

01/01/19

Honduras Daily: CNTC; Post-Electoral Repression; Journalists - Impunity; JOH; National Police; and Paper Mâché Dreams

COFADEH published an alert on December 31 regarding the disappearance of the 32-year old Jessica Castillo Saucedo (see yesterday's e-mail). Yesterday, she was found murdered.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sin-vida-encuentran-a-joven-que-estaba-desaparecida/>

After the electoral fraud in November 201, protests erupted everywhere and Wilmer Adalberto Paredes Gámez was responsible for the security of the protests in San Juan Pueblo. He suffered violent repercussion for this and on December 16, 2018, he was brutally tortured by state security forces. Calls by national and international HRDs succeeded in getting him released from custody. But when MADJ asked for protection for him from the national protection mechanism, help was denied. Shortly afterwards, on January 1, 2017, Wilmer was assassinated.

"Today we want his name and example to be the first light that illuminates this 2019 and the challenges we have before us. What is clear is that our blinding reality must be faced in that way, with determination and strength. No comfort, no waiting or delay. That we must fight against this reality until we return it to a state in which, controlled, without power, without the ability to continue humiliating our people, so that dignity is the only way of life possible."

<https://movimientoamplio.org/2019/01/el-legado-de-wilmer-paredes-la-digna-resistencia/>

ConexiHon commemorates the journalist Fernando Gonzales who was murdered on December 31, 2008 and whose murder is still unpunished.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/921-11-anos-de-impunidad-en-asesinato-del-periodista-fernando-gonzales>

The Nationalist leader Ramon Castillo demands that the complete presidential cabinet be replaced.

JOH was in Brazil at the inauguration of Jair Bolsonaro where he met with Israel's prime minister Netanyahu and US Secretary of State Pompeo.

<https://tiempo.hn/ramon-castillo-secretarios-estado-resultados/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1246505-466/israel-honduras-y-estados-unidos-definen-estrategia-de-seguridad-y-cooperaci%C3%B3n>

Security Minister Julián Pacheco announces that the National Police will aim to reach 205 agents per 100'000 inhabitants by the end of 2019.

<https://radiohrn.hn/2019/01/01/policia-nacional-espera-tener-20-000-agentes-en-2019/>

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<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/01/01/narcotraficante-tony-hernandez-y-su-hermano-el-gobernante-juan-orlando-hernandez-los-mas-quemados-como-ano-viejo-en-2018/>

02/01/19

Honduras Daily: Israel; Education; Public Health; Corruption - Health Sector; MP; Economy; EEH; Electoral Reforms; Drug Trafficking - US; National Police; and the Violence Continues

An Israeli bureaucrat told its national newspapers that within two months, Honduras would open an embassy in Jerusalem. This announcement was expected after a trip by a Honduran delegation to Israel at the end of last year.

It seems that JOH hopes that Nethanyhu will put in a good word with Trump.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-reafirma-que-traslada-su-embajada-de-tel-aviv-a-jerusalen/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/02/hernandez-pide-a-netanyahu-que-medie-por-el-ante-trump/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/%ef%bb%bfjoh-busca-calmar-enojo-de-trump-trasladando-embajada-de-tel-aviv-a-jerusalen/>

The new Minister of Education, the forest engineer Arnaldo Bueso, announced on his second day in office the dismissal of 360 employees of the Education Secretariat.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/02/ministro-de-educacion-anuncia-despidos-de-unos-360-empleados/>

The new Minister of Health, meanwhile, faces the first strike actions by public health staff.

Alba Consuelo Flores reacted with promising better working conditions.

She also wants to tackle corruption.

And then she told the striking employees that at first she did not want to take the job, but then god convinced her to do so...

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-sanitarios-inician-2019-con-asambleas-para-exigir-reajuste-salarial/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1246783-410/ministra-salud-evaluacion-personal-hospitales-publicos-honduras->

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-salud-promete-combatir-corrupcion-hospitalaria/>

[https://tiempo.hn/\\_trashed-36/](https://tiempo.hn/_trashed-36/)

According to the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ), the outgoing Minister of Health, Octavio Sánchez, did not respect the protocol in nominating doctors.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/02/exministro-de-salud-no-respeto-concurso-de-medicos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/paraestatal-asj-senala-irregularidades-perpetradas-por-exsecretario-de-salud/>

In a new article by El Pulso, the former president of the Central Bank of Honduras, Hugo Noé Pino, challenges the narrative presented by the IMF about the Honduran economy. He criticizes that it paints a too positive a picture of an economy focusing on the wrong indicators. As a result, the IMF narrative only serves a small elite and maintains the majority in abject poverty.

<http://elpulso.hn/honduras-un-pais-cinco-estrellas-para-la-corrupcion-hugo-noe-pino/>

El Herald reports that the budget for the MP increased by 390 million Lempiras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1246788-466/presupuesto-de-la-fiscalia-crece-en-390-millones-de-lempiras>

Throughout 2018, Honduras has witnessed various protests against the Energy Company Honduras (EEH). In one specific case, the protests were not for steep price rises or energy cuts, but lack of drinking water. In Juticalpa, Olancho, inhabitants are without drinking water due to failures by EEH and the state body SANAA. Back in October, the head of SANAA promised a solution, but so far he failed to deliver.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/02/juticalpa-sigue-sin-agua-por-culpa-del-sanaa-y-la-eeh/>

Congress will discuss electoral reforms at the end of this month. In preparation of this, El Heraldo writes about on proposed reform by the OAS, the depolitization of the voting stations.

Further important topics will be the presidential reelection, a two-round presidential election and the depolitization of the TSE.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1246808-466/comienza-la-cuenta-regresiva-para-aprobar-reformas-electorales>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1246809-466/mesa-ciudadana-o-hibrida-recomienda-la-organizacion-de-estados-americanos-al-congreso>

<https://confidencialhn.com/%ef%bb%bfresolver-tema-de-reeleccion-y-segunda-vuelta-es-una-prioridad-analista/>

Two Honduran drug traffickers will be sentenced in court in the US this month. On January 16, Juan Ramón Matta Waldurra and on January 24, the former police agent Ludwig Criss Zelaya Romero.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1246807-466/estados-unidos-sentencia-este-mes-a-criss-zelaya-y-a-matta-waldurraga>

According to the purging committee, at least 20 police officials won't be promoted in the next round promotions for facing open investigations by the committee.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1246782-410/depuracion-oficiales-descartados-ascensos-polic%C3%ADa-nacional->

<https://confidencialhn.com/policias-involucrados-en-supuestas-irregularidades-no-recibiran-su-ascenso-depurador/>

Two multiple murders took place in the two first days of the new year.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/02/dos-masacres-dejan-seis-muertos-en-primeros-dias-de-2019/>

03/01/19

Honduras Daily: LGBTI; Violence against Women; JOH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Migration - Mexico; Corruption - Health Sector; JOH's Cabinet; Coalianza; Electoral Reforms; Libre; SANAA; Taiwan; and Sovereignty 2021

A soon to be published report by the Committee of Sexual Diversity in Honduras found signs of torture in at least 23 autopsies of victims identified by the LGBTI community in 2017. "The

autopsies showed the types of torture practiced in crimes against LGBTBI people, among which are highlighted violations against both men and women, hits to their faces, burnings, wounds in different parts of the body, or more than three bullets in different parts of the body."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2374-revela-informe-hay-una-practica-sistemica-de-la-tortura-contra-personas-lgtbi-en-honduras>

Libre congresswoman Olivia Zúniga Cáceres publicly denounces her ex-partner for mistreatment, sexual violence, child abuse and discrimination.

