

02/12/18

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; Journalists; Mining; COFADEH; HIV; Caravan; Mexico; National Dialogue; IMF; and the Brother's Cocaine

These last week, the JOH regime has come under renewed pressure from the streets. The reasons for this have been listed in previous e-mails, but an additional explanatory factor is that the perception of the Honduran people does not square well with the statistics presented by the JOH regime, e.g. the homicide rate or the dispute about the poverty rate. Envío just published an essay of mine taking a deeper look at the use of statistics to force through a militarization program and maintain power by JOH. The essay (in Spanish) is based on a term paper I wrote this Spring (in English). For those preferring English, I added a separate link.

https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/1811_Langmeier_Env%C3%ADo_PoderEstadistico.pdf

https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/1805_Langmeier_StatisticalPower-1.pdf

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/cuestionando-un-enfoque-hegemonico-sobre-la-reduccion-de-la-violencia/>

Padre Melo calls for a united social and political front to get rid of the JOH regime.

The Citizen Action Movement (MAC) affiliated to PAC, published a press release demanding the resignation of JOH.

<https://tiempo.hn/padre-melo-a-plataformas-de-oposicion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/movimiento-de-accion-ciudadana-pide-salida-inmediata-de-hernandez/>

Manuel Zelaya spoke with US vice-president Mike Pence at the inauguration of the new Mexican president AMLO. He painted him a picture of the current situation in Honduras and how it is linked to last year's electoral fraud which the US supported.

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-a-mike-pence/>

Civil society organizations wrote a letter to EU ambassador Alessandro Palmero expressing concern regarding the violent repression by state security forces on November 26 and the situation of the journalist Geovanny Sierra.

The journalist Bartolo Fuentes denounces that the JOH regime continues to persecute him even abroad. He is being scapegoated as the organizer of the migrant caravan.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/01/envian-carta-al-embajador-de-la-union-europea-por-agresion-al-periodista-geovanny-sierra/>

<https://tiempo.hn/carta-embajador-ue-agresion-contra-periodista/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/01/gobierno-de-joh-me-persigue-mas-alla-de-las-fronteras-hondurenas-bartolo-fuentes/>

The inhabitants in El Triunfo, Choluteca rejected mining projects in their area in a self-proclaimed public consultation.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/02/el-triunfo-choluteca-dice-no-a-la-mineria/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1238770-466/el-municipio-de-el-triunfo-voto-por-el-futuro-de-su-explotacion-minera>

COFADEH commemorated its 36th anniversary.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sembrando-memoria-cofadeh-cumple-36-anos/>

In the first ten months of 2018, the Health Secretariat registered 697 new HIV positive cases in Honduras.
In a column for ContraCorriente, Nicolás Páez calls for open and public discussions about HIV - or as he calls it: "getting HIV out of the closet".

<https://tiempo.hn/secretaria-de-salud-r697-nuevos-casos-vih/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/12/01/98579/>

Criterio believes that the public has turned its attention away from situation of the Honduran migrants in Mexico.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/01/caravana-de-migrantes-parece-ser-tema-olvidado/>

El Tiempo reports that the new Mexican president AMLO signed an agreement with his Northern Triangle counterparts to reduce "irregular migration".

<https://tiempo.hn/para-eliminar-la-migracion-irregular-firman-plan-de-desarrollo-integral/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/01/presidente-hernandez-participa-en-toma-de-posesion-de-lopez-obrador-en-mexico/>

Radio HRN reports the National Dialogue came to 169 agreements. Maybe they mistakenly read the Sustainable Development Goals...

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/12/01/dialogo-ha-logrado-169-acuerdos-informa-onu-al-presidente-hernandez/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1238548-466/garafulic-visito-a-los-tres-actores-de-la-crisis-politica>

Javier Suazo highlights how the IMF lacks awareness (or prefers to look the other way) to the reality of Honduras as a narco-state and how this affects its political economy.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/196810>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/01/la-cocaina-del-hermano/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/02/honduras-es-un-poema-narcopolitico/>

03/12/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - US; Lawyers; HR; Mining; Post-Electoral Violence; Zacate Grande; Armed Forces; Caravan; Community Radios; Corruption - Pandora, Astropharma, RNP, IHSS; Drug Trafficking; National Dialogue - Political Prisoners; and Defending the Commons

This Thursday, COPINH and MADJ will inform about about last week's conviction and the next steps in a public even in Washington.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1069745516957892609>

The criminal lawyer Reinaldo Barahona was murdered yesterday near the Supreme Court.

The police reacted by blaming the victim. According to the press speaker of the National Police, Reinaldo Barahona was murdered because he defended criminals.

Criminologist Gonzalo Sánchez believes that this murder in front of the Supreme Court, surrounded by police and armed forces, shows the confidence of criminals in Honduras.

Some 130 lawyers have been murdered since 2010 and over 90% of the cases rest unpunished.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-un-abogado-en-las-barbas-del-poder-judicial-y-casa-de-gobierno/>

<https://tiempo.hn/parte-policial-penalista-hondureno-defendiendo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-cree-que-abogado-muerto-habria-defendido-a-criminales/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1239084-466/frente-al-palacio-de-justicia-eso-ya-no-tiene-nombre-dice-crimin%C3%B3logo>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/03/alrededor-de-153-abogados-han-sido-asesinados-en-honduras-entre-2002-y-2018/>

Several Central American human rights organizations, among them CIPRODEH from Honduras, published the 2018 human rights monitor for Central America.

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/images/Doc/INFORME-DERECHOS-HUMANOS-V4.pdf>

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/index.php/noticias-principales/437-informe-sobre-derechos-humanos-y-conflictividad-en-centroamerica-2017-2018>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/03/paises-centroamericanos-sufren-deterioro-institucional-producto-de-la-corrupcion-impunidad-e-ingobernabilidad/>

On December 2, the inhabitants of the municipality El Triunfo, Choluteca participated in a public consultation on mining activities in their area (see also yesterday). The consultation was organized with the help of MASSVIDA and 60 communities participated. 97.90% rejected mining activities in their area.

ConexiHon reports on a town hall meeting in Orocuina, Choluteca on November 10 with the same outcome.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-consulta-ciudadana-el-triunfo-choluteca-dice-no-a-la-mineria/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/el-informador/item/2356-decision-de-las-comunidades-empresas-mineras-deben-irse-de-el-triunfo-choluteca>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/triunfenos-dicen-no-a-la-explotacion-minera/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/885-orocuina-se-declara-libre-de-mineria-y-plantas-fotovoltaicas>

One year ago, the 39-year old Raúl Antonio Triminio Cisnado was murdered by the Military Police for participating in protests against the electoral fraud. COFADEH denounces that his and the other post-electoral assassinations still remain unpunished.

On the same day, December 3, Manuel de Jesús Bautista Salvador was forcefully disappeared after having been arrested by the Military Police.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/un-ano-sin-justicia-por-el-asesinato-de-raul-antonio-triminio-cisnado-a-mano-de-la-pmop/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/un-ano-de-silencio-de-las-autoridades-en-la-desaparicion-forzada-de-manuel-de-jesus-bautista-salvador/>

El Pulso reports that Mexico started to transfer Honduran migrants away from the US border near Tijuana some 20km inwards the country.

<http://elpulso.hn/lluvia-y-desilusion-disuelven-caravana-de-migrantes-en-tijuana/>

Giorgio Trucchi reports on the situation in Zacate Grande, where for years the some 1000 families that live there and the social movements accompanying them have suffered attacks and criminalization.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/zacate-grande-criminalizacion-de-la-lucha-en-defensa-de-territorios-y-playas/>

The head of the Armed Forces, René Ponce Fonseca, threatens publicly anyone linking them with drug trafficking and organized crime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ffaa-dispuestas-a-querellarse-contr-quienes-denuncian-vinculos-con-el-narco/>

Representatives of seven community radio stations met recently in a three-day gathering to discuss their work in defense of their land and public goods. Radio Stereo Namasigüe was recently founded as a response to problems with international investment in solar energy projects in the south of Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/884-radios-comunitarias-nos-unimos-para-romper-los-cercos-mediaticos-en-honduras>

Honduras in Action, HondurACTION, (according to Criterio, a project financed by the EU embassy), proposes to create a Citizen Anti-Corruption Platform.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/03/proponen-la-creacion-de-plataforma-anticorrupcion-ciudadana-en-honduras/>

ConfidencialHN claims that new arrests in the Pandora case are imminent.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tres-diputados-y-un-exparlamentario-seran-requeridos-por-nueva-trama-pandora-ii/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-presentara-requerimientos-fiscales-contra-funcionarios-corrutos-segun-cna/>

In the Astropharma corruption case, which included the sale of fake pharmaceuticals, the owner of International Laboratories (Lain), Miguel Flores Cisneros, was found guilty. Lain sold the drugs to Astropharma which then sold it to the Health Secretariat. Astropharma belongs to the Gutiérrez family, among them the former Nationalist vice-president of Congress, Lena Gutiérrez. She celebrates the sentence as proof of their innocence, but they are still under investigation on various accounts.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/03/ni-yo-ni-mi-familia-fabricamos-las-famosas-pastillas-de-harina-lena-gutierrez/>

The Intervention Committee of the National Registry of Persons (RNP) presented their first results. They report on 20 acts of corruption demanding an investigation by the MP and the Supreme Audit Court (TSC).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/03/junta-interventora-del-rnp-presenta-primeros-20-hallazgos-de-corrupcion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/interventora-pide-al-mp-investigar-irregularidades-y-negligencias-en-el-rnp/>

The former president of the business lobby COHEP, Óscar Galeano, was arrested for his presumed involvement in the IHSS corruption case.

<https://confidencialhn.com/detienen-a-expresidente-del-cohep-por-presunta-participacion-en-megafraude-al-ihss/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1239118-410/capturan-empresario-sampedrano-oscar-galeano-ihss>

La Prensa cites a DEA report highlighting the importance of Honduras in the ongoing cocaine trade.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1239121-410/dea-honduras-sigue-siendo-puente-transito-cocaina>

UN representative Igor Garafulic is optimistic that the National Dialogue will come to some important agreements this Thursday. Salvador Nasralla's representative Tony García reiterated that without an amnesty for the political prisoners, they won't be any agreement at all.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1239086-466/igor-garafulic-cree-que-si-habra-consensos-el-jueves-en-dialogo>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1239085-466/si-no-hay-amnist%C3%ADa-no-habr%C3%A1-acuerdos-en-el-di%C3%A1logo-en-honduras>

ERIC and Radio Progreso published a new book by Joaquín A. Mejía Rivera on international human rights obligations of the Honduran State regarding the protection of the commons and how they should be leveraged on the ground.

<https://joaquinmejiaivera.blogspot.com/2018/12/dos-nuevos-aportes-del-eric-sj.html>

04/12/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - IACHR, Agua Zarca; Corruption - IHSS; JOH; Armed Forces; Journalists; Zacate Grande; Bajo Aguán; Lawyers; National Dialogue; Electric Energy; Penitentiary System; and Militarization in the Americas

CEJIL informs about an upcoming hearing held at the IACHR this Thursday on the Berta Cáceres case.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cidh-honduras-debera-rendir-cuentas-irregularidades-primer-juicio-causa-berta-caceres>

COPINH published an interview with its coordinator Berta Zúniga in which she stresses the importance to have the concession of Agua Zarca canceled.

<https://copinh.org/2018/12/audio-doblar-el-brazo-a-la-impunidad/>

The MACCIH and UFECIC presented their seventh corruption cases yesterday. The case involves the company DIMESA and is linked to the bigger IHSS corruption case. According to their investigations, the IHSS made sales of expensive and overvalued, but unnecessary medical equipment solely to profit DIMESA.

The 50min press conference on the case can be watched on the MACCIH's Facebook page.

They presented arrest warrants against twelve former IHSS board members.

The same day, ATIC started to execute the arrest warrants.

All of the arrested will have to await trial in prison, except one who gets house arrest due to his medical condition. The 12th accused was still on the run by yesterday evening.

DIMESA called for the respect of the rule of law.

https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-076/18

<https://www.facebook.com/OEAMACCIH/videos/vb.575386339332629/359811848113756/?type=2&theater>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/04/presentan-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-miembros-de-exjunta-directiva-del-seguro-social/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/04/capturan-a-leonardo-villeda-armando-villatoroy-oscar-galeano-sospechosos-del-latrocinio-al-ihss/>

<https://tiempo.hn/a-prision-mandan-a-los-once-implicados-en-el-caso-de-latrocinio-del-ihss/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mandan-a-carcel-de-tamara-a-exdirectivos-del-seguro-social/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dimesa-asegura-que-no-existio-dano-patrimonial-contra-el-ihss-o-sus-derechohabientes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empresa-acusada-por-la-maccih-pide-respeto-al-debido-proceso/>

CIPRODEH's director agrees with Padre Melo that a united social and oppositional political movement may succeed in raising the pressure on JOH for him to resign.

Meanwhile in Congress, Libre once more tried to present a bill demanding an investigation of JOH's link to his brother's drug trafficking activities.

<https://confidencialhn.com/una-verdadera-articulacion-social-puede-sacar-a-joh-del-poder-wilfredo-mendez/>

<https://tiempo.hn/suspenden-sesion-en-el-cn-libre-buscaba-presentar-mocion-para-investigar-a-joh/>

Two days ago, the head of the Armed Forces threatened anyone daring to link them to drug trafficking. Pinu congressman Luis Redondo took up the dare and did just that.

<https://tiempo.hn/como-guachimanes-de-grupos-criminales-califica-luis-redondo-a-miembros-de-la-ff-aa/>

The sitting judge in the case of the criminalized journalist Jairo López was replaced for conflicts of interest. He was the legal representative of the plaintiff in the past...

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2357-recusan-a-juez-en-el-caso-del-periodista-jairo-lopez-por-conflicto-de-intereses>

Giorgio Trucchi follows with another article on the human rights situation in Zacate Grande, this time focusing on the tourism sector (see also yesterday).

