis-y-redaccion-para-una-reforma-electoral/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1219344-466/oea-dar%C3%A1-asesor%C3%ADa-para-preparar-la-reforma-electoral-en-honduras>

Honduras' women's rights and feminist organizations denounce that the budget allocated to the prevention of violence against women has been decreased in the 2019 state budget without any explication. I recently linked to an article about the invisible victims of femicide, orphans. But I did not link to the 60-page investigation on the subject.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/24/gobierno-de-honduras-invisibiliza-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-el-presupuesto/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacionorg.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/estudio-acv-2018.pdf>

Last month, FOSDEH warned that there are some 67 trusts in Honduras worth 18 billion Lempiras which are managed without much oversight. ConfidencialHN now denounces that the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) was aware of irregularities in one of the trusts managed by the Health Secretariat but it remained silent for receiving favors.

<https://confidencialhn.com/conflictos-de-asj-silenciaron-anomalias-del-fideicomiso-de-salud-a-cambio-de-favores/>

The director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Gabriela Castellanos, criticizes the Judicial Power for releasing the former members of the Judiciary Council from pre-trial detention (see also previous e-mails).

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-la-casa-de-la-justicia-solo-falto-darle-viaticos-a-exconcejales-por-paseo-que-dieron-directora-cna.html>

"An analysis of data directed by Jonathan Hiskey, associate professor of political science, and his co-authors shows that being a victim of crime is a powerful motivation for migrants to come to the United States, despite understanding the risks of the journey and challenges of the U.S. immigration system. The findings, Hiskey says, suggest that current migration deterrence policies, which mainly target economic migrants, are ineffective against migrants fleeing violence."

<https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2018/09/18/crime-not-money-drives-migration-from-el-salvador-and-honduras/>

Nincy Perdomo published the next installment of her Parliamentary Chronicles.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-1820-2018/>

Both the industrial and artisan fishing sector is not satisfied with a proposed legal reform by the Agriculture and Livestock Secretary (SAG).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2985-pescadores-del-caribe-hondureno-en-alerta-por-irregular-reforma>

The MP confiscated more goods belonging to the Urbina Soto family. Its head, Arnaldo Urbina Soto, has been sentenced for money laundering and other crimes. He was the Nationalist mayor of Yoro and the manager of JOH's 2013 presidential campaign. One year ago, InSight Crime published an in-depth investigation into the "Political Clan and Its Criminal Fiefdom".

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-realiza-operativo-aquiles-para-quitar-bienes-a-los-urbina-soto/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1219366-410/acusan-lavado-activos-empresario-yore%C3%B1o-fortuna-lujo-casa-hotel-supermercado->

<https://www.insightcrime.org/uncategorized/honduras-political-clan-criminal-fiefdom/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/conciencia-de-pueblo/>

25/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Film; Journalists; Femicide; Corruption - Congress, IHSS; Electoral Reforms; RNP; Fire Arms; Drug Trafficking; Poverty; PGR; and Billy vs. Jorge

A team of filmmakers started a crowd funding campaign to fund the last chapter of their documentary "Troubled Water" which looks at three environmental defenders in El Salvador, Peru and Honduras. In Honduras, they look at the struggle of Berta Cáceres.

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/troubled-water--3#/>

Pasos de Animal Grande informs that the journalist Jairo López would be acquitted yesterday after having been criminalized for three years by a man believed to work in representation of Congress' president Mauricio Oliva.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2289-hoy-audiencia-para-notificar-a-las-partes-tribunal-de-sentencia-de-choluteca-sobre-seyo-querrela-contra-el-periodista-jairo-lopez>

More voices join the call to demand a higher share of the 2019 general budget for the prevention of violence against women and the investigation of femicide.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/811-feministas-exigen-se-cumpla-con-el-presupuesto-para-investigar-y-prevenir-femicidios>

In the corruption case involving two Nationalists congressmen and the falsification of documents, Tomás Zambrano Molina has been acquitted. The charges against Román Villeda Aguilar have been decreased but he remains charged with abuse of authority and falsification of documents. Zambrano Molina is also the Congressional Secretary and a powerful actor inside the National Party.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/25/ratifican-el-sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-tomas-zambrano/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/absuelven-a-secretario-del-legislativo-por-pacto-de-impunidad-su-companero-seguira-proceso-judicial/>

El Libertador published its analysis on the leaked document by the Liberal Party highlighting the role of the National Party in the IHSS corruption case and the resulting vote buying in the 2013 elections (see also yesterday).