<https://tiempo.hn/diputada-olivia-caceres-denuncia-abusos-cometidos-por-su-exesposo/>

Sociologist Eugenio Sosa reflects the use of the "Fuera JOH" slogan, which for him has become an 'empty signifier'. "In other words, there is a [public] consciousness that you have to get rid of something or someone who does a lot of damage, but you do not know what or who will replace it. But it is assumed that we will be better with what follows. Empty signifiers are key to political mobilization, but they are not political projects in themselves."

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/03/mas-alla-del-fuera-joh/>

Tony Hernández will find out today if he can await trial outside prison.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1247112-410/justicia-eeuu-decide-tony-hernandez-defiende-libertad>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1247092-466/tony-hernandez-solicita-a-estados-unidos-defenderse-en-libertad>

Radio Progreso speaks with Yolanda González of the Jesuit Network for Central American Migrants about the situation in Tijuana.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/caravana-de-migrantes-esta-en-proceso-de-transicion-en-medio-de-la-division-y-la-dispersion-senala-yolanda-gonzalez-de-rjm/>

The irregular nomination of doctors by the outgoing Minister of Health, Octavio Sánchez Midence, continues to make headlines. Yesterday, the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) publicly denounced it.

El Tiempo reports about another irregularity in the health sector. Last September, over 300 doctors applied for a scholarship for a specialization in ophthalmology. In the final round, the doctors were asked questions regarding the LGBTI community and their political preferences.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/03/ministra-recien-nombrada-denuncia-corrupcion-de-extitular-de-secretaria-de-salud/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1247076-466/colegio-m%C3%A9dico-de-honduras-solicita-a-salud-anular-78-plazas-otorgadas>

<https://tiempo.hn/influencia-politica-becas-oftalmologia-honduras-medico-opina/>

El Pulso published an analysis of the two recent changes made at the helm of the both the Secretary of Education and Health. In both sectors, JOH launched intervention commissions last year.

<http://elpulso.hn/nombramientos-en-salud-y-educacion-encabezan-nuevo-gabinete-de-hernandez/>

Civil society organizations have criticized the privatizing body Coalianza for years, now the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Tegucigalpa also denounces its lack of transparency.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cuestionan-a-coalianza-por-poca-transparencia-en-concesion-de-obras/>

Libre has emphasized on various occasions that they will only agree to any electoral reforms if a two-round presidential election is part of the changes. Presidential secretary Ebal Díaz now sends out signal interpreted by some as opposition to this.

<https://confidencialhn.com/%ef%bb%bfeb-al-cuestiona-a-mel-por-cambiar-de-cambiar-de-opinion-sobre-segunda-vuelta/>

Former generals and Libre coordinator Manuel Zelaya have a dispute through social media about the announced protest by Libre.

<https://confidencialhn.com/%ef%bb%bfebal-cuestiona-a-mel-por-cambiar-de-cambiar-de-opinion-sobre-segunda-vuelta/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/03/generales-retirados-arremeten-contra-comandos-insurreccionales-de-libre/>

The head of SANAA, Roberto Zablah, stepped down yesterday. He also gave up his mandate as the head of infrastructure in Tegucigalpa's mayoral office.

<https://confidencialhn.com/destituyen-a-gerente-del-sanaa-roberto-zablah/>

<https://tiempo.hn/roberto-zablah-renuncio-a-su-cargo-en-la-alcaldia-municipal-del-dc-y-a-la-gerencia-del-sanaa/>

Taiwan donated \$3 million for agricultural education in Honduras.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/03/taiwan-dona-3-millones-para-escuelas-agricolas/>

Five years ago, Radio Progreso launched the call for Sovereignty 2021, an aspiration to reach real sovereignty 200 years after formal independence. Radio Progreso looks back what happened since and what needs to be done in the next two years.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/soberania-2021-no-hay-tiempo-que-perder/>

04/01/19

Honduras Daily: Lawyers; Drug Trafficking - JOH; JOH; Solar Energy; Corruption - UFECIC; Economy; Hondutel; and the SAG after Pandora

About 150 lawyers have violently lost their lives in Honduras since 2002, the majority of them, 130, since the coup d'état in 2009. Eight lawyers were murdered this year and El Pulso now shows that at least two of them had previously asked the State for protection.

<http://elpulso.hn/dos-abogados-a-quienes-mataron-en-2018-habian-pedido-proteccion-al-estado/>

As expected, the US judge Kevin Castel denied bail to Tony Hernández. He described him as very dangerous and someone who could use his freedom to intimidate witnesses.

Hernández' defense team published a press release.

El Pulso published some photographs of a meeting of Tony Hernández with Devis Leonel Rivera, the head of the Los Cachiros cartel, as well as photographs of the confiscated weapons.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/04/juez-nego-fianza-a-tony-hernandez-por-alta-peligrosidad-y-temor-de-fuga/>

<https://tiempo.hn/niegan-a-tony-hernandez-defenderse-en-libertad/>

<http://elpulso.hn/defensa-de-tony-hernandez-pide-a-la-corte-que-se-pueda-defender-en-libertad/>

Radio Progreso published a short analysis of the Honduran social and popular movement and the challenge to get rid of JOH.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/movimiento-social-hondureno-frente-al-reto-de-luchar-contr-el-continuismo-de-joh/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the resistance by local communities in the south of Honduras against international investors in solar energy. In one specific case, Agua Fría, the Norwegian investors collaborate with the Honduran company PEMSA, which is linked to DESA, the company held responsible for ordering the murder of Berta Cáceres.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/el-informador/item/2375-deben-enfrentar-poderio-de-empresas-solares-pobladores-han-estado-mas-de-mil-dias-defendiendo-sus-territorios>

UFECIC, the MP's anti-corruption arm, reaffirmed its compromise to fight corruption in Honduras. In 2018, it presented together with the MACCIH 7 cases involving 88 people for a sum of over 1.5 billion Lempiras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1247348-466/ufecic-advierte-que-perseguir%C3%A1-a-m%C3%A1s-corruptos-este-a%C3%B1>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ufecic-trabajara-en-nuevas-investigaciones-derivadas-de-casos-judicializados-%ef%bb%bf>

The Central Bank of Honduras will raise interests rates on bank loans as a response to inflation.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/04/bch-aumenta-los-intereses-crediticios-en-la-banca-nacional/>

The head of Hondutel, Melvin Maldonado, announced that they are searching for funding to refloat the company. According to ConfidencialHN, they need \$100 million.