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/196948>

The community radio La Voz de Copa in the Bajo Aguán denounces that state security forces destroyed the crops of campesino families in Saba.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/12/honduras-campesinos-organizados-en.html>

The president of the Lawyers Association Honduras (CAH), Any Ochoa, rejects the explanation by the police that the lawyer Reinaldo Barahona was murdered for defending criminals in court (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-de-abogados-rechaza-version-policial-por-crimen-de-penalista/>

While acknowledging the importance of dialogue for "the democratic development of a country", Radio Progreso explains why the Honduran setting fails to bring forward a solution to the current crisis. "By simple logic, the same ones indicated in cases of corruption and with links with arms and drug trafficking, are the promoters and defenders of the implementation of a dialogue that, like almost two hundred years ago, once again excluded the great impoverished majorities of Honduran history. In the dialogue, the same political-party domes were set up to resolve, according to them, the deep crisis provoked by them."

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/7064-2/>

Two Libre congressmen presented a motion in Congress based on a citizen's initiative which demands the derogation of the contract between the State of Honduras and the disputed Energy Company Honduras (EEH).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/04/presentan-ante-el-congreso-nacional-iniciativa-ciudadana-para-derogar-contrato-a-eeh/>

ConfidencialHN reports that there was a confrontation between inmates in the so-called high-security prison El Pozo and that some inmates used the situation to escape. The deputy director of the National Penitentiary Institute first claimed that everything is "under control". Then he confirmed that there was a confrontation but he denied that any inmates escaped.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-descartan-rina-en-penal-de-ultra-alta-seguridad-el-pozo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mientras-sistema-penitenciario-dice-que-no-hay-altercado-se-registran-fugas-en-el-pozo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/subdirector-inp-desmiente-fuga-el-pozo/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/04/conato-de-amotinamiento-en-carcel-de-ilama-santa-barbara/>

This Thursday, a IACHR hearing looks at the militarization of public security in the Americas. COFADEH co-requested the hearing and will inform about the situation in the Northern Triangle.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/audiencia-regional-sobre-militarizacion-de-la-seguridad-publica-en-los-paises-de-las-americas-ante-la-cidh/>

05/12/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - US; JOH - US; JOH's Cabinet; Mining - Guapinol; Journalists; OFRANEH; Corruption - IHSS; Armed Forces; EU - RNP; Extradition; and Electoral Reforms

The recently elected US congresswoman Ilhan Omar published a statement demanding the investigation and arrest of the intellectual authors behind Berta's assassination.

<https://twitter.com/IlhanMN/status/1069689251552468992>

<https://copinh.org/2018/12/comunicado-de-ilhan-omar-congresista-de-eeuu-exigiendo-juicio-a-los-autores-intelectuales/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/12/fotos-hay-condena-pero-no-justicia/>

Radio Progreso explains how some are doing good badly while others are doing bad so well that some perceive it as good. It is the tale of the Honduran political opposition and the JOH regime. "What to do to identify evil among so many actions and words that shine as if they were kind? What do we do to not get caught up in the pitfalls of what seems to lead us to agree with the project of evil embodied in the current regime? What to do so that the good that is done in the opposition sectors is so well done that it unmasks the criminal project, and leads to the exit of the dictator?" These questions are directed both to the Honduran people as well as to the international community. John Perry published an worthwhile overview of the current situation and the state of the JOH regime. "It may be that Washington has decided Hernández no longer serves US interests. His brother Tony, a notorious drug-trafficker who operated with impunity for 14 years, was unexpectedly arrested in Miami at the end of November. If President Hernández is deposed, he won't be the first Central American leader whose crimes are initially overlooked by the US, but provide a ready excuse for disposing of him when he ceases to be useful and becomes an embarrassment."

Libre continues to protest JOH in Congress.

<http://wp.radioprogresohn.net/cuando-el-bien-se-hace-tan-mal/>

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2018/12/05/john-perry/the-plunder-continues/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fuera-j-fauna-legislativa-provoca-cancelacion-de-sesion-en-congreso/>

It is not a good sign that in the midst of this crisis caused, among other things, by state security forces shooting on its own people, the US donates a plane to the Honduran Air Force (FAH).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/05/ee-uu-dona-avion-a-militares-de-honduras-en-medio-de-senalamientos-de-narcotrafico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mientras-su-hermano-esta-presos-en-eeuu-joh-alaba-su-lucha-contra-el-narcotrafico/>

JOH, meanwhile, announced new changes to his cabinet which will be made public soon. ConfidencialHN believes that he will also replace the

Secretary of Security, Julián Pacheco.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-se-apresta-a-cambiar-funcionarios-incluyendo-seguridad-publica/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1239737-410/joh-hara-reingenieria-gabinete-gobierno>

Jeremías Martínez, a local leader and campesino in Guapinol, will have to await trial in prison. He is being criminalized for his peaceful resistance against a mining project by Inversiones Los Pinares. His lawyer Omar Menjívar denounces that due process has been violated and that he is being sent for a crime he did not commit.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/12/honduras-persecucion-y-criminalizacion.html>

Pen International and Pen Honduras organized a forum in Tegucigalpa on crimes against journalists and who benefits from their silence.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2358-a-quien-le-interesa-mantener-callados-a-los-periodistas-en-honduras>

OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda spoke with Pikasa Lab about the struggle of Honduras' Garífuna people, on how the JOH regime ignores IACtHR sentences and on why humanizing the planet is the only way to save it.

<http://lab.pikaramagazine.com/entrevista-miriam-miranda/>

TSC magistrate Roy Pineda announces new corruption charges against public officials without giving any further details.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tribunal-superior-de-cuentas-enviara-nuevos-casos-de-corrupcion-al-ministerio-publico/>

The MACCIH and UFECIC brought the IHSS corruption case back to the headlines on Tuesday (see yesterday's e-mail). Already then, 11 people were arrested and ten were sent to prison to await trial, one got house arrest. One person, Hilario Espinoza, remained on the run. He appeared before a court yesterday, denouncing that he had not been informed about the search for him and that there was no legal way for him to present himself to the authorities. As the other accused, he was sent to prison to await trial. Their first hearing took place yesterday afternoon. The daughter of one of the accused, Óscar Galeano, denounced that his rights have been violated. She claims he is sick and being over 70 years old, he should not have to await trial in prison. The business lobby COHEP, meanwhile, denounces the violation of due process of its former members at the IHSS board. Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez demands the investigation of the intellectual authors of the IHSS corruption case as well as the one having received the stolen funds.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/12/05/el-desfalco-del-ihss-se-sigue-desenredando/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sindicalista-perseguido-por-megafraude-al-ihss-niega-corrupcion-en-compra-de-equipos-a-dimesa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mandan-al-presidio-a-sindicalista-hilario-espinoza-por-trama-corrupta-contr-el-ihss/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1239729-410/exdirectivos-ihss-conocen-si-siguen-prision>

<https://tiempo.hn/violacion-a-los-derechos-de-oscar-galeano/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/05/cohep-dice-que-hay-persecucion-contr-sus-miembros-senalados-en-latrocinio-del-ihss/>

<https://tiempo.hn/doris-gutierrez-sobre-caso-ihss-el-delito-se-cometio-y-la-justicia-tiene-que-aplicarse/>

Criterio reports that Congress irregularly voted on the promotion of various army officials.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/05/congreso-nacional-de-honduras-aprueba-ascensos-a-oficiales-de-las-fuerzas-armadas-en-dudosa-votacion/>

An EU expert delegation started its supervision of the work by the intervention committee of the RNP.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1239712-466/la-ue-inicia-veedur%C3%ADa-para-el-proyecto-de-identificaci%C3%B3n-nacional>

Another Honduran on the US extradition list has been arrested.

<https://confidencialhn.com/capturan-extraditable-ligado-al-cartel-de-los-hermanos-valle/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/extraditable-llega-a-su-audiencia-de-declaracion-de-imputado/>

The OAS expert mission will present their report on recommended electoral reforms for Honduras to Congress next week.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1239708-466/expertos-de-la-oea-entregan-informe-la-pr%C3%B3xima-semana>

06/12/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - IACHR; Drug Trafficking - JOH; JOH's Cabinet; Corruption - Impunity Pact; Caravan - Facebook; Maras - US; Journalists; Mining; Education; and the Ever-powerful Armed Forces

Yesterday, the hearing at the IACHR took place in the Berta Cáceres case. IACHR commissioner asked the Honduran State to revoke the concession granted for the Agua Zarca project as the process leading to the concession contradicts jurisprudence of the IACtHR.

<https://copinh.org/2018/12/video-y-fotos-copinh-presente-audiencias-cidh-causa-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1070717957368623105>

<https://twitter.com/cejil/status/1070716837049106434>

Two weeks have past since the arrest of Tony Hernández in the US. Radio Progreso denounces that the MP in Honduras still has not seized his goods as stipulated by the Domain Deprivation Law. The MP did not show the same behavior in previous drug trafficking cases.

The former president Manuel Zelaya challenges JOH by publicly stating that he is open to be investigated for links to drug trafficking if JOH is exposed to the same investigation.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn/a-dos-semanas-de-captura-de-tony-hernandez-fiscalia-sigue-sin-asegurar-bienes/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/06/mel-zelaya-acepta-que-lo-investiguen-por-narcotrafico-y-que-se-haga-lo-mismo-con-joh/>

El Libertador published additional details on the expected changes to JOH's cabinet.

The former president of the Central Bank, Hugo Noe Pino, summarizes JOH's efforts: "The dictator seeks to oxygenate the discredit of his government by changing ministers. What he does not understand is that he is the main problem, because of the illegality, illegitimacy, and corruption of the government."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3120-joh-prepara-nuevo-gabinete-con-empresarios-ongs-y-organizaciones-sociales>

<https://twitter.com/hnoepino/status/1070484453590515712>

The Impunity Pact corruption case involving two Nationalist congressmen will go to court next Wednesday, December 12.

<https://twitter.com/UFECIC1/status/1070764266427478016>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3122-diputados-hondurenos-tono-rivera-y-sara-medina-a-juicio-por-pacto-de-impunidad>

<https://tiempo.hn/tono-rivera-y-sara-medina-audiencia/>

BuzzFeed reports on a suspicious Facebook account that misinformed the public about the migrant caravan and its origin. Criminalized Honduran journalist Bartolo Fuentes "believes it's important to find out who was behind the rogue account — but hasn't gotten any answers from Facebook."

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/kenbensinger/a-mysterious-imposter-account-was-used-on-facebook-to-drum>

InSight Crime reports on Maras as a push factor of migration and the challenges with gang prevention and rehabilitation programs. "The scarcity of scientific data on the impact of prevention programs in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras make any objective evaluation, at best challenging and at worst impossible. The strong US politicization of the migration issue only promises to cloud the needed scientific debate. (...) A former gang leader interviewed by InSight Crime just a few blocks away from Rivera Hernández' youth center said the kids from his area couldn't set foot in the place."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/gang-prevention-central-america-lost-battle-against-state-indifference/>

C-Libre denounces that the police detained journalism students covering a protest as part of an assignment.

Journalists and social communicators from all over Honduras met to discuss their common challenges and form the National Network of Journalists and Social Communicators.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/detencion-arbitraria/930-policias-detienen-a-estudiante-de-periodismo-que-realizaba-cobertura-formativa>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/12/honduras-escuela-de-periodismo-emite.html>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2360-se-conforma-red-nacional-de-periodistas-y-comunicadores-sociales-para-defender-la-libertad-de-expresion-y-de-prensa>

A week ago, inhabitants of El Triunfo, Choluteca, declared their territory free of mining (see previous e-mails). Radio Progreso reports on the challenges to have this decision officially recognized.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/presionar-a-autoridades-para-que-declaren-oficialmente-al-municipio-libre-de-minera-reto-para-el-triunfo-choluteca/>

JOH announced to spend 1 billion Lempiras for pay rise for teachers in 2019. Just as the announced reshuffle of his cabinet, this seems to be linked to the growing pressure against his regime.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/07/juan-orlando-hernandez-anuncia-1000-millones-para-aumento-a-los-maestros/>

Honduras debated the role of its Armed Forces in a forum organized by CESPAD, "The Military in Honduras, from the democratic transition in the

90s to the current authoritarian democracy".

Raúl Pineda Alvarado highlighted the undemocratic character of the Armed Forces.

Eugenio Sosa explained how the Secrecy Law protects the Armed Forces and grants them impunity.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/06/el-poder-omnipotente-de-los-militares-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/06/ff-aa-no-son-institucion-para-salvaguardar-la-democracia-raul-pineda-alvarado-video/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/06/ley-de-secretos-fue-aprobada-para-dar-impunidad-a-los-militares/>

07/12/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - UN, US, IACHR; JOH - US; Corruption - Congress; Students; Hydroelectricity; Indigenous Women; Militarization; Armed Forces - Murder; Journalists - Impunity; Migration - US, Climate Change; Homicide Rate; Public Health; and Signs of Hope

Several UN experts and Special Rapporteurs published a joint press release expressing their concern that the intellectual authors of the assassination of Berta Cáceres still walk free.

<https://www.protecting-defenders.org/es/noticias/honduras-expertos-de-la-onu-lamentan-que-los-autores-intelectuales-de-la-muerte-de-berta>

<https://news.un.org/es/story/2018/12/1447371>

<https://copinh.org/2018/12/expertos-de-la-onu-lamentan-que-los-autores-intelectuales-de-la-muerte-de-berta-caceres-sigan-en-libertad/>

The US, meanwhile, lauded for the second time the work of the MP in the Berta Cáceres case, a case riddled with irregularities, without even mentioning the lack of investigation into the intellectual authorship.

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1071077370763927552>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1240212-410/eeuu-fiscal-hondure%C3%B1o-oscar-chichilla-honduras-ministerio-publico-heide-fulton>

CEJIL summarizes Thursday's hearing at the IACHR on the Berta Cáceres case (see also yesterday).

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cidh-condenas-caso-berta-caceres-no-representan-justicia>

<https://copinh.org/2018/12/infobae-la-presidenta-de-la-cidh-insto-a-honduras-a-revocar-la-concesion-que-motivo-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

While JOH is under increasing pressure at home, the US assistant secretary of Defense, Sergio de la Peña, met with him in Tegucigalpa promising ongoing support in the area of security.