The National Party continues to divert attention from this by claiming that gangs robbed them of tens of thousands of votes in the 2017 elections...

UN representative Igor Garafulic told the media that the role of gangs in the elections is a general problem that affects all parties.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2986-lujos-viajes-y-votos-comprados-con-fondos-del-ihss-confirma-padre-de-chilena-ciuffardi>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nacionalistas-insisten-que-el-crimen-les-boicoteo-muchos-centros-de-votacion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-fuimos-los-mas-afectados-con-participacion-de-maras-y-pandillas-en-pasado-proceso-electoral/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/09/25/igor-garafulic-participacion-de-maras-y-pandillas-afecto-a-todos-los-partidos/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva claims to be skeptical about the possibility to regulate the presidential reelection. According to the political analyst Raúl Pineda, the reelection only matters to JOH and Manuel Zelaya. Furthermore, he states that only a constitutional assembly can regulate it. The Liberal Party demands a plebiscite.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/25/no-creo-que-el-cn-pueda-regular-la-reeleccion-mauricio-oliva/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/los-unicos-preocupados-por-la-reeleccion-son-joh-y-mel-analista-politico/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/09/25/partido-liberal-rechaza-reglamentar-reeleccion-y-propone-plebiscito/>

Congress approved the intervention of the National Persons Registry (RNP) in a first debate. A committee will coordinate it and it consists of a member of the National and Liberal Party as well as of Libre. The Liberal Party is split on the matter and its president calls the intervention a coup against the currently held national dialogue. As a consequence, the Liberal Party announced its withdrawal from the dialogue. Salvador Nasralla also criticizes the creation of the commission.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tripartidismo-pacta-intervencion-del-registro-nacional-de-las-personas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-nombra-a-los-cinco-miembros-de-la-junta-interventora-del-rnp/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-culpa-a-joh-zelaya-y-carlos-flores-por-intervencion-del-rnp/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/09/25/partido-liberal-se-retira-del-dialogo-politico-nacional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nasralla-dice-que-intervencion-en-rnp-es-una-bofetada-a-las-naciones-unidas.html>

El Pulso reports on the recently approved Fire Arms Law.

<http://elpulso.hn/nueva-ley-de-portacion-de-armas-en-un-pais-violento/>

The Global Commission on Drug Policy published a new report "Regulation: The Responsible Control of Drugs" which "examines in detail how governments can take control of currently illegal drug markets through responsible regulation, thereby weakening criminal organizations that now profit from them."

<http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/reports/regulation-the-responsible-control-of-drugs/>

The economist Melchor Rodríguez denounces that there is no reason to further increase the State's budget if they continue to "produce" 379'000 new poor every year. JOH, meanwhile, continues to live in a parallel Honduras claiming at the UN that poverty decreased in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallidas-politicas-estatales-producen-379-mil-nuevos-pobres-cada-ano/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1219704-466/joh-expone-que-m%C3%A1s-de-170-mil-hondure%C3%B1os-dejaron-la-pobreza>

The Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) recommends a strengthening of the General Procuratory of the Republic (PGR).

<https://confidencialhn.com/recomiendan-fortalecer-pgr-para-potenciar-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asj-propone-fortalecer-pgr-para-una-eficiente-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-y-la-impunidad.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/billy-joya-contra-jorge-calix/>

26/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - DESA, Trial; HRDs - Defamation; LGBTI; Journalists; OFRANEH; Death Squads; Privatization; Budget - Transparency, Security; Liberal Party; Reelection; Fire Arms; and Democracy as a Business

COPINH published an alert yesterday denouncing that members of the Madrid Family with links to DESA attacked community members of Río Blanco with machetes.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/alerta-familia-madrid-empleados-de-la-empresa-desa-ataca-a-comunidad-de-rio-blanco/>

The appeals court rejected the legal challenge against the sitting judges by COPINH. It is expected that the court will announce the date when the trial starts again in the coming days.