Radio HRN then wrote that \$30 million would suffice to become sustainable again.



<https://confidencialhn.com/hondutel-necesita-100-millones-de-dolares-para-salir-de-crisis-financiera/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/2019/01/04/cascaron-30-millones-de-dolares-necesita-hondutel-para-volverla-sostenible/>

The Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock received international attention due to its central role in the Pandora corruption case. El Heraldito spoke with its minister, Mauricio Guevara, about the consequences.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1247347-466/el-reto-de-lavar-la-cara-sucia-de-la-sag-y-desenredar>

05/01/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests, CEH, Health; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Insecurity - Cab Drivers; Migration - Caravan; MACCIH; US - Coal; and Honduran Television

The inhabitants of Choluteca continued where they left off last year, with bi-weekly protests against the JOH regime. El Tiempo reports that yesterday's protest was repressed by state security forces.

<https://tiempo.hn/video-protesta-en-choluteca/>

Salvador Nasralla spoke with the journalist Jaqueline Redondo about the power of the Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras (CEH) inside the JOH regime.

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-ceh-decide-ministros/>

A recent statement by JOH caused widespread anger by Hondurans. JOH recommended eating healthy as a form of prevention...and this in a country facing a public health crisis, where two thirds live in poverty and over 15% face hunger according to the FAO.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/05/hernandez-recomienda-comer-bien-a-los-hondurenos-para-no-enfermarse/>

ConfidencialHN published the petition by US authorities to not grant bail to Tony Hernández. The judge Kevin Castel agreed as already mentioned in yesterday's e-mail.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tony-no-fue-liberado-por-ee-uu-porque-representa-peligro-para-la-comunidad/>

Pedro Gómez, leader of the organized cab drivers in Tegucigalpa, denounces the the ongoing insecurity in Honduras pushes more and more cab drivers to sell their license and look for other jobs.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/05/taxistas-de-honduras-venden-unidades-debido-a-la-inseguridad-que-viven/>

Radio Progreso dedicates some words to "the migrants of the caravan", the children, the teenagers, the campesinas and campesinos, the unemployed. "The migrants aspire to live a better life expressed in access to decent, safe and well-paid employment, to free and quality education, to health services that focus their attention on the human person and not become merchandise to make a few rich to the detriment of the majority. They aspire to have respected the right to access a piece of land, a home and live in a safe environment. These are the main demands of the caravan that today claims its rights in in foreign lands." The Honduran ambassador to Mexico, meanwhile, claims in Trump-like fashion against all evidence that no one participant of the migrant caravan made it to the US.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/los-migrantes-de-la-caravana/>

<https://tiempo.hn/alden-rivera-caravana-fue-un-fracaso/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/05/embajador-de-honduras-en-mexico-califica-de-fracaso-caravana-de-inmigrantes/>

Ever since the MACCIH started to work in Honduras, they have called for the approval of the Efficient Collaboration Bill to facilitate their work. On various occasions, opposition politicians have introduced the bill to Congress, but the Nationalists always found ways not to approve it. The former Libre congressman Rasel Tomé calls out to Congress to finally approve the bill this year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/rasel-tome-pide-a-bancadas-que-aprueben-este-2019-la-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz.html>

Honduras imported a record amount of US coal in 2018. "Honduras showed a 242 percent year-to-date increase in U.S. coal in the third quarter, making it the largest increase in coal of any country in 2018, according to new federal Energy Information Administration data released last week detailing production and exports from the past three quarters of the year."

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/energy/while-taking-trumps-barbs-honduras-has-been-good-for-his-pro-coal-agenda>

<http://elpulso.hn/a-pesar-de-las-criticas-de-trump-honduras-ha-sido-un-excelente-consumidor-de-carbon-de-eeuu/>

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<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/05/la-agenda-de-la-television-en-honduras/>

06/01/19

Honduras Daily: Bajo Aguán; CCC; Corruption - Health Sector; Extractive Industries - IFC; Climate Change; Migration; Armed Forces; ENEE; IHSS; Fiscal Policy; and the Voices of the River

The 32-year old Noel Isaac Del Cid was murdered by unknown assailants on Saturday. He was the administrator of the Asentamiento Campesino La Confianza, a group belonging to the campesino organization MUCA.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-teme-que-asesinato-de-campesino-dispare-de-nuevo-la-violencia-en-el-aguan/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-al-administrador-del-movimiento-campesino-muca-en-tocoa/>

The Alignment against the Reelection informed about their plans for 2019. The next public consultation will take place in San Nicolás, Santa Bárbara.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-ccc-definio-estrategias-para-retornar-al-orden-constitucional-en-2019/>

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) found 20 irregularities during the execution of an Inter-American Development Bank (BID) project for the Honduran public health sector.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1247809-466/el-tsc-detecta-irregularidades-en-proyecto-para-hospitales>

According to German Watch, an organization that a yearly Global Climate Risk Index, Honduras was among the three most affected countries by extreme weather between 1998 and 2017.

<https://www.germanwatch.org/en/16046>

[https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1247836-410/honduras-seguros-da%C3%B1os-climaticos-fenomeno-el\\_ni%C3%B1o-sequia-](https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1247836-410/honduras-seguros-da%C3%B1os-climaticos-fenomeno-el_ni%C3%B1o-sequia-)

The mayor of San Luis, Santa Bárbara, denounced that the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) approved a dubious management plan for their area affecting 15 communities.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/06/icf-otorga-arbitrario-plan-de-manejo-en-pulmon-ecologico-de-san-jose-de-colinas/>

According to Libre congressman Jari Dixon, the recent statement by the Honduran ambassador to Mexico, Alden Rivera, (see yesterday's e-mail) was directed at those planning to participate in the next migrant caravan announced for January 15.

<https://tiempo.hn/jari-dixon-desalentar-nueva-caravana-honduras/>

El Heraldo reports on a "mysterious" death of a member of the Naval Force of Honduras (FNH).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1247800-466/de-forma-misteriosa-muere-militar-de-la-fuerza-naval-de-honduras>

La Prensa reports on plans to restructure the debt - over \$2 billion - of ENEE.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1247833-410/honduras-deuda-enee-eeh-generadores-energia->

The intervention committee of the IHSS asks Congress to approve the IHSS Bill.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1247847-410/interventora-congreso-aprobar-ley-ihss-seguridad-social-honduras->

Honduras collected 2.5 billion Lempiras through the vehicle tax.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1247811-466/tasa-vehicular-dej%C3%B3-2500-millones-de-lempiras>

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<https://copinh.org/2019/01/puras-mujeres-voces-del-rio/>

07/01/19

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Israel; JOH - Lima Group; RNP; Corruption - de Lobo, UFECIC, Pandora; Didadpol; BID; and a Worried Look Across the Border

The general coordinator of COFADEH, Bertha Oliva, demanded from the president of the Judicial Power, Rolando Argueta, the liberation of the remaining political prisoners.