A similar message was sent by the US embassy.

The Deputy State Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, Kimberly Breier, met with Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla praising his work and promising ongoing support.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/07/presidente-de-honduras-se-reune-con-subsecretario-de-defensa-de-ee-uu/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/07/ee-uu-dice-que-seguira-trabajando-hombro-a-hombro-con-joh/>

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/mensaje-fin-ano-embajada-estados-unidos-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1240328-466/estados-unidos-elogia-labor-del-fiscal-chinchilla-al-frente-del-ministerio-p%C3%BAblico>

The MACCIH published a press release expressing its concern regarding Congress' intention to reactivate the corruption-riddled Departmental Funds.

<https://www.oas.org/es/sap/dsdme/maccih/new/docs/MCH-008.18-MACCIH-OEA-expresa-preocupacion-por-reformas-encaminadas-a-reactivar-el-Fondo-Social-Departamental.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/07/la-maccih-preocupada-por-reformas-encaminadas-a-reactivar-el-fondo-social-departamental/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces the ongoing criminalization of students in Honduras. Yesterday, three students were sent to pre-trial detention. They were arrested on Thursday when leaving their classrooms accused of burning three buses, which they deny. There are videos linking undercover police to the burning of the buses. The three students denounce having suffered physical and psychological torture in custody.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/2361-juez-envia-a-la-carcel-a-estudiantes-de-la-unah>

The MP presented an arrest warrant against the former under-secretary of Natural Resources, Marco Jonathan Laínez, for abuse of authority. He did not consult the local inhabitants before granting a license for a hydroelectric project.

<https://confidencialhn.com/libran-requerimiento-contra-exfuncionario-ambiental-por-abuso-de-autoridad/>

Radio Progreso portrays the National Coordination of Indigenous Women of Honduras, CONAMIN.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-honduras-mujeres-siguen-lucha-en-defensa-de-sus-territorios/>

This Thursday, there was a regional hearing at the IACHR on the militarization of public security.

The IACHR announced that in 2019 they will increase their work on the demilitarization of the region and they presented a priority action plan. At the same time in Honduras, a forum on the role of the Armed Forces took place (see also yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/denuncian-ante-la-cidh-la-militarizacion-de-la-seguridad-publica/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-desmilitarizacion-en-latinoamerica-sera-una-prioridad-para-la-cidh-en-2019/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/fuertemente-cuestionado-el-rol-de-las-fuerzas-armadas-de-honduras-en-las-ultimas-decadas/>

An army official shot dead a 30-year old man, Dennis Edgardo Álvarez, who mistook his car for the identically looking car of the army official. On a parking lot of a mall, Álvarez walked to what he believed his car and was immediately shot in the head when he opened the car door.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1240252-410/muere-joven-evangelico-militar-confunde-delincuente-dennis-alvarez>

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-joven-que-fue-acribillado-por-militar-en-centro-comercial-de-comayagua/>

Defensores en Línea spoke with Mario Argeñal, the brother of social communicator Juan Carlos Argeñal who was murdered five years ago and whose case rests unpunished.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/otro-ano-que-nos-deja/>

"Fearing MS-13, Santos Chirino sought asylum in the United States. He was denied. Shortly after returning to Honduras, he was killed. His

children hope a judge will spare them the same fate."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/local/asylum-deported-ms-13-honduras/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.74ff33c06bfb

"Why the Migrant Caravan Story Is a Climate Change Story - Drought, crop failure, storms, and land disputes pit the rich against the poor, and Central America is ground zero for climate change."

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/peace-justice/why-the-migrant-caravan-story-is-a-climate-change-story-20181127>

The Economist reports on the homicide rates in the Northern Triangle countries (for a more critical reading of the Honduran case I refer again to my article from Monday's e-mail).

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2018/12/08/the-northern-triangle-is-becoming-less-murderous>

ConfidencialHN reports that Taiwan donated \$1 million to Honduras which will be used for the controversial intervention committee of the public health sector.

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-millon-de-dolares-se-invertiran-para-la-transformacion-del-sector-salud/>

Radio Progreso highlights some "small victories by a great people" in 2018.

<http://wp.radioprogressohn.net/pequenas-victorias-de-un-gran-pueblo/>

08/12/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Students; Drug Trafficking - JOH, US; LGBTI - US; MAS; Femicide; Corruption - IHSS, de Lobo; Privatization; Diplomacy; and Support or Interference?

Today is the International Day of Human Rights Defenders. The IACHR and OACNUDH published a joint press release highlighting the role of HRDs as "essential pillars of democracy".

Nevertheless, as CIVICUS reminds us, HRDs "are being violently attacked and killed in record numbers 20 years after historic UN declaration adopted to protect them".

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2018/261.asp>

<https://civicus.org/index.php/media-resources/media-releases/3659-human-rights-groups-globally-call-for-end-to-killing-of-activists-in-record-numbers>

Defensores en Línea published additional information on the three arrested students sent to prison on Friday (see also yesterday). They remind us about the wave of criminalization against students last year and that one student leader still lives in Costa Rica which granted him political asylum.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tres-universitarios-son-enviados-a-prision/>

Both El Tiempo and Criterio picked up a recent article by VICE which highlights the connections of JOH's arrested brother Tony Hernández to Maras.

<https://tiempo.hn/nueva-investigacion-afirma-que-tony-herandez-tuvo-viculos-con-ms-13-pandilla-18/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/08/tony-herandez-estaba-conectado-con-las-maras-ms13-y-salvatrucha-vice/>

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/kzvgvx/how-cocaine-fueled-corruption-helped-spark-the-migrant-caravan

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana comments on the role of the US in prosecuting drug trafficking across Latin America and its blind spots when it comes to the involvement of the US and its citizens.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/08/juicio-contra-latinoamerica/>

"Three U.S. senators want federal officials to publicly release information about the circumstances surrounding the death of a Honduran transgender migrant who was in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11710546/a-transgender-migrant-died-in-ice-custody-kamala-harris-and-new-mexicos-senators-want-an-explanation>

<http://elpulso.hn/senadores-solicitan-a-ice-entregue-reporte-de-muerte-de-trans-hondurena/>

The Environmental Movement of Santa Barbara (MAS) commemorates its seventh anniversary.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mas-arriba-a-siete-anos-por-la-defensa-del-ambiente/>

Reporteros de Investigación published an interactive map of femicides occurring between 2013 and 2016 in Honduras.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/12/07/mapa-interactivo-de-crimenes-contra-mujeres-en-honduras-durante-cuatro-anos/>

In the newest part of the IHSS corruption case involving former board members, a first resolution by the court will be known on Monday. El Pulso conducted two interviews with labor union representatives regarding the case.

<https://tiempo.hn/fallo-para-exdirectivos-del-ihss/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/prosigue-audiencia-inicial-contra-exdirectivos-del-ihss-por-supuesta-corrupcion/>

<http://elpulso.hn/si-cometieron-delito-fue-mas-por-omision-jose-luis-baquedano/>

<http://elpulso.hn/los-trabajadores-capturados-no-se-han-bebido-un-refresco-del-pisto-del-ihss-joel-almendarez/>

The lawyer of the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo resigned.

<https://tiempo.hn/renuncias-abogado-ex-primera-dama/>

"An October report by Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, on the effect of privatisation on human rights, has heavily criticised the World Bank and IMF's aggressive promotion of it, arguing that widespread privatisation of public goods in many societies is "systematically eliminating human rights protections and further marginalising those living in poverty.""

<https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2018/12/imf-and-world-banks-support-for-privatisation-condemned-by-un-expert/>

The JOH regime opened an embassy in Austria as well as a representation at the UN system in Vienna.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/08/agencias-de-naciones-unidas-con-sede-en-austria-ratifican-su-apoyo-a-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/08/eeuu-apoyo-o-injerencia/>

09/12/18

Honduras Daily: Journalists; JOH - US; Caravan - Deportations; Corruption - HR, Construction, TSC; Coalianza; Minimum Wage; National Police; and Blue, the Color of Cocaine

Unknown subjects sprayed the following threat on a wall opposite to the house of Radio Progreso correspondent Erick Pineda yesterday morning: "We give you 24 hours to leave the country. You Fucking Correspondent." Radio Progreso immediately brought the case to the attention of the protection mechanism and filed complaints at further state bodies. OACNUDH expressed its concern about the threat.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/amenazan-de-muerte-a-corresponsal-de-radio-progreso/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2362-mensaje-de-muerte-te-damos-24-horas-para-salir-del-pais-le-dicen-en-mensaje-a-corresponsal-de-radio-progreso>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1071912400016826369>

In the "last dance of Heide [Fulton] and JOH", Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle analyzes the situation of the JOH regime and its relationship to the US. The same Heide Fulton, US' chargé d'affaires, was in Trujillo yesterday with JOH and she called Honduras a "strong ally".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/09/el-ultimo-danzon-de-heidee-con-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/habla-fulton-honduras-es-un-aliado-y-socio-estategico-para-ee-uu/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network will hold a webinar tomorrow on the root causes of the migrant caravan with the "Honduran journalist, former opposition congressman, and human rights defender, Bartolo Fuentes who was accompanying the Refugee Caravan until he was detained by Guatemalan officials and deported to Honduras".

<https://afgj.org/bilingual-webinar-presented-by-the-honduras-solidarity-network?fbclid=IwAR0eSNf8PawpCsBjPtOlkq3MZxZI9SwEs9y3GVeU6eWHcaLqiSi6Hp2d8M>

Criterio reports on the difficult situation deported Hondurans face.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/09/hondurenos-repatriados-a-la-desesperanza/>

ConexiHon published an OpEd by Bärbel Kofler, a German SPD parliamentarian and the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid. Kofler writes about the 2003 UN convention against corruption, UNCAC, and its implementation in the Northern Triangle.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/893-estado-de-derecho-y-derechos-humanos>

La Prensa reports that at least 18 public officials are being accused of fraud and more in relation unfinished infrastructure projects.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1240757-410/denuncian-18-funcionarios-fraude-obras-fallidas-honduras>

The TSC send six cases to the MP regarding cases of illicit enrichment reaching more than 15 million Lempiras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1240734-466/el-tsc-remite-seis-informes-al-mp-con-enriquecimiento>

According to El Heraldo, the privatizing body Coalianza is about to collapse.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1240737-466/honduras-colapsada-sin-proyectos-ni-presupuesto-est%C3%A1-coalianza>

Labor union leader José Luis Baquedano denounces the rejection by the maquiladora industry to raise the minimum wage.

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-hay-acuerdos-para-nuevo-salario-obreros-quieren-ocho-por-ciento-y-maquila-cinco/>

El Heraldo reports that 1081 new police agents with a focus on community policing graduated last week.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1240730-466/unos-1136-nuevos-polic%C3%ADas-listos-para-combatir-la-criminalidad>

"The Scott test or cobalt thiocyanate test is a chemical test to demonstrate the presence of Cocaine, a drug derived from the plant *Erythroxylum coca* and its reaction is demonstrated through a bright blue color. In Honduras the most reactionary and conservative party is the National Party and it is also identified with the color BLUE. For being a party that has always been characterized as corrupt, exploitative, golpista and militarist their followers are called cachurecos or the Blues.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/895-pintado-de-azul>

10/12/18

Honduras Daily: JOH; Drug Trafficking - US; Students; Religion; Campesinx; HR - UN; Privatization; Congress; Deforestation; Corruption - IHSS; MACCIH; War on Drugs; Penitentiary System; National Dialogue; and Fearing the Hondurization of Latin America

The organizations conforming the Citizens Action Platform against the Dictatorship will present a request at the MP today for the investigation of JOH and possible drug trafficking links. OFRANEH wonders if what we have seen since the arrest of Tony Hernández are the first sign of a tumbling narcostate.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/10/plataforma-ciudadana-presentara-accion-criminal-contra-juan-hernandez-ante-el-ministerio-publico/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/12/10/se-tambalea-el-narcoestado/>

Tony Hernández will appear in court today.
The Honduran congressman Fredy Renán Nájera Montoya declared himself guilty of drug trafficking in a US court.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1241077-466/tony-hern%C3%A1ndez-acudir%C3%A1-este-martes-a-su-primera-audiencia>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1241076-466/fredy-n%C3%A1jera-se-declara-culpable-de-narcotr%C3%A1fico-en-estados-unidos>

UNAH students started an occupation of the university in protest against the pre-trial detention of three students (see previous e-mails).
The Alignment against the Reelection (CCC) condemned the arrest and pre-trial detention of the students in a press release.
Reporteros de Investigación report on the gruesome murder of the 24-year old student Iván Enrique Mejía Montoya which may be linked to student protests and the violent state repression.
The student movement MEU holds the ATIC responsible for burning down the buses. They denounce that ATIC agents infiltrated the protests to have them criminalized as exemplified by the three students in pre-trial detention.
Defensores en Línea published a statement by Eduardo Urbina, a Honduran student forced to seek political asylum in Costa Rica a year ago during the post-electoral repression.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3129-paralizan-la-unah-por-detencion-arbitraria-de-tres-estudiantes>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2363-convergencia-contra-el-continuisimo-funcionarios-judiciales-siguen-agenda-del-regimen>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/12/pronunciamiento-de-la-convergencia.html>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/12/10/con-llantas-queman-estudiante-de-la-unah-dos-dias-despues-de-protesta-y-afloran-falsas-acusaciones-contra-detenidos-por-quema-de-buses/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/miembros-del-meu-culpan-a-la-atic-de-orquestar-diferentes-actos-vandalicos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/las-tarantulas-no-pudieron-ni-podran-conmigo/>

Civil society organizations filed a complaint at the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court against the nomination of religious ministers for special commissions looking into the health and education sector. They denounce that these nominations violate various rights and that the nominated religious ministers belong to structures that have and continue to emit public statements which "injure the human dignity of LGTBI people and women".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/10/impugnan-nombramiento-de-ministros-religiosos-en-comisiones-de-salud-y-educacion/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/presentan-recurso-contra-nombramientos-de-religiosos-en-comisiones-especiales-del-gobierno/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the criminalization faced by some 28 campesino families in Río Bijao, Cortés, after they had started a land recuperation process in July 2017.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/luchar-por-un-pedazo-de-tierra-en-honduras-implica-la-criminalizacion/>

OACNUDH signed a cooperation agreement with the Human Rights Secretariat. The cooperation will take place in the following five areas: i) human rights education; ii) public policies; iii) legislative alignment; iv) human rights defenders; and v) people displaced by violence.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/10/oacnudh-y-secretaria-de-derechos-humanos-firman-acuerdo-de-cooperacion-tecnica/>

Javier Suazo looks at Honduras' ongoing privatization process of the energy sector, which started in May 2014 with the approval of the General Electric Industry Bill. He highlights various problems with the process, which is planned to culminate next year by partitioning the ENEE in three parts.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/197049>

Nincy Perdomo published the newest installment of the Parliamentary Chronicles which cover among other things the protests against the JOH regime inside Congress.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-456-12-2018/>

El Pulso reports on deforestation in Honduras looking at the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Río Plátano. The article highlights cattle farming, drug trafficking and corruption as the main drivers of deforestation.