Avispa Midia published a new article on the trial, especially the challenge filed by COPINH and the circumstances of the first day in court.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/sin-lugar-la-recusacion/>

<https://avispa.org/honduras-en-suspenso-juicio-sobre-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

COPINH denounces both the business lobby COHEP and the renewable energy association AHER for its role in denigrating HRDs and social activists in peaceful resistance against extractive projects.

In this context, it is important to call to mind a recent article by Defensores en Línea, which now is also available in English:

"De-legitimization and hate campaigns always precede death"

Witness for Peace published a statement in solidarity with MADJ which also suffered a defamation campaign, especially directed against Martín and Víctor Fernández.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/empresa-privada-habla-de-paz-pero-promueve-el-odio-y-la-violencia/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/de-legitimization-and-hate-campaigns-always-precede-death/>

<http://witnessforpeace.org/statement-on-solidarity-with-madj-in-light-of-recent-defamation-campaignsdeclaracion-en-solidaridad-con-madj-ante-de-reciente-campanas-de-difamacion/>

The new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, held a speech on the situation of the LGBTI community. "Seventy years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed that everyone, without distinction "has the right to life, liberty and security of the person." When there is a pattern of hate-motivated violence – one, for example, based on gender, sexual orientation or gender identity – and the State does not act to prevent, and effectively address, those attacks, it is failing to live up to that obligation."

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23630&LangID=E>

C-Libre denounces that the director of the municipal justice system in Santa Bárbara verbally and physically attacked the two cameramen Cristofer Cantarero and Antonio Reyes.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/impedimento-informativo/909-director-de-justicia-municipal-agrede-a-camarografos>

Pasos de Animal Grande published a commentary by human rights lawyer

Joaquín Mejía on the legal complaint filed by Billy Joya against Libre congressman Jorge Cáliz. The latter highlighted in a TV appearance last year's Joya's role in the 1980s and the Battalion 3-16 death squad. According to Mejía, everything Cáliz said is documented in a report on the period by the state's human rights ombudsman CONADEH, i.e. that Joya founded the battalion 3-16 and ordered "the capture and execution of innumerable persons".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2290-reaparece-el-licenciado-arrazola-con-amenazas-para-quienes-le-recuerdan-su-participacion-en-graves-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-en-los-anos-80>

OFRANEH denounces a distorted application of a free, prior and informed consultation in the Garífuna community Corozal by the mayoralty of La Ceiba and the business group LAEISZ.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/09/26/el-caso-de-la-termoelectrica-en-la-ensenada-y-la-distorsion-de-la-consulta-previa-libre-e-informada/>

The former president of Honduras' Central Bank Hugo Noé Pino criticizes the privatization agenda promoted by the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/26/para-que-quieren-gobernar-si-lo-que-quieren-es-privatizar-hugo-noe-pino/>

FOSDEH held a public forum yesterday on the new general budget for 2019. They denounce a lack of transparency which "has a whiff of corruption".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/26/falta-de-transparencia-en-presupuesto-apesta-a-corrupcion/>

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2018/09/boletin-del-foro-publico-un-presupuesto-para-el-desarrollo/>

In July, FOSDEH published the first volume of an analysis of Honduras' public spending on security and defense. Now they published the second part as well.

<http://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Seguimiento-y-Evaluacion-Gasto-Publico-en-Seguridad-y-Defensa-2002-2018.pdf>

<http://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Alerta-monitoreo-gasto-seguridad-defensa.pdf>

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2018/09/seguridad-y-defensa/>

After the illegal reelection by JOH, the Liberal Party announced to investigate the Liberal congresswo/men who participated at the inauguration. It was expected that they would be expelled, but yesterday, the Liberal Party announced the expulsion of the 17 congresswo/men who voted with the National Party and Libre to intervene at the National Registry of Persons (RNP).