<https://confidencialhn.com/defensora-de-ddhh-exige-liberacion-de-quienes-protestaron-tras-elecciones/>

ConfidencialHN reports that JOH's arrested brother Tony Hernández had a meeting before his arrest with one of the main shareholders of the Mexican company Tradeco. The construction company had successfully sued

the Honduran government and Tony Hernández then lobbied for Honduras taking up business with it once more.

<https://confidencialhn.com/antes-de-su-arresto-tony-habria-cabildeado-retorno-de-constructora-que-demando-al-estado/>

Radio Progreso believes that the transfer of the Honduran embassy in Israel to Jerusalem is a done deal. They list some of the reasons motivating the JOH regime, such as the hope to improve its relationship with the Trum administration or the dozens of arm sales from Israel.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn/acuerdos-para-el-traslado-de-embajada-a-jerusalen-se-reflejaran-en-convenios-de-compra-de-armas/>

Criterio criticizes the "immorality" of JOH who, as part of the the Lima Group, announced that he won't recognized Maduro as the president of Venezuela.

In a similar vein, 20 former Latin American presidents wrote an open letter to the Pope asking him to condemn the governments in Nicaragua and Venezuela, but they do not include the Honduran government.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/07/la-inmoralidad-de-hernandez-no-reconocera-nuevo-gobierno-de-nicolas-maduro-por-ilegitimo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/07/expresidentes-de-america-latina-demandan-condena-del-papa-contra-ortega-y-maduro-pero-olvidan-a-hernandez/>

The intervention commission of the RNP concluded its first 100 days in office with presenting their findings up to this point. Its representative of the National Party highlighted three priorities, the depoliticization of the RNP, a diagnosis of its staff and its modernization.

<https://confidencialhn.com/junta-interventora-del-rnp-presenta-victorias-en-los-primeros-cien-dias-de-intervencion/>

The new lawyer of the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo, Juan

Carlos Berganza, continues where his predecessor left off, trying to discredit the court.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cuestionan-turbio-proceso-contra-exprimera-dama-rosa-bonilla/>

The MP's anti-corruption body UFECIC is also under pressure. The lawyer representing the family of the deceased former congressman Edwin Pavón holds UFECIC responsible for his death. Pavón was accused in the Open Chest corruption case and suffered a deadly heart attack on December 28, according to his lawyer because of the stress.

<https://confidencialhn.com/espectaculo-mediatico-de-la-ufecic-mato-a-edwin-pavon-abogado/>

<https://tiempo.hn/familia-edwin-pavon-continuara-proceso-judicial-h/>

One of the accused in the Pandora case, Elvin Santos Lozano, was relieved of his pre-trial detention measures for health reasons last year. Now the judge reordered house arrest for him.

Libre congressman Jari Dixon believes that there is much more to be uncovered in the Pandora case.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dictan-arresto-domiciliario-para-elvin-santos-lozano/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/elvin-santos-lozano-se-presenta-a-la-justicia-por-trama-pandora/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2019/01/honuras-existen-mas-nombres.html>

The BID continues to widely collaborate with the JOH regime. Its Honduran representative just announced a new \$90 million project on micro-enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1248072-410/bid-aprobar-90-millones-dolares-honduras-para-pequena-empresa-mipymes>

In its first five months, the Bureau for Disciplinary Police Matters (Didadpol) has received 1266 complaints against police agents and officials. COFADEH is mentioned as one of the organizations referring most complaints.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1248111-466/honduras-unos-1266-polic%C3%ADas-han-sido-denunciados-en-cinco-meses>

The unilateral cancellation by the government in Guatemala of the agreement with the CICIG is also discussed in Honduras.

The Secretary General of the UN, Antonio Guterres, denounced it but also reminded the Guatemalan government that they cannot cancel the agreement unilaterally and that CICIG will continue to work until the end of its mandate next September.

The signs from Guatemala are especially worrisome as JOH was the only one supporting his Guatemalan counterpart at the UN General Assembly last September when "Morales accused the CICIG of "judicial terrorism" and of damaging the country's sovereignty".

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/07/gobierno-de-guatemala-da-por-terminado-acuerdo-de-la-cicig/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/guatemala-da-por-terminado-acuerdo-de-cicig/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/07/mandato-de-la-cicig-no-puede-terminar-sin-que-lo-admita-la-onu/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/gamechangers-2018-central-america/>

08/01/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Agua Zarca; Journalists; Elections 2017 - Fraud; Political Oppositions; Electoral Reforms - RNP; Migration - Deportations; Armed Forces - Colombia, Israel; Minimum Wage; Labor Unions; Teachers; Corruption - Hondutel, Conatel; National Police; and Oil Flows to Honduras

COPINH will hold a press conference in front of the Supreme Court tomorrow at 10am to demand the cancellation of the concession for Agua Zarca.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1082818035164110848>

The journalist Jairo López is already waiting for 58 days to be assigned a new judge in a criminalization case against him by the Energy Company Honduras (EEH). As he has to travel weekly to sign in the court, this delay causes an additional burden on him.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/el-informador/item/2376-el-periodista-jairo-lopez-en-larga-espera-por-un-nuevo-juez>

Alainet published a book by the Latin American Council of Social Sciences called "GOLPE ELECTORAL Y CRISIS POLÍTICA EN HONDURAS" (The Electoral Coup d'état and the Political Crisis in Honduras) from October 2018. The book compiles contributions from 13 authors.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/197385>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle dedicates an OpEd to the challenges faced by the political opposition in Honduras, even in the form of a national convergence including social movements.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/08/aclarar-dilemas-de-la-oposicion-o-erigir-castillos-en-el-aire/>

Even though Libre representatives have reiterated on many occasions the crucial importance of a two-round presidential elections, the National Party does not see this as a priority.

It seems like the, as with the National Dialogue, the National Party is actively trying to sabotage the electoral reforms and then blaming the political opposition for it.

<https://confidencialhn.com/derechohabientes-del-ihss-repudian-aumento-a-la-cuota-de-aportacion/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/2019/01/08/reeleccion-presidencial-una-espina-que-impide-llegar-a-un-acuerdo-sobre-reformas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jorge-calix-para-aprobar-reformas-electorales-se-debe-convencer-al-partido-nacional/>

The Social Platform Honduras filed a complaint against Congress' president Mauricio Oliva and its secretary Tomás Zambrano for abuse of authority for nominating and swearing in the intervention committee for the RNP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-otra-vez-a-mauricio-oliva-ante-ministerio-publico/>

A total of 75'105 Hondurans have been deported from the US (44'760) and Mexico (30'345) in 2018.