<http://elpulso.hn/no-hay-leyes-ganado-drogas-corrupcion-que-destruye-el-sitio-de-la-unesco-en-honduras/>

Nathalie Mercier, Maria Useche and Javier San Vicente write about the war on drugs and its human rights implications using Colombia, Honduras and Guatemala as case studies.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/10/guerra-contra-las-drogas-y-derechos-humanos-los-casos-de-colombia-honduras-y-guatemala/>

Yesterday, the former IHSS board members appeared in court for the newest chapter in the IHSS corruption case. Trial was opened against all of them, but seven were released from pre-trial detention. Two remain in custody and three got house arrest.

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-directivos-del-ihss-fianza-para-dos-firmaran-libro-siete-y-tres-con-arresto-domiciliario/>

<https://tiempo.hn/un-juez-emite-un-fallo-favorecedor-para-los-implicados-en-el-desfalco-del-ihss/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/dictan-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-para-exdirectivos-del-ihss/>

The former president of the Judicial Power, Jorge Rivera Avilés, shots against the MACCIH, claiming that Honduras' judges lost their independence due to interference by the MACCIH. While the independence of the judges before the arrival of the MACCIH was questionable at best, Rivera Avilés may also be motivated to denigrate the MACCIH for facing corruption charges himself.

The head of MACCIH Luiz Antonio Guimaraes Marrey met with Honduras' Finance Minister Rocío Tábora.

<https://confidencialhn.com/expresidente-del-corte-suprema-cuestiona-la-perdida-de-independencia-judicial-por-intromision-de-maccih/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/10/se-reunen-autoridades-de-finanzas-y-de-la-maccih/>

The president of CONAPREV, Orle Solís, criticizes that the JOH regime celebrates the building of prisons as a success instead of the closure of prisons.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mientras-en-europa-las-cierran-honduras-festeja-construccion-de-mas-carceles/>

El Heraldo reports that the National Dialogue will conclude today without any agreement about the most urgent issues.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1241054-466/la-onu-prepara-paquete-de-temas-para-remitirlo-al-congreso-nacional>

Juan Almeyda posits that the Honduran experience challenges us to rethink human rights in order to prevent what he calls the "hondurization of Latin America".

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/197024>

11/12/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Atalas; HRDs; Journalists; Students; MACCIH; Corruption - Open Chest, Pandora; National Dialogue; Electoral Reforms; Military Police; Caravan - Femicide; Homicide Rate; and Honduras' Forgotten Children

The president of the Judicial Power, Roland Argueta, admitted a

complaint about defamation by Camilo Atala for being linked to the Berta Cáceres case.

<https://confidencialhn.com/admiten-pruebas-en-querrela-contra-excomisionada-policial-y-parlamentaria/>

C-Libre held a forum in the south of Honduras to inform about the new Special Law on Jurisdictional Bodies. C-Libre denounces that this new law will "exacerbate the criminalization of sectors defending human rights and struggling for land".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/899-reforma-a-la-ley-de-jurisdiccion-agudiza-la-criminalizacion-de-sectores-que-defienden-derechos>

Journalist and social communicators organized as PRENSA 504 held a protest outside the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) yesterday. They demanded justice for the UNE TV journalist Geovanny Sierra who was shot from inside a INP bus when covering the protests on the anniversary of the electoral fraud last month. Due to the bullet wound, he lost the ability to use his right arm.

Three days ago, Radio Progreso correspondent Erick Pineda woke up to a wall opposite his house with a death threat on it (see Monday's e-mail). Pasos de Animal Grande now reports that previously to this, he had received threats from the police.

Edgard Andino, director of the TV program "El Patrullero 24/7" denounces that they and journalists in general are under constant attack for their work and he holds the government, the National Party and the Armed Forces responsible for it.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/898-prensa-504-exige-justicia-por-atentado-contra-periodista-de-une-tv>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2367-antes-de-la-amenaza-en-la-pared-periodista-erick-padilla-fue-amenazado-por-policias>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2366-periodista-edgard-andino-nos-quieren-amedrentar-para-que-dejemos-de-hacer-periodismo>

The families of the three criminalized and arrested students addressed the Honduran Judicial System demanding freedom for their loved ones. Wilfredo Méndez, director of CIPRODEH, denounces the accusations against the student as abhorrent.

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with the mother of one of the students. She denounces that they are mistreated in custody.

Meanwhile at the UNAH, the protests continue.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/familiares-claman-justicia-por-universitarios-presos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/11/acusacion-contra-universitarios-es-aberrante-wilfredo-mendez/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/2365-madre-de-estudiante-un-policia-me-dijo-que-no-podia-dar-comida-a-un-terrorista>

<https://confidencialhn.com/prosiguen-tomas-en-la-unah-estudiantes-exigen-liberacion-de-edificios/>

The MACCIH held a press conference to inform about its newest corruption case "arca abierta" or "Open Chest".

The live-stream of the press conference can be seen on the MACCIH's Facebook page.

https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=AVI-182/18

<https://www.facebook.com/OEAMACCIH/videos/268433020509004/>

<https://www.facebook.com/OEAMACCIH/videos/577364939343130/>

On the day the MACCIH and UFECIC informed about the Open Chest corruption case, they also presented corruption cases against six current, five former congresswomen and ten further individuals. They are accused of misappropriating state funds (\$879'000) through the use of a bank account in the name of a Green Planet Association. Among the accused is the Nationalist congresswoman Gladis Aurora López Calderón whose investment in controversial hydroelectric projects have been criticized for years by indigenous and human rights organizations. Criterio reports that JOH authorized the transfer of the funds in question. ContraCorriente concludes about this and former MACCIH corruption case that "in all cases there were fiscal requirements, but the outstanding debt is the issuance of requirements against the ringleaders of each case".

https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-079/18

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3133-arca-abierta-octavo-golpe-de-la-maccih-a-corruptos-en-honduras>

https://criterio.hn/2018/12/11/joh-autorizo-transferencias-de-fondos-saqueados-por-diputados-y-familiares-en-caso-arca-abierta/?fbclid=IwAR33jNC4nsvxsh5rvscpCFhF9eiid11YG6_2oWTgG3re61zDeuj-MrNDEtU

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/12/11/las-deudas-de-la-maccih/>

To motivate a step in the direction demanded by ContraCorriente (see above), to go after the intellectual authors of the corruption cases, the Social Citizen Platform presented yesterday demands at various MP offices in Honduras to include JOH and Pepe Lobo in the Pandora corruption case investigations. Fernando Suárez, an accused in the same case, included them in a testimony at the beginning of this month. A judge suspended temporarily the migrant alert against Elvin Santos Lozano in the Pandora corruption case. He is allowed, for health reasons, to travel abroad, but must be back in Honduras by January 7, 2019.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/11/demandan-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-joh-y-pepe-lobo-por-caso-pandora/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/solicitan-al-mp-investigacion-penal-contra-joh-por-actos-de-corrupcion/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/demandan-ampliacion-de-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-presidente-hernandez-caso-de-corrupcion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1241435-466/la-oposici%C3%B3n-pide-al-ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-que-amp%C3%ADe-requerimiento-a-joh>

<https://confidencialhn.com/suspenden-orden-de-captura-contra-elvin-santos-padre-y-audiencia-sera-en-enero/>

After three months, the National Dialogue concluded yesterday. UN Honduras presents its as an important step that led to a rapprochement between the political parties and to 169 understandings (but not formal agreements as they concede).

This narrative is not shared widely and Criterio titles its article on the topic as follows: "FAILURE! Dialogue concludes without any agreements in Honduras".

Even El Heraldo fails to draw a positive conclusion.

<https://twitter.com/ONUHN/status/1072620358799409152>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/11/fracaso-sin-acuerdos-concluye-dialogo-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1241443-466/sin-acuerdos-formales-concluy%C3%B3-el-di%C3%A1logo-nacional>

Separately from the dialogue, an OAS expert mission traveled to Honduras in the last months to prepare a report on electoral reforms. This 96-page report is not open to the public. It has recommendations on the institutional setting, the electoral process as well as the system of the political parties.

<https://www.oas.org/documents/spa/press/informe-propuesta-electoral-honduras.pdf>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1241457-466/la-oea-propone-dos-escenarios-para-el-tema-de-la-reelecci%C3%B3n>

Radio Progreso reports on a hearing against four members of the Military Police accused of torture and attempted murder against a young man from El Progreso as part of the post-electoral repression on December 15, 2017.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/acusan-a-cuatro-policias-militar-de-tortura-e-intento-de-asesinato-contra-joven-progreso/>

For those still in doubt about the politicization of the homicide rate in Honduras, please read the following El Heraldo article. It seems that JOH draws all remaining legitimacy from the alleged and highly disputed drop in the homicide rate.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1241468-466/a-menos-de-36-podr%C3%ADa-bajar-la-tasa-de-homicidios-este-a%C3%B1o>

Stephen Kinzer presents the high level of gender-based violence as one important, but overlooked driver of migration from the Northern Triangle. "In recent years, this plague has reached dramatic proportions. "It is taking on a magnitude and a level of cruelty that is devastating Central America," a United Nations official asserted in 2016. He spoke as the UN released a report showing that among all countries in the world that are not at war, the three with the highest rates of violence against women are Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador."

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2018/12/05/how-femicide-drove-caravan/5lktZE3HNESy7AwLksW5LJ/story.html>

Casa Alianza denounces that the JOH regime fails to pay attention to the situation of Honduran children.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/11/la-ninez-no-es-prioridad-para-el-estado-de-honduras-casa-alianza/>

12/12/18

Honduras Daily: HR Situation; Analysis; Students; JOH; Corruption - Open Chest, Impunity Pact; Caravan; Drug Trafficking; Electoral Reform; National Dialogue; Media; Armed Forces; and the Problem of Extreme...Wealth

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the November 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/2018/12/1811_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

ERIC published the newest Envío online, which includes for example four approaches to the migrant caravan.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/riqueza-extrema-12-de-diciembre-2018/>

Almost a weeks after their violent arrest and accusations of mistreatment and worse in custody, a judge definitively close the proceedings against the three criminalized students as it had been shown that they did not participate in the burning of the buses.

<https://tiempo.hn/en-libertad-quedan-estudiantes-acusados-de-incendiar-buses-rapiditos-frente-a-la-unah/>

Javier Suazo interprets the talk about JOH's intention to change the personnel in his cabinet. "They look to form a government of National Unity and Reconciliation in the face of the urgent economic, social and political problems facing the country, where the opinions of all the actors count.

This decision has been recommended by its main advisors and the US-American Embassy, as it increasingly shows itself alone and without support from its citizens. New blood is expected in the government, which is not contaminated by drug trafficking and corruption, to change the institutional profile and enable a transitional government whose life-span is unknown as the social and political opposition say that it will conclude its period before 2021."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/197099>

Radio Progreso reacts to the newest corruption revelations by the MACCIH (see yesterday). "The main debt that MACCIH-UFEVIC have with the population is the omission of two key figures in each of the cases of corruption presented by the Mission since it has been operating in the country, both Mauricio Oliva as president of the National Congress, who has links clear with these acts, and Juan Orlando Hernández."

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/sin-presentar-requerimientos-contrajoh-y-mauricio-oliva-a-pesar-de-existir-vinculos-con-redes-de-corrupcion/>

The MACCIH and UFEVIC officially requested the arrest of the 21 accused in the newest corruption case denominated Open Chest. The director of CNA, Gabriella Castellanos, commented on this newest case, which involves 11 current and former congresswo/men, that Congress should start holding its session in the Támara prison. Yesterday, I forgot to highlight the fact that all five current congresswo/men accused and four out of the six former ones belong to the National Party.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1241834-466/la-ufecic-solicita-el-arresto-de-los-21-acusados-en-el-caso>

<https://tiempo.hn/sobre-arca-abierta-gabriela-castellanos/>

The two Nationalist congresswo/men Sara Medina and Antonio Rivera appeared in front of court yesterday in the Impunity Pact corruption case. Both were allowed to defend themselves outside of prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-audiencia-de-declaracion-de-imputados-involucrados-en-pacto-de-impunidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rivera-y-medina-se-defenderan-en-libertad-por-pacto-de-impunidad/>

Politico published a great article on the internal organization of the migrant caravan(s): "Trump called the caravan 'lawless.' But on the road to Tijuana, the migrants were electing officials, voting on routes and building a public safety council."

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/12/12/migrant-caravan-tijuana-border-government-222856>

As already mentioned in these e-mails, the Liberal congressman Fredy Nájera declared himself guilty of drug trafficking in a US-court. According to his testimony, he made use of the military base El Aguacate in Olancho, near the Nicaraguan border. Radio Globo director David Romero Ellner also links Libre congressman and brother of Manuel Zelaya, Carlos Zelaya, to this activities. Carlos Zelaya formally accused him of defamation and asked him to present proof. Romero Ellner reacted by saying that if a court will ask for it, he will present proof.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-querella-de-carlos-zelaya-rosales-el-aguacate-y-el-viejo-cuento-del-yo-no-fui/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/11/jefe-de-la-bancada-del-partido-libre-querella-al-periodista-david-romero/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva reiterates that the Honduran people should be consulted regarding the presidential reelection. Where was this insistence before November 26 last year?