Its president Luis Zelaya accused them of "obscure pacts with the traditional political class"...

As a consequence of the agreed upon intervention of the RNP, the Liberal Party also announced its withdrawal from the national dialogue (see also yesterday).

Later yesterday, the Liberal congressman Mauricio Villeda clarified that the 17 congresswo/men are not automatically expelled but that a disciplinary board will make the final decision.

El Heraldo, taking their expulsion for a done deal, inquires about the political consequences of this decision.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/26/expulsan-17-diputados-del-partido-liberal/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2989-conozca-los-17-diputados-oscuros-expulsados-hoy-por-partido-liberal>

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-que-luis-no-expulso-a-quienes-fueron-a-toma-de-joh-pero-si-a-los-que-apoyaron-intervencion-del-rnp/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-justifica-expulsion-de-diputados-rojiblanco-hicieron-pactos-con-la-politica-tradicional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/partido-liberal-decide-retirarse-definitivamente-del-dialogo-politico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/diputados-disidentes-de-la-linea-de-luis-aun-no-están-expulsados/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1219993-466/el-partido-nacional-y-libre-con-la-ventaja-de-capitalizar-crisis-de>

JOH told media outlets yesterday that he won't seek a third presidential term.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-asegura-que-no-buscara-un-tercer-mandato-y-pide-regular-reeleccion/>

HRD and director of COIPRODEN, Wilmer Vásquez, is skeptical about the effectiveness of the new gun regulation law.

<https://confidencialhn.com/defensor-de-la-vida-tiene-dudas-sobre-efectividad-de-nueva-ley-de-armas/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/813-en-honduras-es-un-negocio-la-democracia>

27/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, DESA; Journalists - Assassination, Defamation, Criminalization, Transparency; UN - JOH; Privatization; Electoral Reforms; Corruption - Public Health; Lawyers; National Police; Armed Forces; Liberal Party; and Happy Birthday Tegucigalpa

Ariel Madrid, a legal representative of Berta's family and COPINH, comments on the rejection of their legal challenge against the sitting judges of the trial.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/video-implicaciones-en-el-caso-berta-caceres-de-la-declaracion-sin-lugar-sobre-la-recusacion/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on Wednesday's attack against the Río Blanco community by DESA employees (see also yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2291-siguen-acciones-violentas-contra-indigenas-empleados-de-hidroelectrica-desa-ataca-a-comunidad-lenca-de-rio-blanco>

The cameraman Héctor Clara Cruz was found murdered wrapped in bed covers in the residential area Las Uvas, Tegucigalpa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tragedia-hallan-ensabanado-a-reportero-grafico-hondureno-hector-clara/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cadaver-encontrado-en-las-uvas-era-exfotografo-de-el-heraldo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/de-fotografo-era-cuerpo-ensabanado-encontrado-en-residencial-las-uvas.html>

The defamation campaign against the international journalist Nina Lakhani continues. In the newest attack, the Independent Campesinos Association of the Aguán Valley now also includes the international human rights defender Annie Bird.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2292-se-arrecia-campana-de-odio-en-peligro-periodista-londinense-nina-lakhani-y-activista-de-ddhh-anie-bird>

The journalist Fabricio Garibaldi Mejía faces a trial for slander for denouncing acts of corruption on his private Facebook page.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/817-por-denuncia-en-redes-sociales-cooperativa-querella-a-periodista>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/procesos-legales/910-querellan-a-periodista-por-comentar-en-redes-sociales-actuaciones-de-cooperativa>

Once more, the board members of the Social Security Institute of Journalists (IPP) are being criticized for their lack of transparency. Event hough the Supreme Court ruled that the IPP has to comply with the Transparency and Access to Public Information Law, the board failed to take the necessary steps.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/27/directivos-de-periodistas-en-desobediencia-por-ocultar-informacion/>