<http://elpulso.hn/eeuu-y-mexico-deportaron-en-2018-a-un-total-de-75105-hondurenos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3158-mas-de-75-000-migrantes-fueron-deportados-a-honduras-en-2018>

The Naval Force of Honduras received a three-month training by Colombian army representatives from last September to December.

<http://elpulso.hn/armada-de-colombia-comparte-lecciones-con-honduras/>



El Libertador informs about the marine patrol boat bought from Israel for 1.4 billion Lempiras. It is part of a 5 billion Lempiras arm sale from Israel.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3156-honduras-pagara-1-400-millones-a-israel-por-fabricacion-de-buque-patrullero-2>

Criterio criticizes that the minimum wage agreed upon by the JOH regime, the business sector and part of the labor representatives is disconnected from the cost of living in Honduras. The average minimum wage will raise to 9'443 Lempiras in a country where the monthly basket of basic good costs more than 12'000 Lempiras.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/08/salario-minimo-aprobado-hoy-en-honduras-esta-descontextualizado-del-costo-de-vida/>

The labor unions of the public sectors will hold informative assemblies today for six hours in protest against the delay tactics of the JOH regime regarding a pay rise.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/08/sindicatos-del-sector-publico-a-asambleas-informativas-a-partir-de-manana/>

A group of teachers protested outside the Secretary of Finance yesterday demanding outstanding pay.

<https://confidencialhn.com/docentes-exigen-pago-de-vacaciones-frente-a-secretaria-de-finanzas/>

ConfidencialHN reports that employees of Hondutel were used by its directors to burn evidence of corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/70466-2/>

The MP demanded five years in prison for the former CONATEL commissioners Rassel Antonio Tomé, Gustavo Lara López and Edwin Torres Cruz for abuse of authority. Tomé, also a former Libre congressman, says he acted in defense of the right of Honduras' people.

According to Tomé, the MP should rather go after the businessman Elias Asfura who sold the license granted to him by CONATEL.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/08/mp-pide-cinco-anos-de-prision-para-rassel-tome-por-abuso-de-autoridad/>

<https://tiempo.hn/rasel-tome-investiguen-a-elias-asfura-por-saqueo-de-fondos-en-conatel/>

The purging committee presented a report to JOH about their work. According to them, they have purged 5635 members of the National Police Force in the last 31 months.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1248444-466/un-total-de-5635-polic%C3%ADas-han-sido-cancelados-por-la-depuradora-en>

Honduras imported fossil fuels for \$1.5 billions in 2018.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/08/1507-millones-se-destinaron-para-compras-de-combustibles/>  
09/01/18

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; Violence; Corruption - MACCIH, Environment, Open Chest, Mayors; Migration - US; Drug Trafficking - US; IMF; Public Debt; and Public Employees on Strike

Combining social movements and the political opposition, the Citizen Action against the Dictatorship (ACCD) held a press conference yesterday to call out to the Honduran people to join them in the streets demanding the end of the JOH regime. Different actions will take place between January 20-26 in different parts of Honduras. They will conclude on January 26, a day before the anniversary of JOH's second inauguration.

Among those who spoke during the press conference was also the former Liberal presidential candidate Luis Zelaya. "The resignation of Juan Hernández is imperative to return peace to Honduras".

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn/convocan-a-protestas-para-sacar-a-juan-orlando-hernandez-del-poder/>

<https://tiempo.hn/accion-ciudadana-manifestaciones-para-pedir-salida-de-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/09/es-imperativa-la-renuncia-de-joh-para-devolverle-la-paz-a-honduras-luis-zelaya/>

Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana Mercado accompanies the above-mentioned call with some hopeful words. "The support of this government will not depend on the future of the government of the United States, it will depend on the Honduran people, and the Honduran people are outraged".

The ACCD also demanded a stop to US interference in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/09/este-gobierno-no-se-sostiene-no-importa-que-trump-venga-aqui-con-sus-locuras-edmundo-orellana-mercado/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/09/accd-exige-a-ee-uu-cese-su-injerencia-politica-en-honduras/>

CESPAD criticizes the unilateral focus on the homicide rate by the JOH regime when it comes to security. "[Security Minister] Pacheco, who promised to reduce the homicide rate in 2019 to less than 35 per 100'000 inhabitants, stunned both locals and foreigners by making that assertion without

the slightest contemplation of what citizen security really means in first world countries, where respect for human rights prevails. The official's thinking reduces security to violent deaths, avoiding facts such as extortion, kidnappings, (...). The corporate media validated the official data and presented it as the only truth, forgetting the rigor of ethical and professional journalism that must validate the data with other sources of information. Although in Honduras there is a Secrecy Law that prevents access to public information, the media may have resorted to context analysis or interview victims of violence, to counteract the statements of Julián Pacheco with the true sense of citizen security, which implies ensuring coexistence and peaceful development in a society, preventing crime."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/01/09/cronologia-en-un-contexto-de-violencia-multidimensional-politica-de-seguridad-de-honduras-se-limita-al-supuesto-control-de-los-homicidios/>

Professor Charles Call and his team at the American University

Center for Latin American & Latino Studies published a special edition of their MACCIH monitor summarizing and analyzing the events of the last five months.

<https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/upload/Edici%C3%B3n-Especial-MACCIH-Monitor.pdf>

The Institute for Environmental Law Honduras (IDAMHO) looks in its newest edition of the Gaceta Verde at the links between corruption, human rights violations and the destruction of the environment.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/d02dd2498a2fb3cd56bd850c3/files/e1c40084-653f-4085-84ce-f423b010e088/Gaceta\\_Verde\\_70\\_Septiembre\\_Octubre\\_2018.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/d02dd2498a2fb3cd56bd850c3/files/e1c40084-653f-4085-84ce-f423b010e088/Gaceta_Verde_70_Septiembre_Octubre_2018.pdf)

El Heraldo published new details about the Open Chest corruption case focusing on how the accused congresswo/men stole public funds.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1248768-466/hasta-en-casinos-gastaron-fondos-los-implicados-en-el-caso-arca-abierta>

The TSC has audited at least 100 mayoralities after suspecting embezzlement of public funds.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/09/cien-alcaldias-auditadas-por-sospechas-de-malversacion-2/>

The US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton warned on Twitter in a video message about migrating to the US.

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1083095155488538624>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1248725-410/heide-fulton-hondurenos-pierdan-tiempo-dinero-viaje-destinado-fracasar-caravana-migrante>

The former Liberal congressman Fredy Nájera pleaded guilty in a US court for drug trafficking. His sentence will be presented on April 22.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/09/fredy-najera-se-declara-culpable-por-narcotrafico-en-corte-de-nueva-york/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/09/el-22-de-abril-se-dara-a-conocer-sentencia-contr-fredy-najera/>

Javier Suazo analyzes the monetary policy of the JOH regime which is based on IMF suggestions. Suazo highlights the negative effects of its inflation policy.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/197463>

The amount Honduras pays to service its debt rose to \$2 billion, over 50% more than just two years ago.