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1241799-466/honduras-mauricio-oliva-dice-que-temas-como-la-reelecci%C3%B3n-los-resolver%C3%A1-el>

Salvador Nasralla criticizes both the National Dialogue and the proposed electoral reforms by the OAS. According to him, the dialogue failed due to the intransigence of the JOH regime and the proposed electoral reforms do not account for the fact that the TSE is still controlled by "a network of corrupt officials".

Political analyst Efraín Díaz comes to a similar conclusion: "There was never any [political] will, the government always saw the dialogue as a way to gain time and legitimize itself in the face of a crisis of illegitimacy; these are the failures of origin that led to results that

left the fundamental issues outside [the dialogue]".
Presidential minister Ebal Díaz tries to turn the table and accuses the opposition for the failure of the dialogue.

<https://tiempo.hn/dialogo-politico-oea-errores-nasralla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/dialogo-termina-sin-resultados-que-garanticen-solucion-a-crisis/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/negociador-del-dialogo-denuncia-que-calculo-politico-impidio-refrendar-169-acuerdos/>

Honduran media magnate José Rafael Ferrari died of a heart attack on a plane to Miami.

<https://tiempo.hn/transciende-la-muerte-de-jose-rafael-ferrari/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-rafael-ferrari-el-zar-y-magnate-de-las-comunicaciones-en-honduras/>

The army captain who shot dead a young man having mistaken his car for the one of the captain has to remain in custody (see previous e-mail).

<https://confidencialhn.com/dejan-en-prision-a-militar-que-mato-a-un-hombre-en-hecho-confuso/>

"In most forums and public and private reports, the reality of extreme poverty is often accentuated. Why not accentuate extreme wealth with the same force? What is worse for society?: The extreme poverty that results from economic, political and social relations, or extreme wealth as the main trigger of the first?"

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/riqueza-extrema-12-de-diciembre-2018/>

13/12/18

Honduras Daily: Students; Labor Rights; MP - Forensic Medicine; Budget; Corruption - Congress, Astropharma, IHSS; Drug Trafficking - JOH; BID; National Police; and a Higher Minimum Wage?

Both ConexiHon and Pasos de Animal Grande published additional articles

on the definitive closure of proceedings against the three criminalized students (see also yesterday). C-Libre denounces that they were victims of arbitrary actions by the Honduran judicial system and that they suffered "harassment, physical and psychological abuse both in the courts by the police agents guarding them as well as in the Central Penitentiary".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/902-sobreseimiento-definitivo-confirma-injusta-criminalizacion-a-tres-estudiantes>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/2368-estudiantes-quedan-libres>

The Labor Union of Agroindustry and Similar Workers (STAS) denounces multiple transgressions by Sur Agro, a subsidiary of the Irish company Fyffes.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/13/meloneras-del-sur-violentan-derechos-laborales-en-complicidad-con-el-estado-hondureno/>

For months, there have been tension between the Deputy Attorney General Francisco Sibrián and the director of Forensic Medicine, Julissa Villanueva. Now, Sibrián dismissed her. Villanueva believes it has to do with her insistence on the irregularities in the case of a murdered ATIC department head, Sherill Yubissa Hernandez Mancía, which both ATIC and the MP first wanted to present as a suicide.

The MP presents her dismissal as a study leave and at the end of yesterday, they had already sworn in a new ad-interim director.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/13/destituyen-a-directora-de-medicina-forense-julissa-villanueva/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/13/destituyen-a-la-directora-de-medicina-forense-julissa-villanueva/>

<https://tiempo.hn/autoridades-del-mp-juramentan-a-nuevo-director-interino-de-medicina-forense/>

Congress approved yesterday in just one sitting the general budget for 2019. Libre denounced the budget as an act of corruption due to complete lack of transparency and the absence of any public participation. Further criticism comes from the Central-American Fiscal Studies Institute (Ifeci).

<https://tiempo.hn/en-un-solo-debate-cn-aprueba-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-para-el-2019/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1242153-466/de-m%C3%A1s-de-261-mil-millones-de-lempiras-es-el-presupuesto-general>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/13/el-presupuesto-es-un-acto-de-corrupcion-del-gobierno-de-joh/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/12/bancadalibre-la-bancada-del-partido.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/finanzas-plantea-un-retroceso-tributario-para-2019/>

Gabriella Castellanos, director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), claims that some 80% of congresswo/men have access to NGOs to divert public funds.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/13/el-80-de-los-diputados-del-congreso-de-honduras-tiene-ongs-para-saquear-fondos-del-estado/>

The Astropharma corruption case will continue on January 18 with an evidentiary hearing.

The sitting judges changed the precautionary measures against some of the accused, e.g. the Nationalist congresswoman Lena Gutiérrez is now allowed again to participate in public events.

According to ConfidencialHN, the Nationalist politician Marco Tulio Gutiérrez paid a multi-million bail to get rid of his house arrest.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/12/honduras-para-el-18-de-enero-de-2019.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1242105-466/cambian-medidas-a-implicados-en-el-caso-astropharma>

<https://confidencialhn.com/suspenden-arresto-domiciliario-a-marco-tulio-gutierrez-a-cambio-de-millonaria-fianza/>

The defense of the twelve accused former board members in the IHSS corruption case challenged Monday's committal to trial.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1242109-466/apelan-fallo-de-jueza-en-caso-licitaci%C3%B3n-fraudulenta-del-ihss>

The Nationalist congressman Oscar Nájera apparently hired a private investigator to publicly clear his name from links to drug trafficking...

<https://confidencialhn.com/investigacion-privada-revela-que-oscar-najera-no-tiene-vinculos-con-el-narcotrafico/>

JOH's brother Tony Hernández has to continue await trial in prison as a judge denied him bail.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tribunal-de-nueva-york-deniega-fianza-a-tony-para-defenderse-en-libertad/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (BID) granted Honduras a \$53.8

million credit for the construction of new hospital to attend medical emergencies.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/13/bid-presta-a-honduras-538-millones-para-construir-hospital-de-trauma/>

Congress will debate a three-year prolongation of the mandate of the purging committee.

<https://confidencialhn.com/proponen-extender-mandato-de-junta-depuradora-policial-hasta-enero-de-2022/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1242143-410/aumento-salario-minimo-honduras-maquila-trabajadores>

14/12/18

Honduras Daily: JOH - National Dialogue, National Party; Corruption - MACCIH; Political Prisoners; Solar Energy; Caravan; Labor Rights; UN; Budget; ENEE; National Police; Penitentiary System; Infrastructure; and 62 Years of Critical Consciousness

Radio Progreso summarizes the National Dialogue as "a death foretold"

followed by a call to unite to get rid of the JOH regime. "Despite the regime's gains with the dialogue, it closes the year with the greatest loss of legitimacy of the five years it has been in power. The migrant caravans showed the world that Hondurans are fleeing from violence, hunger and corruption that the country is experiencing; the capture of his brother and that the United States sees him as one of the strongest drug traffickers in Central America shows the world that its fight against drug trafficking is only propaganda; and the testimony of Fernando Suárez places JOH as the leader of criminal structures that have plundered the Honduran State. There is no more time or space to fool fools. Today more than ever we, all the political, social, and economic actors, have to join forces to push until the exit of Juan Orlando Hernández."

Political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado agrees that the dialogue has only served the JOH regime because the political opposition failed to include social movements and the public to accompany the process,

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/cronica-de-una-muerte-anunciada/>

<http://elpulso.hn/mientras-la-oposicion-se-mantenga-dividida-el-estado-de-cosas-se-va-a-mantener-igual-raul-pineda/>

In an interview with Radio Progreso, the former judge Ramón Barrios says that the National Party functions like a criminal organization. "I want to say this without any doubt and as it should be: it is a criminal organization. And I say this because I know Nationalist people who do not agree with what Juan Orlando Hernández has done. The political parties are intermediate organizations between the citizens and the State that are precisely founded to arrive and exercise the political power of the country, but there is no doubt that in the last ten years the National Party has become a criminal organization, and I take responsibility for what am I saying."

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/partido-nacional-funciona-ahora-como-una-organizacion-criminal-senala-ex-juez-ramon-barrios/>

Congresswo/men in support of the MACCIH protested yesterday in Congress to finally have the Efficient Collaboration Bill approved which the MACCIH has been demanding almost since its inception.

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-protestan-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz/>

Defensores en Línea denounces that the two political prisoner Edwin Rovelo and Raúl Álvarez remain in prison after a judge prolonged the pre-trial detention measure against them on December 4.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tribunal-de-sentencia-mantiene-en-firme-reclusion-de-presos-politicos-en-la-tolva/>

The municipal board in Los Prados together with MASSVIDA demand an

investigation into the murder of the community leader Reinaldo Reyes Moreno. The board also denounces a local media outlet which claims without any proof the president of the board was involved in the murder.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/903-patronato-de-los-prados-exige-justicia-ante-asesinato-de-lider-comunitario>

The Honduras Solidarity Network published their webinar with Honduran journalist, former opposition congressman, and human rights defender, Bartolo Fuentes on the root causes of the migrant caravan.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58Nidx1dDPA>

Goods news from the US. Fair Trade US revoked the fair trade certificate of the Irish international company Fyffes who continues to make negative headlines in Honduras for wage theft and labor rights violations. Just yesterday, workers on Melon fields denounced that a Fyffes subsidiary violates labor rights in Honduras in collusion with the JOH regime.

<https://laborrights.org/releases/fyffes-must-bargain-independent-union-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/13/meloneras-del-sur-violentan-derechos-laborales-en-complicidad-con-el-estado-hondureno/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/904-trabajadores-agricolas-del-sur-exigen-un-cese-a-la-impunidad-laboral>

El Pulso published an article on Honduras' examination by the UN Committee of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which took place at the end of November.

<http://elpulso.hn/examen-cerd-hn/>

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23952&LangID=E>

After the controversial fast-track approval of the 2019 general budget, more criticism is raised against the budget. FOSDEH demands that congresswo/men with open judicial investigations should not have voted and that the budget does not reflect the reality of the majority of Hondurans.

Congress' Health Commission rejected the budget assigned to the public health system.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/14/fosdeh-presupuesto-de-2019-esta-descontextualizado-de-la-realidad-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-advierte-que-nuevo-presupuesto-podria-conllevar-mas-cargas-para-la-sociedad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/comision-de-salud-del-legislativo-repudia-baja-asignacion-para-el-sistema-sanitario/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1242428-466/en-102709-millones-de-lempiras-aument%C3%B3-presupuesto-para-el-pr%C3%B3ximo-a%C3%B1o>

Congress also approved a debt of up to 6.5 billion Lempiras to cover the debt of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/14/congreso-aprueba-endeudamiento-de-la-enee-por-l-6-500-millones/>

According to La Prensa, the newly created Bureau of Disciplinary Police Affairs (Didapol) will investigate at least 900 members of the police force.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1242424-410/al-menos-900-policias-agentes-seran-investigados-por-didadpol>

Four inmates in a youth detention center escaped one of which was later recaptured.

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-fugan-cuatro-infractores-de-carcel-juvenil-sampedrana-y-detienen-a-uno-de-ellos/>

Congress derogated a contract with the Colombian company Adasa who had a concession to build a highway between the Sula Valley and Atlántida.

<https://confidencialhn.com/adios-adasa-parlamento-elimina-concesion-del-inconcluso-corredor-turistico/>

Radio Progreso celebrates its 62th anniversary.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.net/radio-progreso-62-anos-de-informar-y-entretener-al-pueblo-hondureno/>
15/12/16

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Labor Rights; Mayors; and More and More Remittances

OACNUDH congratulates Radio Progreso to its 62th anniversary and highlights its important role in the defense of human rights in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1074054308461797377>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.net/radio-progreso-62-anos-de-darle-rienda-suelta-a-la-imaginacion/>

Criterio picked up the decertification of Fyffes by Fair Trade US (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/15/descertifican-a-fyffes-por-robo-de-salarios-y-violaciones-a-trabajadores-de-meloneas-en-honduras/>

The former mayor and current councilor in Dolores, Copán, Oswaldo Galdámez, was murdered on Friday. As a mayor, he denounced having received death threats. In Roatán, a former candidate for deputy mayor was arrested.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-un-exalcalde-del-occidente-de-honduras-habia-sido-amenazado/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/arrestan-a-excandidato-a-vicealcalde-por-homicidio/>

Once more, the amount of remittances sent to Honduras grew compared to the year before. In 2018, \$4.4 billion were sent to Honduras, 9.6% more than in 2017. 80% of the remittances are sent from Hondurans in the US and they make up almost 20% of the GDP.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/15/honduras-capto-44484-millones-en-remesas-96-mas-que-en-2017/>

16/12/18

Honduras Daily: JOH - Libre; Electoral Reforms; Corruption - Infrastructure; Penitentiary System; and Renewable Energy

Libre's general coordinator Manuel Zelaya announced a national strike

"to get rid of the dictator".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1242826-466/mel-zelaya-vuelve-a-convocar-un-gran-paro-nacional>

Libre congressman Ramón Soto announced yesterday that they would not support any electoral reform if it does not include a two-round presidential election.

<https://confidencialhn.com/libre-declinaria-de-reformas-si-no-hay-segunda-vuelta/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) announced to investigate infrastructure contracts worth more than 2 billion Lempiras handed out by subsidiaries of the Infrastructure and Public Services Secretariat (Insep). According to the CNA, Insep split up contracts into smaller parts to avoid public scrutiny.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1242846-410/cna-detecta-12000-millones-en-contratos-fraccionados-en-insep>

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) employed 97 newly graduated prison guards for a total of 1017 guards.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/16/97-nuevos-agentes-daran-seguridad-a-centros-penales/>

ENEE published the newest data on energy production in Honduras. In the first ten months of 2018, Honduras' energy mix was 64.35% renewable with solar energy already producing 9.5%. As with hydroelectric projects, there are human rights problems around solar energy projects, e.g. about land rights.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1242824-466/honduras-aumenta-a-6435-la-generacion-de-energ%C3%ADa-renovable>

17/12/18

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, Valle Valle; Caravan; Corruption; Minimum Wage; Remittances; Customs Union; Infrastructure; and Impunity Everywhere

Finally, almost a month after his arrest in the US, the MP started to

seize goods and property of JOH's brother Tony Hernández. They seized one house, four cars and five bank accounts.