JOH's discourse at the UN General Assembly raised some criticism in Honduras. ContraCorriente lists the "three main lies by Hernández": i) the claim that Honduras successfully has regained peace and tranquility; ii) the attempt to divert the attention of human rights violations by the regime by claiming that gangs are the main culprits; and iii) the offer to help other countries in increasing their security. Sociologist and criminologist Leticia Salomón calls JOH's statement regarding the gangs "an embarrassment". CONfidencialHN published his complete speech. In an interview, JOH also criticized a decrease in aid by the US and he threatens more or less openly to turn its attention more to China as El Salvador has done recently.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/09/26/las-tres-principales-mentiras-de-hernandez-en-la-asamblea-de-las-naciones-unidas/#1538024775804-cef135c1-8d68>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/27/hernandez-deja-en-verguenza-a-honduras-ante-la-onu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-pidio-en-la-onu-que-se-reconozcan-a-grupos-no-estatales-como-agresores-de-ddhh/>

<http://elpulso.hn/presidente-hernandez-lamenta-los-recortes-de-ayuda-estadounidense-y-reconoce-en-la-presencia-china-como-una-oportunidad-para-la-region/>

Fernando Silva writes about the ongoing drinking water privatization taking place in Tegucigalpa and its links with an increase in water scarcity.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/09/26/tegucigalpa-entre-la-escasez-y-el-proceso-de-privatizacion-del-agua/>

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana Mercardo calls for an overhaul of the political system needed due to the death of the old bipartisan system.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/27/el-bipartidismo-ya-murio-y-todas-las-reglas-politicas-deben-cambiar-edmundo-orellana/>

Congress announced to investigate irregularities at the University Hospital.

<https://confidencialhn.com/parlamentarios-investigaran-anomalias-en-el-hospital-escuela-universitario/>

The lawyer Louis Rivera Valladares was murdered yesterday. He is the son of the former judge Blanca Valladares and the former congressman Luis Alonso Táborá Valladares.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1220322-466/en-video-queda-grabado-crimen-contra-abogado>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-asesinan-a-hijo-de-exdiputado-y-exmagistrada-judicial-en-el-progreso/>

ConfidencialHn reports on the case of the police official Juan Francisco Sosa who was wrongly imprisoned for two years after having been accused

of wrong doing by the purging committee. This week, a court acquitted him.

<https://confidencialhn.com/absuelven-a-oficial-de-policia-que-llamo-jeton-al-depurador-omar-rivera/>

An active member of the Armed Forces was arrested for allegedly being an active member of the Mara 18.

<https://tiempo.hn/capturan-a-miembro-de-las-ff-aa-por-estar-vinculado-con-la-pandilla-18/>

The decision to have 17 Liberal congresswo/men expelled raises some criticism by former Liberal leaders.

The situation may become even more difficult for the Liberal Party, as by next Tuesday they will decide on how to deal with the 13 congresswo/men who participated at the inauguration of JOH this January.

<https://confidencialhn.com/crisis-por-luis-pone-a-pensar-en-alianzas-con-libre-a-liberales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-a-liberales-en-conflicto-dialogar-para-evitar-destruccion-del-partido/>

<https://tiempo.hn/el-movimiento-alternativa-liberal-condena-expulsion-de-diputados-y-llama-a-la-unidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/13-diputados-liberales-que-acudieron-a-toma-de-joh-sabran-su-destino-el-proximo-martes/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/tegucigalpa-celebra-440-anos-en-medio-del-abandono-de-barrios-y-colonias/>

28/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, Investigation; Bajo Aguán; Corruption - CNA, Laws; Transparency; Dialogue; Drug Trafficking; US - JOH, UN Women; Spain; Liberal Party; and Lack of Food Security

Two out of the five presented amparos in the Berta Cáceres trial have been admitted, one of them by COPINH demanding to be seen as a victim of the murder.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bz49xWh3waU&feature=youtu.be>

The Appeals Court of Francisco Morazán upheld the accusations against a current and a former member of the police. They are accused of fabricating and altering evidence in the investigation into Berta's murder.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/confirman-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contra-policias-que-pretendieron-desviar-investigacion-en-crimen-de-ambientalista.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/confirman-proceso-judicial-a-investigadores-que-adulteraron-evidencias-del-crimen-contra-bertha/>