<https://radiohrn.hn/2019/01/09/en-promedio-honduras-paga-2000-millones-de-dolares-anales-por-servicio-de-deuda/>

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<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3162-honduras-secretarias-estatales-declaran-la-guerra-a-joh-por-alza-salarial>

<https://tiempo.hn/trabajadores-de-salud-acuerdan-mesa-tecnica-para-lograr-reajuste-salarial/>

10/01/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, Agua Zarca; Tolupanes; Garífunas; Extractive Industries - Guapinol, Solar; Campesinas; Public Health; Corruption - Pandora; Migration; US; Liberal Party; Electoral Reforms; and a Collective Challenge for 2019

The MP demanded life in prison for the seven men found guilty for the murder of Berta Cáceres.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/126-enero2019/3727-mp-solicita-privacion-de-libertad-de-por-vida-contr-asesinos-de-la-lider-ambientalista-bera-caceres>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/10/mp-pide-carcel-de-por-vida-contr-siete-culpables-del-crimen-de-bera-caceres/>

COPINH denounces that state security forces impeded them from entering the Supreme Court to present a legal challenge against the against the Agua Zarca dam concession.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1083415927100788736>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1083417934192672768>

<https://copinh.org/2019/01/fotos-y-video-conferencia-de-prensa-libertad-para-el-rio-gualcarque-10-enero-2019/>

Yesterday, the sentencing hearing in the case of general Finlánder Armijo Uclés started. He was found guilty of threats and damages against members of the indigenous Tolupan in San Francisco, en Locomapa. The hearing is expected to continue until January 17.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2377-general-finlander-armijo-enfrenta-cargos-por-agredir-a-indigenas-tolupanes-en-yoro>

OFRANEH warns of the imminent destruction of "one of the most biodiverse places on the north coast of Honduras" due to the construction of thermal energy plant. OFRANEH denounces the role MiAmbiente played in granting the concession.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/01/10/corredor-garifuna-sambo-corozal-zona-de-sacrificio-ambiental/>

ContraCorriente reports on the dispossession of the inhabitants around the Guapinol River in te Aguan Valley focusing on the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares and the palm oil sector.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/01/11/huir-del-despojo/>

ConexiHon reports on the ongoing resistance against the solar energy project Los Prados in the south of Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/923-tres-anos-en-contra-de-concesion-fotovoltaica-se-mantiene-comunidad-surena>

CESDAP published a beautiful portrait of Wendy Cruz, the technical coordinator on women at Vía Campesina.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/01/10/wendy-cruz-el-rostro-y-la-voz-de-las-mujeres-del-campo-en-honduras/>

A new public debate emerged yesterday about dialysis. Patients relying on the IHSS denounces the bad quality of dialysis in Honduras which led to an increased mortality.

The intervention committee of the IHSS rejected these accusations.

Doctor and vice-president of Congress, Denis Castro Bobadilla denounces that too much money is being made in Honduras with dialysis that there is no interest in improving kidney donations.

Hondudiario also reported yesterday that Honduras has a below average ration of hospital beds to inhabitants, 0.78 per 1000 inhabitants. In Latin America, the average is about 3 per 1000.

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-que-mala-calidad-de-dialisis-incrementa-las-muertes-de-enfermos-renales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/interventores-del-ihss-niegan-responsabilidad-en-muerte-de-pacientes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mega-negocio-de-hemodialisis-frena-propuesta-de-banco-nacional-de-organos/>

<https://hondudiario.com/2019/01/10/conadeh-revela-que-honduras-esta-entre-los-paises-con-baja-cobertura-hospitalaria/>

Elvin Ernesto Lozano Santos senior was acquitted in the Pandora corruption case.

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-pandora-sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-elvin-santos-padre-por-lavado-de-activos/>

El Pulso published the second part of the analysis by Jorge Sagastume on the drivers of the migrant caravan focusing on corruption, impunity and inequality. Sagastume is a consultant at the UN International

Organization for Migration (IOM) in Quito, Ecuador.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-caravana-de-migrantes-desde-la-corrupcion-y-la-impunidad-a-la-geografia-de-la-desigualdad/>

Radio Progreso speaks with the former Honduran chancellor Ernesto Paz Aguilar about the geopolitical interests in Latin America and especially Honduras.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-geopolitica-estadounidense-se-debilta-en-america-latina-sostiene-ex-canciller-ernesto-paz-aguilar/>

The Liberal Party has been divided for a while in two groups around its president Luis Zelaya and its coordinator in Congress, Elvin Santos Ordoñez. The former celebrated a victory yesterday as Santos was replaced by Víctor Barahona.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/10/diputados-liberales-dan-golpe-a-elvin-santos-en-la-bancada/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3164-partido-liberal-nombra-nueva-bancada-en-congreso-sin-oscuros>

<https://confidencialhn.com/destituyen-a-elvin-de-la-bancada-liberal-por-ordenes-de-luis-zelaya/>

Congress proposed the idea of a Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) as part of the electoral reform process.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1249105-466/congreso-nacional-pedir%C3%A1-opini%C3%B3n-a-la-corte-para-crear-un-tribunal-de>

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<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/enero-y-las-apuestas-del-ano/>

11/01/19

Honduras Daily: Mining - Catholic Church; Journalists; Tasa de Seguridad; JOH - Israel; MACCIH; Migration - Caravan; Electoral Reforms - RNP; Political Opposition - Liberal Party; Coalianza; Violence; and Plastic Waste in the Bahía de Tela

The parish council and the parish of El Triunfo, Choluteca, wrote an open letter to the local bishop Guido Charbonneau after raising pressure from him to get rid of the local priests accompanying the people in their peaceful resistance against mining projects in the area.

See Attachment

The 29-year old Paul Alexander Reyes Jonh, son of journalists Walter Reyes and Nancy John, was murdered in Tegucigalpa yesterday.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/11/asesinan-hijo-de-periodistas-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/frente-a-su-casa-asesinan-a-hijo-de-periodistas-en-tegucigalpa/>

The security tax ('tasa de seguridad') raised almost 21 billion Lempiras in the last seven years.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1249386-466/m%C3%A1s-de-20900-millones-de-lempiras-ha-recaudado-el-tas%C3%B3n-en-7>

The journalist and director of Radio Globo, David Romero Ellner, faces time in prison after the Supreme Court confirmed a sentence against him

for slander and defamation.