The Coalition against Impunity reiterated its demand yesterday for JOH to resign immediately (4th link). They base their demand on his "complicity and/or incompetence" confronted with "serious allegations of acts of corruption and the link to drug trafficking by his brother".

According to the political analyst and former Nationalist congressman, Raul Pineda, Honduras has become a drug trafficking sanctuary. He further highlights that Costa Rica and Panama, two countries armies, have decommissioned substantially more drugs than heavily militarized Honduras.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/125-diciembre2018/3714-se-autoriza-iniciar-aseguramiento-de-bienes-a-juan-antonio-hernandez>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3134-honduras-a-medias-incautan-bienes-a-tony-hernandez>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1242906-466/los-bienes-asegurados-a-tony-hernandez-se-%C3%B1alado-de-narco-a-gran-escala>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/17/coalicion-contrala-impunidad-exige-la-salida-inmediata-de-juan-hernandez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-se-convirtio-en-un-santuario-para-narcotraficantes-analista/>

Meanwhile in Guatemala, the presumed drug trafficker and partner of the Valle Valle cartel, the Honduran Orlando Pinto, was arrested.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/17/capturan-en-guatemala-a-orlando-pinto-supuesto-socio-de-los-valle-valle/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/17/capturan-en-guatemala-a-hondureno-socio-de-los-valle-valle/>

Reuters published a welcome article on political persecution as a reason to flee Honduras. "The Pineda family trudged northward for more than a month with a caravan of Central American migrants who are now stuck at the U.S. border. But they were on the run in Honduras much longer than that due to fears of political persecution."

Reporteros de Investigación published a testimony of a Honduran migrants focusing on the same issues.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-honduras/hondurans-who-fled-political-violence-fear-for-lives-if-sent-home-idUSKBN1OF0IH>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/12/17/tengo-rebeldia-con-los-que-me-gobiernan-es-porque-han-violentado-los-derechos/>

The CNA announced to present new corruption cases in 2019 involving current and former state officials.

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-casos-por-corrupcion-en-impunidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cna-promete-que-en-2019-revelara-mas-nombres-de-corruptos/>

A week ago, the Maquiladora industry announced a rise in the minimum wage. Javier Suazo dissects this at first sight positive news focusing on the role Tripartite Negotiating Commission as well as the role of inflation in undermining the announce rise.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/197192>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle writes about the role of remittances in the Honduran economy and its importance for the JOH regime. "In fact, remittances have become the central pillar of our economy. Failures here and there, successful migrants sustain the Honduran economy! Which the parasitic State depletes in such a way that every day it becomes more anemic."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/17/remesas-y-presupuesto-conectando-los-puntos-entre-paradojas-aburridas-para-gente-despierta/>

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) announced support for setting up the Honduras-El Salvador customs union.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/17/bcie-apoyara-union-aduanera-entre-honduras-y-el-salvador/>

The same BCIE just signed another \$44 million contract with the JOH regime to support the construction of the connection between the ring road and El Tizatillo.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/17/gobierno-construira-ruta-entre-anillo-periferico-con-el-tizatillo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-anuncia-mas-deuda-para-conectar-el-anillo-periferico-con-ca-5/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/17/feliz-impunidad-les-desea-la-dictadura/>

18/12/18

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - Tolupanes, UN; Berta - IACHR; COPINH; JOH; Corruption - Congress, Pandora; Students; Drug Trafficking - National Party; HR - Spain; Migration - Children; Infrastructure; RNP; and a Budget of Civic Repression

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces on Twitter an attack against

two indigenous Tolupan men in San Francisco Locomapa, Yoro by illegal loggers. They were injured in the attack. Both men are supposed to benefit from protective measures by the IACHR.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1075215788733280261>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/12/honduras-hieren-indigenas-tolupanes-en.html>

The grave situation Honduras' indigenous peoples suffer from is also reflected in the final observations by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/12/18/honduras-el-comite-para-eliminacion-de-la-discriminacion-racial-y-el-anteproyecto-de-ley-de-consulta/>

In its press release on the 170th sessions of hearings, the IACHR comments on the Berta Cáceres case. The IACHR expresses concerns about the various irregularities during the trial and the lack of investigation into the intellectual authorship of the crime.

<https://copinh.org/2018/12/cidh-culmina-su-170-periodo-de-sesiones/>

COPINH held its end-of-year assembly last Sunday in La Esperanza, Intibucá.

<https://copinh.org/2018/12/%ef%bb%bfdeclaratoria-final-de-asamblea-de-fin-de-ano-del-copinh/>

Radio Progreso explains why the call for JOH's resignation is legitimate. "First, the seriousness of Fernando Suárez's statement, implicated in the "Pandora" case, in which he reveals that Juan Orlando Hernández was aware of the diversion of State resources by his sister Hilda Hernández and that they were used to finance his election campaign. Second, the seriousness of the accusation in the United States against Juan Antonio Hernández Alvarado, brother of Juan Orlando Hernández, who is implicated in the trafficking of cocaine and weapons since 2004."

According to sociologist Eugenio Sosa, the second point, Tony Hernández's arrest, also shine a bad light on Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla for failing to go after him in Honduras.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-salida-de-hernandez-un-reclamo-ciudadano-legitimo/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2370-juan-orlando-hernandez-debe-salir-de-inmediato-de-la-presidencia-de-la-republica-y-ser-enjuiciado-senala-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad>

<https://confidencialhn.com/arresto-de-tony-y-aseguramiento-de-bienes-deja-mal-parado-al-fiscal-chinchilla/>

One year ago, the MACCIH and UFECIC presented the Red de Diputados corruption case. El Pulso looks back and finds that not much has happened since then.

<http://elpulso.hn/a-un-ano-de-la-red-de-diputados-o-el-blindaje-de-la-corrupcion/>

Claudia Mendoza writes about the structures behind the Pandora corruption case mentioning the former and the current president of

Honduras, Pepe Lobo and JOH.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2018/12/17/los-artifices-de-la-red-de-corrupcion-en-la-caja-de-pandora/>

El Pulso reports on the persecution of students in Honduras which led at least six of them to ask for asylum in Costa Rica.

<http://elpulso.hn/al-menos-seis-estudiantes-de-la-unah-solicitaron-asilo-en-costa-rica/>

According to statements by the former director of the National Police, Ricardo Ramírez del Cid, Nationalist bigwigs Óscar Álvarez (former Minister of Security) and Armando Calidonio (mayor of San Pedro Sula) have links to the drug cartel Los Cachiros. Del Cid talked about further issues, such as the murder of the journalist Aöfredo Vilatoro.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3136-ultima-hora-exdirector-de-policia-confirma-que-oscar-alvarez-y-armando-calidonio-tienen-nexos-con-los-cachiros>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/12/18/calidonio-y-oscar-alvarez-trabajaban-con-los-cachiros-y-mi-destitucion-ocurrio-por-investigar-el-crimen-contra-el-periodista-alfredo-villatoro/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/libran-requerimiento-contra-exjefe-policial-responsabiliza-al-gobierno-por-cualquier-ataque1/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ramirez-del-cid-en-asesinato-del-periodista-villatoro-participaron-altas-esferas-del-gobierno/>

The Spanish ambassador Guillermo Kirkpatrick announces that the new cooperation plan starting next year will be focused on human rights.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cooperacion-espanola-anuncia-apoyo-financiero-en-ddhh-para-honduras/>

A new article by the Guardian looks at the situation of unaccompanied minors fleeing to the US and who face new dangers once they arrive at the US border. "Those who survive the journey are not out of danger: bureaucratic hurdles can delay them from pleading their case to US officials – or even prevent them from seeking asylum altogether. Meanwhile, they are forced to wait in border cities that have become battlefields in Mexico's raging drug war."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/18/unaccompanied-children-tijuana-us-immigration>

According to the Secretary of Finance, Rocío Tábor, the cancellation of the concession for the Colombian multinational Adasa to build a highway may cost Honduras up to \$90 million.

<https://confidencialhn.com/estado-hondureno-pagaria-hasta-dos-mil-millones-por-rescision-de-corredor-turistico-finanzas/>

Two of the three members of the intervention committee at the RNP traveled to Europe to present their project for a new national registry of persons to the European parliament. They estimate its cost at 23 million Euros.

<https://confidencialhn.com/interventores-piden-20-millones-de-euros-para-nueva-identidad/>

Radio Progreso summarizes the 2019 budget, which was approved under irregular circumstances this week, as a tool of further repression. Meanwhile, feminist and women's rights organization demand that the budget includes the necessary funds to investigate femicides.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/presupuesto-nacional-2019-busca-fortalecer-la-represion-ciudadana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-al-gobierno-hacer-efectivo-el-desembolso-para-investigacion-de-femicidios/>

19/12/18

Honduras Daily: MASSVIDA; REDEHSUR; National Police; Migration - US/Mexico, Violence; Public Health; JOH; Hydroelectricity; and Taking the Lord's Name in Vain

HRD and coordinator of MASSVIDA, Germán Chirinos, denounces a new act of

intimidation against him when several men attempted to intercept him on a way to a meeting. He believes that they were surprised that he did not travel alone and this is why they aborted their attempt.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensor-de-ddhh-nuevamente-se-encuentra-bajo-riesgo-por-defender-el-medio-ambiente/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the recent gathering organized by COFADEH of HRDs and social movements from the south of Honduras (REDEHSUR).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-unidad-prevalece-ante-el-miedo-de-ser-defensores-de-ddhh-en-el-sur-de-honduras/>

There were several articles on Wednesday's TV interview with former head of police, Ricardo Ramírez del Cid (see yesterday). It made headlines, because he linked two further Nationalist bigwigs to drug trafficking (also see first link below).

But no one except El Tiempo reported that the MP will initiate the prosecution of the current head of the police, general José David Aguilar Morán, as well as five former directors, among them del Cid.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/19/exjefe-policial-revela-que-oscar-alvarez-y-armando-calidonio-tenian-vinculos-con-los-cachiros/>

<https://tiempo.hn/lluvia-requerimientos-actual-jefe-y-5-exdirectores-de-la-policia/>

Two young Honduran migrants, both below 18, were murdered in Tijuana waiting to go to the US last Saturday. According to witnesses, it was a robbery gone horribly wrong.

Yesterday, Mexico presented the presumed murderers.

The sister of one of the young Hondurans asks for help in repatriating his body.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-mexico-hondurans/officials-say-two-honduran-migrant-youths-killed-in-mexico-idUSKBN1O107R>

<http://elpulso.hn/dos-jovenes-migrantes-hondurenos-fueron-asesinados-en-mexico/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/19/detienen-a-supuestos-asesinos-de-dos-migrantes-hondurenos-en-tijuana/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1243728-410/familiares-piden-ayuda-repatriacion-cuerpo-joven-hondureno-asesinado-tijuana>

ConfidencialHN reports that the 28-year old Nelson Roberto Espinal Matamoros was murdered in Tegucigalpa just one week after he had been deported back to the country from Mexico. He had participated in the migrant caravan.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-asesinan-a-una-persona-deportada-desde-la-caravana-inmigrante/>

Latin America Daily Briefing published an overview of the press coverage of the newest plans by both Mexico and the Trump administration to reduce migration from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. They announced multi-billion dollar investments, but as in the past, it may not tackle the root causes and, even worse, further support violent regimes as in Honduras and Guatemala.

<https://latinamericadailybriefing.blogspot.com/2018/12/us-and-mexico-promise-aid-to-central.html>

The labor union of the Health Secretariat denounces that 800 million Lempiras of 2018's health budget have not been spent this year even though Honduras' suffers from a public health crisis.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/19/en-medio-de-crisis-denuncian-que-secretaria-de-salud-no-ejecuto-l-800-millones-del-presupuesto-2018/>

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Cortés (CCIC) denounces in a press release a recent statement by JOH's advisor Marvin Ponce. The latter wrote on social media about businessmen in the north of Honduras conspiring against JOH and then threatened with sanctions.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/19/empresarios-de-cortes-denuncian-a-asesor-presidencial-marvin-ponce-por-amenazas-temerarias/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empresarios-arremeten-contra-amenazas-del-arlequin-marvin-ponce/>

El Heraldo reports that the construction of the Patuca III hydroelectric project stopped once more. Apparently, Sinohydro fears that ENEE's debt is too high and they withdrew.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1243749-466/paralizadas-las-obras-en-la-subestacion-de-patuca-iii>

Radio Progreso challenges JOH on his misuse of the Christian religion. "The most effective way to hide the absence of God, is to present his name as a justification for what we do. In this case, no public official has used the name of God more than Juan Orlando Hernández. If he were sincere, he would be the most devout and spiritual official, however, we already know what this man seeks and defends. From that example, nothing is more manipulable than the name of God, and for certain groups is the most effective name to do business or to hide misdeeds, both in politics and especially within religious circles, as pope Francisco reminds us."

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-nombre-de-dios-y-el-nombre-de-los-pobres-19-de-diciembre-de-2018/>

20/12/18

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; JOH; Migration - US; Corruption - IHSS; Budget; RNP; Minimum Wage; and the Economic Consequences of the Electoral Fraud

Radio Progreso links the recent statements by the former head of the

police, Ricardo Ramírez del Cid (see last two days), with statements made by another former head of police, general Henry Osorto Canales, to paint a broader picture of the links between drug trafficking and state officials. "Osorto Canales said that in recent years the drug trafficking business was monopolized by a cartel endorsed and protected by politicians; it was led by Tony Hernández, brother of Juan Orlando Hernández".