The Agrarian Platform and the Campesino Cooperative Gregorio Chávez denounce the arrival of some 20 armed men in the Panamá community spreading terror.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/09/honduras-comunicado-urgente-la-empresa.html>

The assembly of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) forbade its director Gabriela Castellanos "to use her position for making politics". Since she took over, the CNA has become much more public in its fight against corruption and this demand sends a rather mixed message. Thelma Mejía writes about the general strategy applied in Honduras to disqualify any person or institution fighting corruption.

<https://tiempo.hn/titular-del-cna-hay-quienes-se-indignan-por-un-twitter-y-no-asi-por-la-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/28/la-estrategia-del-ventilador/>

The Judicial Power welcomes a reform to the law regulating seizures. This will be an important piece of legislation when it comes to the fight against corruption - either promoting it or further hindering it.

<https://confidencialhn.com/poder-judicial-da-via-libre-a-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/csj-emite-opinion-favorable-al-cn-para-reformar-casi-en-su-totalidad-la-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio.html>

September 28 is the International Day for the Universal Right to Access to Information. Pasos de Animal Grande explains how under the JOH regime, this right is more and more under attack.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2294-un-dia-sin-celebraciones-en-honduras-estado-de-honduras-restringe-cada-vez-mas-el-derecho-de-acceso-a-la-informacion>

Radio Progreso takes the example of the discussions around the presidential reelection to highlight the failures of the National Dialogue.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/reeleccion-presidencial-el-gran-tema-de-un-dialogo-politico-que-se-conduce-al-fracasar-en-honduras/>

The former Honduran police official Carlos Alberto Valladares García was sentenced to 14 years in prison for drug trafficking in a US court. He collaborated for almost a decade with the Los Cachiros cartel.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1220519-410/condenan-eeuu-a-exjefe-polic%C3%ADa-nacional-trafico-droga-carlos-alberto-valladares-garc%C3%ADa>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1220583-466/revelan-c%C3%B3mo-exjefe-de-polic%C3%ADa-apoyaba-a-los-cachiros-en-sus-cr%C3%ADmenes>

The US Mission to the UN met with JOH during his visit to New York.

<https://twitter.com/USUN/status/1045684229420601344>

UN Women in Honduras signed a cooperation agreement with Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) and the project is financed by USAID.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/onu-mujeres-y-dai-firman-memorandum-de-entendimiento.html>

The Spanish cooperation works together with the National Council on Drinking Water and Sanitation (CONASA).

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/firman-convenios-para-proyectos-de-agua-y-saneamientos-apoyados-por-la-cooperacion-espanola.html>

The Supreme Electoral Court (TSE) requested that the Liberal Party presents them proof of wrongdoing by the 17 congresswo/men facing expulsion (see e-mails of the last few days).

<https://tiempo.hn/tse-citara-a-luis-zelaya-para-que-se-pronuncie-sobre-expulsion-de-diputados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/partido-liberal-tiene-cinco-dias-para-explicar-por-expulsion-de-17-parlamentarios/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2991-honduras-supera-a-venezuela-en-ranking-de-paises-con-mas-hambre>

29/09/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Femicide; Mining - Los Pinares; Criminalization - Post-Electoral Repression; National Police - Repression; Liberal Party; and Living for Soccer

The appeals court rejected the demand by COPINH and Berta's family to live stream the trial.

<https://copinh.org/2018/09/la-corte-de-apelaciones-niega-el-derecho-a-audiencias-publicas-mediante-transmision-en-vivo-en-la-causa-berta-caceres/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/29/corte-de-apelaciones-niega-derecho-de-transmision-en-vivo-del-juicio-contra-asesinos-de-berta-caceres/>

According to feminist and women's rights organizations, 260 women violently lost their lives from January to August this year. Radio Progreso finds two main culprits, a cultural violence in which machismo and the devaluation of women dominates as well as a state violence in which the State does not allow women the needed spaces to participate. "The State represses with laws."