Romero denounces that JOH and the president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta, ordered this sentence.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/11/periodista-david-romero-esta-con-un-pie-en-la-carcel/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/david-romero-revela-que-joh-y-argueta-ordenaron-su-condena/>

<https://tiempo.hn/confirman-condena-contradavid-romero-el-sostiene-que-fallo-es-politico/>

Criterio denounces that the JOH regime sent surveys to students benefiting from the 20/20 scholarship program asking them if they are in favor of transferring the Honduran embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. "The 20/20 scholarship program has been used as Hernández's proselytizing platform to stay in power. Through blackmail, scholars have been forced to participate in public activities to sell the idea that the head of government has popular support."

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/11/piden-a-becarios-del-programa-20-20-que-apoyen-alianza-israel-usa-honduras/>

Lester Ramírez of the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) warns that the MACCIH could encounter the same fate as CICIG in Guatemala.

<https://radiohrn.hn/2019/01/11/la-maccih-podria-correr-la-misma-suerte-de-la-cicig-advierten/>

The Bureau for Children, Adolescents and Families (DINAF) threatens Hondurans thinking about participating with their children in the next migrant caravan.

The US, meanwhile, continues its social media campaign against Honduran migration.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3167-gobierno-castigara-hondurenos-que-huyan-con-menores-en-nuevo-exodo>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1083831793349001216>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1083869852308303873>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1083902698318123009>



Radio Progreso published an overview of the discussions in Congress regarding the electoral reforms. It is expected that first decisions will be taken in the coming week. The main progress so far was made regarding the RNP and the creation of a new and additional Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) (see also yesterday. But important questions, such as the two-round electoral system or the presidential reelection, remain unresolved.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn/partidos-politicos-en-plena-reparticion-del-registro-nacional-y-tribunal-electoral/>

The new National Identification System will be financed by 200 million Lempiras from the Secretary of Finance, \$20 million from the Inter-American Development Bank (BID) and 23 million Euros from the EU.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1249402-466/200-millones-para-arrancar-sistema-de-identificaci%C3%B3n-del-rnp>

Libre leader Gilberto Ríos Munguía writes about past and future challenges for a united political opposition.

<http://elpulso.hn/unidad-de-la-oposicion-antecedentes-banderas-rojas-y-listones-verdes/>

COncidencialHN published several short statements on the ongoing dispute inside the Liberal Party (see also yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/%ef%bb%bflas-puertas-estan-abiertas-piden-a-seguidores-de-elvin-sumarse-al-bando-de-luis/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cambio-de-directiva-en-bancada-liberal-es-un-paso-de-unificacion-enrique-ortez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/liberales-cuestionan-intromision-de-cachurecos-durante-golpe-a-elvin/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (BID) will audit the disputed privatizing body Coalianza in Honduras.

OFRANEH reacted on Twitter: "Corruption has never been an obstacle to

the BID, as long as they are authoritarian and right-wing governments.

It is expected that COALIANZA will be exempted from corruption charges in the name of "governability".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1249075-466/expertos-del-banco-interamericano-de-desarrollo-auditar%C3%A1n-a-coalianza>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1083773264026046465>

Already four mass killings took place in the first ten days of 2019, compared to one in all of January last year. ConfidencialHN spoke with Migdonia Ayestas, the head of UNAH's Violence Observatory.

<https://confidencialhn.com/carente-investigacion-e-impunidad-fomentan-masacres-investigadora/>

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<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/frente-a-contaminacion-en-bahia-de-tela-ambientalistas-plantean-prohibir-uso-de-plastico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/desde-el-congreso-nacional-buscan-prohibir-uso-de-bolsas-plasticas-en-honduras/>

12/01/19

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Budget; and the Death of Jaime Rosenthal

Unknown assailants attacked the family of Radio América correspondent Leonardo Raudales yesterday evening - one person died and four were hurt when the attackers shot the car they were driving in.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/12/atentan-contra-corresponsal-de-radio-america-en-olancho/>

Human rights scholar Joaquín Mejía Rivera criticizes that the confirmed sentence for journalist David Romero Ellner (see yesterday) ignores Inter-American jurisprudence on freedom of expression. "The sentence against the journalist David Romero Ellner clearly reflects what the IACHR established in its preliminary observations of its visit to the country in August 2018: that in Honduras there is a "selective justice" that, on the one hand, acts in a delayed manner regarding human rights violations, but that, on the other hand, favors the interests of diverse actors linked to the public power."

The Journalists Association of Honduras (CPH) once more demands the decriminalization of crimes against honor.

Accordingly, Romero said yesterday that he won't go to prison for a crime but rather for defending freedom of expression and telling the truth.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/12/sentencia-de-david-romero-ignora-jurisprudencia-interamericana-en-libertad-de-expresion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/despenalizar-injurias-pide-cph/>

<https://tiempo.hn/david-romero-no-voy-presos-por-criminal-sino-por-decir-la-verdad/>

According to calculations by FOSDEH, the percentage attributed to education, health and public investment in the general budget decreased substantially between 2014 and 2019: education from 12% to 11%, health from 6.8% to 5.6% and public investment from 9.8% to 4%.

<https://radiohrn.hn/2019/01/12/en-mas-de-un-punto-se-redujo-presupuesto-de-educacion-y-salud-entre-2014-y-2019/>

The Honduran businessman Jaime Rosenthal Olivia died yesterday evening after suffering a heart attack. His son Yani was sentenced in the US in 2015 for aiding Los Cachiros. Afterwards, the business of the Rosenthal family were seized in record time in Honduras. Currently, they are in a legal dispute with the State of Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-banquero-hondureno-jaime-roenthal/>

<https://tiempo.hn/496918-2/>

13/01/19

Honduras Daily: Mining - Catholic Church; Journalists; JOH; Electoral Reforms; Migration - Caravan; Violence; Militarization; Corruption - Open Chest, Impunity Pact, Judicial Power; Palm Oil; and an Even Higher Debt Level

Defensores en Línea reports on the persecution and harassment of the Catholic priests accompanying social movements in the south of Honduras (see also Saturday's e-mail).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sigue-la-persecucion-y-hostigamiento-para-los-sacerdotes-de-la-zona-sur-que-apoyan-al-pueblo-en-su-lucha/>

The confirmation of the sentence against journalist David Romero Ellner continues to worry Honduras' social movements and human rights organizations. Defensores en Línea presents it as a direct message from the dictatorship to its citizens.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-condena-de-un-periodista-envia-un-mensaje-directo-de-la-dictadura-a-la-ciudadania/>

The former president of COHEP, Juliette Handal, criticizes the JOH regime highlighting its dysfunction seen by all the intervention committees.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/13/gobierno-de-honduras-no-funciona-y-tiene-70-juntas-interventoras-que-tampoco-funcionan/>

Sociologist Eugenio Sosa published an analysis of the currently discussed electoral reforms. "In this brief analysis, the following questions are reflected and answered: What are the most important political-electoral reforms for Honduran democracy? What are the political-electoral reforms that have the possibility of being approved? And, according to their immediate interests, how do political parties act in relation to the political-electoral reforms?