Meanwhile in the US, Tony Hernández declared himself not guilty in court.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/ministros-fiscales-cupula-policial-y-militar-fueron-principales-complices-de-tony-hernandez-dice-ex-general/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tony-hernandez-se-declaro-no-culpable-en-estados-unidos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1244002-466/tony-hernandez-se-declaro-no-culpable-de-cargos-por-narcotrafico-en-estados>

According to Criterio, JOH has a "Trump-problem", i.e. no one wants to form part of his government. "The regime of Juan Hernandez has problems in its restructuring because many of the people to whom it has been proposed to be part of the cabinet have rejected the offer embarrassing the current government."

This means that the disputed Secretary of Security, Julián Pacheco Tinoco, was confirmed in his position instead of being replaced as many observers expected.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/20/casi-nadie-quiere-formar-parte-de-gobierno-de-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ratifican-a-julian-pacheco-seguira-como-secretario-de-seguridad1/>

Radio Progreso writes about the dilemma of Honduran migrants in choosing between staying in Tijuana applying for a humanitarian visa or trying to enter the US.

<http://wp.radioprogressohn.net/migrantes-en-tijuana-ante-el-dilema-de-quedarse-en-mexico-o-buscar-apoyo-en-estados-unidos/>

US Secretary Mike Pompeo announced that the US invoked Section 235(b)(2)(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, meaning that "[i]ndividuals arriving in the United States from Mexico—illegally or without proper documentation—will be returned to Mexico for the duration of their immigration proceedings."

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/statement-secretary-pompeo-united-states-action-confront-illegal-immigration/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/20/ee-uu-retornara-migrantes-a-mexico-a-esperar-por-papeles/>

The CNA announced two to three high impact corruption cases for the first semester of 2019.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1244027-466/el-consejo-nacional-anticorrupt%C3%B3n-presentar%C3%A1-tres-casos-de-alto-impacto-en-2019>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cna-anuncia-mas-lineas-de-investigacion-de-alto-impacto/>

The CNA also presented newly discovered links between the University Hospital and the IHSS corruption case.

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-empresas-contratadas-por-el-hospital-escuela-fueron-senaladas-por-corrupcion-en-el-ihss/>

Invoking Eduardo Galeano, Óscar Esquivel criticizes that once more the interests of the "nobodies" are not reflected in the general budget for next year.

At the same time, criticism about the way the budget was approved and the role of Congress in general has not stopped.

<http://elpulso.hn/presupuesto-general-hn-opoe/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-aprobacion-del-presupuesto-de-la-republica-fue-un-delito-de-traicion-a-la-patria-analista/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cuestionan-borreguisimo-legislativo-ante-mandato-del-poder-ejecutivo1/>

El Heraldo reports that the UN will supervise the tender process for the new Honduran identity card.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1244031-466/la-onu-coordinar%C3%A1-licitaci%C3%B3n-de-la-nueva-tarjeta-de-identidad>

The discussions between the private sector and the labor union about the minimum wage were suspended yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/suspenden-por-hoy-discusion-del-salario-minimo-en-honduras/>

The president of the Economists Association Honduras (CEH), Julio Raudales, explains the negative effects of what he calls the "political crisis", i.e. the 201 electoral fraud, post-electoral violence and the failure of the dialogue.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/20/crisis-politica-le-pasa-factura-a-inversiones/>

21/12/18

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; HR Violations; JOH; Drug Trafficking; Corruption - Open Chest; Minimum Wage; Electric Energy; US; and Why Public Spending Fails in Honduras

The lawyers of the two political prisoners Edwin Robelo Espinal and Raúl

Eduardo Álvarez denounced after a visit yesterday that the two are without access to medical care and that their health is deteriorating.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/911-presos-politicos-en-la-tolva-no-reciben-atencion-medica>

With the year coming to an end, Radio Progreso's Brenda Mejía concludes that "we are closing with a terrible human rights situation, it seems that the violations are increasing and the State encourages those situations by not investigating, nor punishing the guilty."

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/alarmanete-violacion-de-derechos-humanos-registro-honduras-durante-el-2018/>

Criterio continues reporting on the controversial ratification of the Secretary of Security, Julián Pacheco (see also yesterday). Since last year, voices linking him to drug trafficking grew louder, especially after a member of Los Cachiros testified in a US court that Pacheco protected their drug trafficking business.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/21/pese-a-senalamientos-de-narcotrafico-hernandez-ratifica-a-julian-pachecho-en-seguridad/>

Radio Progreso reports on the suspended talks about the minimum wage taking a critical stance about its initial scope. They further criticize that the discussed levels - mostly below 9000 Lempiras - are nowhere near to cover the costs of basic goods in Honduras - around 13'000 Lempiras.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/aumento-salarial-en-la-maquila-hondurena-es-miserable-aseguran-obreras/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva augured that many more public officials will fall due to links to drug trafficking.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-del-parlamento-pronostica-que-caeran-muchos-vinculados-al-narco/>

El Heraldo reports that the investigation into the recently presented Open Chest corruption case goes back to 2016, when the main body used by the corrupt state officials, the Green Planet Association, stepped into the line of sight of the MACCIH and UFECH.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1244174-466/desde-el-2016-seguian-la-pista-de-planeta-verde-ong-usada-por-diputados>

"Since the Energy Company Honduras, EEH assumed the collection of energy tariffs, complaints about its service have increased, as a result of high charges, plus harassment for subscribers to change to prepaid meters or so-called smart meters. In a recent analysis on Radio Progreso, the economist and researcher of the Social Forum for External Debt of Honduras, Fosdeh, Ismael Zepeda, said that all these abuses respond to the manufactured weakening of the public [sector], making believe that private means efficient, without knowing that we lose an institutionality that should be effective in providing quality services for citizens."

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-jugoso-negocio-de-la-energia-en-honduras/>

Oscar Manuel Marroquín posits that as the National Party has lost favor in the US, the same US wants to further undermine Libre and Manuel Zelaya with it as a viable alternative "and leave the way clear for a docile and manageable candidate, proper to the interests of the United States".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/21/mel-zelaya-una-piedra-en-el-zapato-de-los-gringos/>

<http://elpulso.hn/por-que-no-funciona-el-gasto-publico/>

22/12/18

Honduras Daily: Militarization; Migration - Mexico, Canada; MACCIH; and Roberto Suazo Córdova

Coup general and founder of the Honduran Patriotic Alliance party, Romeo

Vásquez, announced that his party will support the electoral reforms in Congress if Article 37 of the Constitution be changed so that members of the armed forces are allowed to vote.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3140-general-golpista-romeo-vasquez-negocia-voto-de-militares>

Radio Progreso cites the Help for the Refugee Commission (Comar), participants of the migrant caravan presented some 3700 asylum requests in the south of Mexico and another 590 in Tijuana in the north. An additional 2500 humanitarian visa have been requested, 1000 of which have been granted so far.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/migrantes-sus-dificultades-y-oportunidades-en-tijuana/>

Much has been said and written about the role of the US in creating the Honduran refugee crisis, but less focus has been given to Canada. Jen Moore of Mining Watch Canada and Karen Spring of the Honduras Solidarity Network change that in an interview with Ricochet.

<https://ricochet.media/en/2467/canadas-role-in-creating-the-refugee-crisis-in-central-america>

The former Liberal presidential candidate Luis Zelaya claims that in the background there is a similar campaign as in Guatemala to close down the MACCIH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-cree-que-vendra-una-campana-para-cerrar-la-maccih/>

The first president of the so-called "democratic era" in Honduras (starting in 1982), Roberto Suazo Córdova died yesterday in a military hospital. He was 91 years old. He was a close ally of the US which used Honduras during his tenure as a base for its Contras war in Nicaragua. It was also during his presidency that forced disappearances increased dramatically and organizations such as COFADEH were founded to denounce and investigate it.

Ignoring this part of his past, the main media outlets and the political parties present him as a great man.

<http://elpulso.hn/roberto-suazo-cordova-los-contras-y-la-era-democratica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-el-expresidente-suazo-cordova-gobierno-durante-la-guerra-fria/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1244511-410/roberto-suazo-cordova-gran-aliado-eeuu-anos-ochenta>

<https://tiempo.hn/hondurenos-extranjeros-lamentan-muerte-roberto-suazo-cordova/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-homenaje-suazo-cordova/>

24/12/18

Honduras Daily: Electoral Reforms; Caravan; Israel; Budget; and the Political Prisoners

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva announced that Congress will discuss

and approve electoral reforms between January 20-24, 2019.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1244666-466/reformas-electorales-ser%C3%ADan-aprobadas-entre-el-20-y-24-de-enero-de>

<https://tiempo.hn/mauricio-oliva-reformas-electorales-2019/>

Marlon Ochoa and Russel Garay summarize the lesson's to be drawn from the migrant caravan. "If something has become clear in the almost two months since the caravan of migrants left Honduras, migration in the northern triangle is not a luxury. It is, on the contrary, a forced situation that hides tragic material realities. The stories of the caravan refer to populations left to their fate by governments incapable and instrumentalized for electoral purposes, located on the deadly edge of neglect and vulnerability."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/23/caravana-migrante-el-sintoma-de-un-pais-sin-alternativa/>

With the recent visit of a delegation by the JOH regime to Israel, the likelihood grows that, just as Guatemala, Honduras will move its embassy to Jerusalem. HispanTV explains what JOH would get out of it focusing on the military ties between the two countries.

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/396873/israel-embajada-jerusalen-hernandez-netanyahu>

The new budget for 2019 has been published in La Gaceta.

<https://tiempo.hn/presupuesto-2019-publicado-la-gaceta/>

Manuel Zelaya asked on Twitter for Christmas without political prisoners.

<https://confidencialhn.com/expresidente-zelaya-pide-una-navidad-sin-presos-politicos/>

25/12/18

Honduras Daily: Migration - US; Corruption; Judicial Power; and Jesús in Honduras

Another Central American child, a Guatemalan boy of eight years, died in

US custody.

Guatemala asked for an investigation into his death.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/25/muere-otro-nino-inmigrante-bajo-custodia-del-gobierno-de-ee-uu/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/25/us/guatemalan-boy-dies-border-patrol.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/25/guatemala-exige-a-ee-uu-investigue-muerte-de-nino-bajo-su-custodia/>

The Honduran honorary consul to Bolivia, Iris Grisel Berlioz, was arrested by the Bolivian police accused of fraud.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/25/por-estafa-arrestan-a-consul-de-honduras-en-bolivia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/capturan-estafa-consul-de-honduras-en-bolivia/>

The Supreme Court presented the introduction of electronic case files as a goal for 2019.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1245038-410/expedientes-electronicos-materia-penal>

"From a political prisoner to a garbage picker, and a bereaved mother to an activist, photographer Sean Hawkey reveals the poverty and violence rife in Honduras through the stories of men and women named Jesús"

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/dec/25/16-stories-of-jesus-in-honduras>

26/12/18

Honduras Daily: 2018; Corruption - JOH, Bolivia; US; Israel; Penitentiary System; Education; Health; ENEE; and New Year, New Protests

Padre Melo looks back on 2018 which he describes as an attempt of

"pacification" by the JOH regime. "[P]acification" is the concept that most accurately characterized the year 2018. It was imposed by the military-police force and legal deterrence, and with the international endorsement as a backdrop, alongside the extreme fragility, confusion and vacillations of the Honduran political opposition, more concerned in counting and adding votes than in saving the rule of law and democracy." Padre Melo goes on to list seven key actors in this process, e.g. the US State Department, and four dynamics, e.g. the national dialogue. He concludes with two reasons of why, so far, JOH was able to stay in power - geopolitical interest of the US and the fragmented Honduran opposition - and then presents the construction of a new and wide social and political opposition.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-pacificadora-coyuntura-hondurena-de-2018-y-los-tropezos-de-sus-protagonistas/>

Journalist and social investigator Claudia Mendoza describes the Pandora corruption case as an important vessel for the financing of JOH's 2013 presidential campaign. Her long and exhaustive report offers a detail account on how they went about it.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2018/12/26/pandora-una-de-las-fuentes-de-financiamiento-de-hernandez-para-llegar-a-la-presidencia-de-honduras/>

The Honduran consul to Bolivia arrested for fraud (see yesterday) has been separated from her post.

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-de-honduras-destituye-a-consul-honoraria-en-bolivia-acusada-de-estafa/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1245227-466/separan-de-su-cargo-a-c%C3%B3nsul-honoraria-de-honduras-en-bolivia-acusada>

Harper's Magazine published an interview with Dana Frank about her new book on Honduras and US-Honduran relations.

<https://harpers.org/blog/2018/12/coup-honduras-resistance-bertha-caceres-long-honduran-night-dana-frank/>

According to various Honduran media outlets, Honduras has presented some conditions for transferring its embassy to Jerusalem. But it is also interpreted as a move to please the Trump administration.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/26/honduras-estaria-poniendo-condiciones-para-trasladar-embajada-a-jerusalen/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-trasladaria-embajada-en-israel-hacia-jerusalen-pide-sede-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1245268-466/honduras-inicia-acercamientos-para-establecer-sede-en-jerusal%C3%A9n>

There has been another transfer of inmates in Honduras. Fusina informed that they transferred 34 inmates from La Tolva to Támara and El Porvenir.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fusina-intercambio-reos-de-carceles-hondurenas/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/26/trasladan-38-reos-hacia-tamara-y-el-porvenir/>

The new Secretary of Education, Arnaldo Bueso, is a forest engineer by training...his nomination seems an apt way to show how much the JOH regime cares about education.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/26/de-cobrar-matricula-por-tenencia-de-pericos-a-rectorar-la-educacion-en-honduras/>

El Heraldo reports that JOH also replaced the Secretary of Health with Alba Consuelo Flores.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1245287-466/m%C3%A1s-cercan%C3%ADa-con-el-magisterio-promete-el-nuevo-ministro-de-educaci%C3%B3n-arnaldo>

ConfidencialHN reports on new problems at the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) linked to a questionable company called Logix Source Direct Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-de-la-enee-denuncian-que-embargo-de-logix-les-impide-trabajar/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/dueno-de-logix-hallo-en-honduras-a-traves-de-demandas-como-volverse-multimillonario/>

Labor unions announced protests for January 3 demanding a higher minimum wage.