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/violencia-femicida-29-septiembre-2018/>

El Tiempo reports on the work of Jessenia Molina who uncovered that Congress reduced the size of a national park in 2013 to benefit the mining operations of Inversiones Los Pinares belonging to Lenir Pérez.

<https://tiempo.hn/minera-de-liner-perez-inversiones-pinares/>

After more than seven years with alternative measures to imprisonment, a group of 18 teachers was finally acquitted. They participated in a protest on March 24, 2011 and then were arrested and charged with sedition.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/despues-de-siete-anos-acusados-de-sedicion-maestros-son-absueltos/>

COFADEH found that in El Progreso alone, some 60 people have by now been criminalized for their participation in the post-electoral protests. This as well as the situation of the political prisoners remaining incarcerated will be discussed at a IACHR hearing on October 3.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mas-de-60-presos-politicos-habria-en-el-progreso/>

On August 12, 2009, members of the police force violently repressed a protest against the coup d'état. They arrested 24 protesters and tortured them. Five police agents were charged but on December 12, 2013, a judge decided to release them. COFADEH appealed this decision and now, five years later, the appeal was confirmed and the police agents will face trial starting on October 24.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/revocan-libertad-definitiva-a-policias-torturadores-en-el-golpe-de-estado-del-2009/>

The Liberal Party continues to break down. Now the former president Carlos Flores Facussé also joins in.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1220794-466/se-atiza-el-fuego-cruzado-entre-l%C3%ADderes-del-partido-liberal>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/09/27/solo-se-existe-en-90-minutos/>

30/09/18

Honduras Daily: US - TIGRES; HRDs - Criminalization; Abortion; Corruption - CNA; Liberal Party; Penitentiary System; and the Importance of Judicial Independence

The US Chargé d'affaires tweets: "Took visiting US congressional delegation to observe firsthand @PoliciaNacional TIGRES readiness to combat crime. Proud of @usembassyhn, @StateINL, @SSEGURIDADHN y @PoliciaColombia cooperation to disrupt criminal networks and make #Honduras safer."

These TIGRES special forces are held responsible for grave human rights violations during the recent post-electoral protests (see second link for an example).

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1046514311789772801>

<https://theintercept.com/2018/02/20/honduras-election-protest-tigres/>

The America's director of Amnesty International, Erika Guevara-Rosas, denounces an increase in the criminalization and defamation of HRDs and the lack of response by the State to protect them.

Even worse, Defensores en Línea reports on a recent visit by COFADEH to various indigenous Lenca communities in La Paz and to the main organizations that represent them. They all denounce suffering from criminalization by the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/30/honduras-las-autoridades-deben-garantizar-la-seguridad-de-los-defensores-y-periodistas-objeto-de-campanas-de-desprestigio/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/criminalizacion-la-variable-constante-entre-las-comunidades-indigenas-lencas-de-la-paz/>

El Tiempo reports on the grim consequences of the criminalization of abortion in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/aborto-en-honduras-causa-segunda/>

La Prensa published a longer article on the internal disputes at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) which further weakens the fight against corruption in Honduras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1221010-410/crispan-relaciones-entre-asamblea-directora-cna-gabriela-castellanos>

El Pulso published an analysis of the current situation of the Liberal Party in a "chronicle of a death foretold".

Edmundo Orellana reminds us that the 17 congresswo/men have not been expelled (yet), but that their cases have been sent to the disciplinary board who will decide on their expulsion.

<http://elpulso.hn/fragmentacion-pl/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/30/expulsiones/>

Yesterday, two inmates died and at least seven were injured in what the media called a confrontation between inmates. This took place in the so-called high-security prison La Tolva where two political prisoners are held.

<https://tiempo.hn/dos-personas-muertas-la-tolva/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1220990-410/amotinamiento-en-la-tolva-deja-dos-muertos-y-al-menos-siete-heridos>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/09/29/las-lecciones-de-una-sentencia-internacional-en-materia-de-independencia-judicial/>