<https://tiempo.hn/sindicatos-de-trabajadores-anuncian-huelgas-a-partir-del-3-de-enero-por-salario-minimo/>

27/12/18

Honduras Daily: Post-Electoral Repression - US; Journalists; Political Opposition; LGBTI; Femicide; Migration - Mexico, Spain; Electoral Reforms; Economy; Health; and Picture of the Year

The Alignment against the Reelection (CCC) and the National Committee

for the Liberation of the Political Prisoners held a press conference yesterday. They demand a stop to the persecution, freedom for the political prisoners and justice for the "martyrs", i.e. the victims of state repression after the electoral fraud in November 2017.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-ccc-exige-nuevamente-la-libertad-para-los-presos-politicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/27/convergencia-contr-el-continuismo-exige-libertad-para-los-presos-politicos-y-justicia-para-los-martires/>

Press Release:

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/libertad-para-los-presos-politicos-y-justicia-para-los-martires-de-ayer-y-de-hoy/>

During their press conference, CCC member Carlos H. Reyes denounces that the US maintains its support of JOH.

But no one knows how long this support will continue. The president of the Monarca wing inside the National Party, Roberto Ramón Castillo, believes that they will be hard hit by future accusations of drug trafficking and extradition demands by the US.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/27/ee-uu-sostiene-al-regimen-de-hernandez-ante-una-possible-invasion-a-venezuela-carlos-h-reyes/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3147-partido-nacional-sera-azotado-por-extradiciones-advierde-roberto-ramon-castillo>

The first anniversary of the electoral fraud was also marked by violence and among the victims is the journalist Geovanny Sierra who was shot in the arm. Radio Progreso denounces that his case rests unpunished.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-la-impunidad-continua-atentado-contra-periodista-geovanny-sierra/>

Libre announced a new national protest for January 27, 2019, the anniversary of the second inauguration of the JOH regime. Salvador Nasralla's representative Tony García also announce protest measures.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/27/libre-convoca-a-protesta-nacional-el-proximo-27-de-enero-de-2019/>

Press Release:

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/12/honduras-posicionamiento-politico-del.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/movimiento-de-salvador-nasralla-tambien-anuncia-acciones-para-paralizar-el-pais/>

ContraCorriente writes about the arduous journeys of transgender women in Honduras and their transition. The article highlights the lack of any legal protection from them and the importance of a gender identity law.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/12/20/transiciones-de-tortura-mujeres-que-se-autoconstruyen/>

According to the women's rights organization Women's Movement Visitación Padilla, at least 344 women were violently murdered in Honduras in 2018.

<https://tiempo.hn/unas-344-mujeres-murieron-violentamente-en-2018-la-mayoria-de-los-casos-continuan-impunes/>

A visit by the Honduran ambassador to Mexico to Honduran migrants in Tijuana caused protests as they perceive him and the regime he represents as part of the problem. "If we had work and a proper government in Honduras we wouldn't have had to embark on this difficult trip and live outdoors," complained Maria Ramirez, 33, who said she was an outdoor fish vendor back in her hometown of San Pedro Sula, where the caravan started more than a month ago. "How dare he come here and say he wants to help us!"

<https://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-mexico-caravan-20181117-story.html>

El Heraldo reports on the Honduran diaspora in Spain which doubled in three years to 84'000.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1245474-471/la-otra-migraci%C3%B3n-84000-hondure%C3%B1os-habitan-en-espa%C3%B1a-seg%C3%BAn-%C3%BAltimos-datos>

Nationalist vice-president of Congress, Antonio Rivera Cajellas, confirmed that they will discuss electoral reforms in January. According to Mauricio Oliva, there are talks with Libre about the two-rounds presidential election. ConfidencialHN highlights some of there recommendations by the OAS.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/27/antonio-rivera-callejas-un-nuevo-rnp-y-funciones-del-tse-seran-las-2-reformas/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/27/mauricio-oliva-hay-platicas-con-libre-para-la-segunda-vuelta/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oea-plantea-crear-consejo-nacional-y-tribunal-de-justicia-electoral/>

According to the Central Bank of Honduras, the economy grew by 0.7% in the third trimester of 2018.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-producto-interno-bruto-trimestral-aumento-0-7-en-el-tercer-periodo-de-2018/>

The JOH regime confirmed the confirmation of Alba Flores as the new secretary of health (see yesterday).

The new secretary wants a transformation of the public health system. The labor unions, meanwhile, announced strike measures for the first week of January.

According to the president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, the nomination of Flores is a further step in the direction of privatization.

<https://tiempo.hn/alba-flores-nueva-ministra-de-salud/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1245533-410/haremos-transformacion-sistema-salud-pais>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/12/honduras-empleados-de-la-salud-anuncian.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/suyapa-figueroa-nueva-ministra-de-salud-no-representa-beneficios-para-la-poblacion/>

Reuters lists a photo showing the repression of post-electoral protests in Honduras among its pictures of the year 2018. It shows the former president Manuel Zelaya in a cloud of tear gas during a protest on January 12, 2018.

<https://www.reuters.com/news/picture/pictures-of-the-year-2018-idUSRTS27NNG>

28/12/18

Honduras Daily: JOH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Political Opposition; National Party; Electoral Reforms - EU; Penitentiary System; and Two Men Meet in Brazil

Ever since his brother Tony Hernández has been arrested in the US, the

criticism against the JOH regime has grown in Honduras. In the US, criticism reached its peak with the migrant caravan and had Trump threaten to cut aid some weeks ago. Yesterday, he repeated this threat on Twitter: ".....Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador are doing nothing for the United States but taking our money. Word is that a new Caravan is forming in Honduras and they are doing nothing about it. We will be cutting off all aid to these 3 countries - taking advantage of U.S. for years!"

<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1078638249562775552>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/28/trump-amenaza-nuevamente-con-cortar-toda-la-ayuda-a-honduras-guatemala-y-el-salvador/>

<https://tiempo.hn/economista-amenaza-trump-no-afectara-la-economia-crisis-politica-si/>

The same day, Criterio reminded us about articles from February 2016 when 20 cocaine packages were decommissioned in Costa Rica. They had the label "TH" on them. According to US prosecutors, Tony Hernández used his initial to mark the cocaine trafficked by him.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/27/cocaina-con-la-marca-th-fue-descubierta-por-policia-tica-en-el-2016/>

One of the reasons presented why JOH still is in power is the fractured political opposition in Honduras. In an interview with Radio Progreso, the director of the human rights organization CIPRODEH, Wilfredo Méndez, highlights a unified opposition as one of the main challenges for 2019.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/unidad-de-la-oposicion-el-reto-para-el-2018/>

The former president of the National Party, Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo, demands a more visible division between the National Party and the

executive power.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/28/pepe-lobo-partido-nacional-tiene-que-elegir-candidato-idoneo-para-ganar-elecciones/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pepe-propone-que-partido-nacional-sea-critica-del-ejecutivo/>

El Heraldo reports that a EU delegation will travel to Honduras in the coming days regarding their financial support of the new identity cards as well as a follow-up on the recommendations made by the EU about the electoral reforms for the RNP.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1245772-466/misi%C3%B3n-de-la-uni%C3%B3n-europea-llegar%C3%A1-a-honduras-en-los-pr%C3%B3ximos-d%C3%ADas>

The deputy director of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP), German McNiell, claims that they rose the daily expenditure for food to 30 Lempiras per inmate.

<https://tiempo.hn/a-30-lempiras-aumento-costos-de-alimentacion-diaria-por-cada-recluso-segun-inp/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1245692-410/el-presidente-de-honduras-asistir%C3%A1-a-la-toma-de-mando-de-bolsonaro>

29/12/18

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests; Migration - Caravan, Children; Forced Disappearance; Penitentiary System; State Security Forces; Economy; and Navidad Catracha

The inhabitants of Choluteca went to the streets no less than 104 times

this year to protest against the JOH regime. Every Wednesday and Saturday they face state repression to voice their discontent.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2373-hubo-104-protestas-en-2018-gobierno-de-joh-no-logro-desarticular-manifestaciones-en-choluteca>

Criterio writes about a new migrant caravan planned to take off from San Pedro Sula on January 15.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/29/hondurenos-organizan-nueva-caravana-hacia-ee-uu-huyendo-de-la-miseria-y-violencia/>

El Heraldo reports that US border control captured 52'000 Honduran children in the last five years.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenos-en-el-mundo/1245957-471/estados-unidos-detuvo-a-52000-ni%C3%B1os-hondure%C3%B1os-en-solo-cinco-a%C3%B1os>

ConexiHon reminds us about the forced disappearance of HRD and journalist José Eduardo López 34 years ago on December 24. His case, as many others, remains in impunity.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/914-jose-eduardo-lopez-la-navidad-arrebatada-hace-34-anos>

In 2014, the JOH regime boasted about the implementation of new technological security measures to block calls from inside prisons. There was some media coverage and as well as some criticism regarding its functionality and soon it became clear that it did not really work. Now, four years later, they attempt a new try for the so-called high-security prisons El Pozo and La Tolva.

<https://confidencialhn.com/implementaran-sistemas-de-bloqueo-de-llamadas-en-el-pozo-y-la-tolva/>

According to ConfidencialHN, two members of the national police and one member of the Armed Forces were murdered last week in Honduras. El Tiempo later reported that one of the murdered police agents had previously been purged.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ni-las-autoridades-se-salvan-ultiman-tres-agentes-en-menos-de-24-horas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joven-asesinado-a-pedradas-en-la-kennedy-expolicia/>

The former president of the National Bank of Honduras, Hugo Noé Pino, looks into the crystal glass to see what the Honduran economy will go through in 2019. "Honduras will continue to face the same economic, political and social challenges in 2019 as it did in recent years. Challenges that are manifested in an insufficiently dynamic economy, in a government without credibility and with a social situation marked by high levels of unemployment and poverty. In this sense, the link between economy and politics is closer than is believed and the government becomes an obstacle to economic growth and the improvement of the social situation."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/29/economia-y-politica-en-2019/>

The Nationalist congresswoman Welsy Vásquez is responsible for JOH's "Navidad Catracha" program. Criterio writes that in this function she hit and injured three people with her car in Chivana, Cortés. Criterio denounces that both the National Police and the Military Police deny access to the relevant information to protect her.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/12/29/diputada-welsy-vasquez-atropella-tres-motociclistas/>

30/12/18

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; Migration - Mining, US; Corruption - TSC;

Hugo Noé Pino, former president of the Central Bank of Honduras, reacts

to the renewed threats by Trump to cut US aid to Honduras. "I believe that if the Trump administration wants to help reduce migration, it could begin by stopping to support an illegal, illegitimate government with little credibility like Honduras currently has."

<https://hondudiario.com/2018/12/29/es-contradictorio-pensar-que-se-va-a-suspender-ayuda-de-ee-uu-a-honduras/>

Jennifer Avila tells the story of deported Hondurans from a community affected by mining highlighting that "they show us even more, that they are the reflection of illusion and not development that produces gold in a country like Honduras".

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/12/29/exodo-desde-el-espejismo-minero/>

El Heraldo continues to cite statistics from the US border control. IN 2018, almost 40'000 Honduran families were caught by them, 17'000 more than in 2017.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1246134-471/unas-39439-familias-hondure%C3%B1as-fueron-capturadas-en-2018-en-la-frontera-de>

Congress plans to reform the law governing the Supreme Audit Tribunal (TSC). The TSC plays an important role in corruption investigations.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1246146-410/reformas-tsc-blindan-registros-funcionarios-tribunal-superior-cuentas-corrupcion->

31/12/18

Honduras Daily: CNTC; Post-Electoral Repression - Choluteca; MADJ; Journalists; Minimum Wage; Public Health; and Demanding an Independent Press for 2019

Defensores en Línea published an alert regarding the disappearance of

Jesica Castillo Saucedo, a mother of four. Her husband's father is a member of the campesino association "Las Delicias" which is affiliated with the CNTC.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-urgente-desaparece-madre-de-cuatro-ninos/>

On the last day of the year, ConexiHn published an additional article on last Thursday's press conference by the Alignment against the Reelection (CCC) and the National Committee for the Liberation of the Political Prisoners. They deliver an important message including the challenges ahead for 2019, justice for the post-electoral repression, the liberation of the political prisoners and the return of those having had to flee political persecution.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/919-libertad-retorno-y-justicia-exigen-organizaciones-sociales-en-este-fin-de-ano>

In Choluteca, people have gone to the streets twice a week ever since the electoral fraud. But as the protests nationally, they have suffered violent repression. C-Libre denounces that the last protest of the year was once more was violently repressed by state security forces.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/934-policias-y-militares-reprimen-protesta-numero-104-en-choluteca>

MADJ invokes Gramsci for the New Year, that every morning will be a new year giving MADJ and Honduras' social movements and human rights organizations the strength to continue without being burdened by the previous day's struggles.

<https://movimientoamplio.org/2018/12/2019-de-las-resistencias-a-la-soberania-nacional-que-cada-dia-sea-ano-nuevo/>

Journalist and director of the radio program "Más Noticias", Leonel Enamorado, was threatened by the local councilor José Rommel Rivera Orellana. The latter wanted Enamorado to stop mentioning in his program that he had been purged from the police force. Shortly afterwards, the brother of the councilor also threatened him in front of his children. A week later a group of persons harassed and even hit him.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/933-hermano-de-regidor-propina-golpiza-a-director-noticiero-en-santa-barbara>

Labor unions reiterated their willingness to go on strike if there won't be an agreement on raising the minimum wage.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sindicalistas-publicos-iran-a-paro-el-viernes-si-gobierno-no-aumenta-salario/>

Suyapa Molina, member of the intervention committee for the University Hospital (HEU), complains that its 2019 budget is not sufficient for the functioning of the hospital.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1246292-466/presupuesto-del-hospital-escuela-para-el-2019-queda-insuficiente>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/12/31/exigimos-una-prensa-digna-e-independiente-en-2019/>