(...)

In conclusion, the political-electoral horizon does not envisage deep democratic reforms that imply that political parties are willing to "go to work", and above all lose control of bodies such as the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and the National Registry of Persons (RNP) and build necessary rules for the democratization of the country, without giving advantage to a particular party. The political-electoral reforms that are visualized will be limited, to the extent of the new party reconfiguration, but also to the extent of the old electoral political behavior, which does not disappear automatically due to the emergence of new political forces."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/01/13/reformas-politico-electorales-en-honduras-a-la-medida-de-la-nueva-reconfiguracion-partidaria-pero-tambien-del-viejo-comportamiento-politico-tradicional/>

The New York Times reports on the new migrant caravan forming in Honduras and planned to take off in tomorrow. "The first challenge to the migrants may come from their own governments. The deeply unpopular presidents of Honduras and Guatemala, both tarnished by scandal, are eager to maintain the support of the Trump administration. Halting the caravan could help them do that."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/13/world/americas/migrant-caravan-honduras.html>

Two additional mass killings took place this past weekend raising the death toll to 23 in six mass killings.

More state security forces are sent to "hot" places.

The director of UNAH's Violence Observatory, Migdonia Ayestas, presents these murders as a direct challenge for the police.

Security Minister Julián Pacheco claims that they are related and that they have clear leads.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/13/8-muertos-dejan-dos-masacres-este-dia-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1249625-466/honduras-registra-seis-masacres-en-los-primeros-13-d%C3%ADas-de-2019>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/13/policia-nacional-blinda-zona-calientes-para-evitar-mas-homicidios/>

<https://tiempo.hn/migdonia-ayestas-sobre-masacres-2019/>

<https://tiempo.hn/julian-pacheco-sobre-masacres-tegucigalpa/>

In an interview with la Prensa Pacheco says that the police is ready by 90% to take over public control. But he also says that removing the armed forces from the street is a political decision.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1249805-410/julian-pacheco-ejercito-honduras-calles-seguridad-extradicion-narcos->

Today, the Open Chest corruption case will be discussed in court. It involves 21 current and former congresswo/men.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1249777-410/exdiputado-corrupcion-cambiar-cheques-asociacion-planeta-verde-honduras->

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1249793-466/exdiputado-uso-a-guardias-para-cambiar-cheques>

On Wednesday, the two Nationalist congresswo/men Sara Medina and Antonio Rivera Callejas have their day in court in the Impunity Pact corruption case.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1249808-466/sara-y-to%C3%B1o-a-audiencia-inicial-el-miercoles>

ConfidencialHN reports on irregularities at the Supreme Court under the leadership of its president Rolando Argueta.

<https://confidencialhn.com/las-mejores-amigas-el-poder-detras-del-trono-en-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

The Honduran palm oil sector demands the approval of the Biofuel Law.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/14/palmeros-piden-aprobacion-de-ley-de-biocombustible/>

FOSDEH claims that the JOH regime communicated false public debt levels, instead of \$11 billion, it has already passed \$15 billion.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/13/deuda-de-honduras-supero-los-15-mil-millones-de-dolares-en-2018/>

14/01/19

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Journalists; FoE; Corruption - Open Chest, de Lobo; Electoral Reforms; Extractivism; Migration - Caravan; Congress; and Militarization

ACI-Participa published its newest report on the situation of Honduran HRDs.

See Attachment

The journalist Jairo López regularly reports on the ongoing, bi-weekly, protests against the JOH regime in Choluteca. Now he denounces that he has received a threat of being attacked and shot in the foot the next time he covers the protests.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/el-informador/item/2379-terror-para-marchistas-dispararle-en-las-piernas-y-dejarlo-muy-golpeado-seria-el-plan-contra-periodista-jairo-lopez>

The public outcry against the confirmation of the sentence against journalist David Romero Ellner continues even involving former president Pepe Lobo.

ConfidencialHN published an additional article highlighting why the JOH regime wants to silence Romero (4th link)

<https://confidencialhn.com/pepe-repudia-condena-contra-el-director-de-radio-globo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/periodista-condena-trama-corrupta-orquestada-para-callar-a-romero/>

<https://tiempo.hn/renato-alvarez-necesitamos-periodistas-como-david-que-desafien-el-statu-quo-de-la-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-poder-quiere-encarcelar-a-romero-por-revelar-putrida-corrupcion-e-impunidad/>

A group of congresswo/men plans to present a bill decriminalizing slander and defamation.

<https://tiempo.hn/mario-villafranca-congreso-nacional/>

As political prisoners remain incarcerated without any trial, the Honduran Judicial Power decided yesterday in another high-profile corruption case (Open Chest) that the accused current and former congresswo/men don't have to await trial in prison.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/14/ninguno-de-los-sindicados-en-el-arca-abierta-ira-a-la-carcel/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dejan-libres-con-medidas-cautelares-a-implicados-en-caso-arca-abierta/>

The lawyers of the former first lady Rosa Elena de Lobo want another tribunal to try her client.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1250131-466/presentan-solicitud-inhibitoria-a-favor-de-la-ex-primera-dama-de-honduras>

The political opposition has stressed for month the importance of a two-round presidential election, it has been recommended by the EU as well as the OAS, and now, the National Party claims that it "promotes violence and represents an attack on democracy"...

Another reason against the two-round election presented by the National Party is that it is too expensive. Libre congressman Jorge Cálix reacts by telling them to stop stealing public money and the cost won't be a problem.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/14/segunda-vuelta-electoral-atenta-contr-la-democracia-y-promueve-violencia-reinaldo-sanchez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/segunda-vuelta-es-atentatoria-contr-la-democracia-partido-nacional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jorge-calix-segunda-vuelta-electoral/>

<https://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-segunda-vuelta-electoral/>

In the last edition of the Gaceta Verde in 2018, the Institute of Environmental Law of Honduras (IDAMHO) looks back at the year concluding that "[t]here is no doubt that the somber year 2018 regarding human rights and environmental issues has left a lot to think about and pushes us to redefine the framework of debate, resistance and global mobilization."

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/d02dd2498a2fb3cd56bd850c3/files/19497d34-f15c-4446-b2f8-178ca1c639df/Gaceta\\_Verde\\_71\\_Noviembre\\_Diciembre\\_2018.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/d02dd2498a2fb3cd56bd850c3/files/19497d34-f15c-4446-b2f8-178ca1c639df/Gaceta_Verde_71_Noviembre_Diciembre_2018.pdf)

Organized via social media using the theme "In Honduras we are being killed", the next migrant caravan is planned to take off today in San Pedro Sula.

The Secretariat of Foreign Relations warns Hondurans not to "irregularly leave" the country.

<https://avispa.org/nuevo-exodo-migrante-de-15-mil-personas-esta-a-punto-de-salir-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/14/segunda-caravana-comienza-a-tomar-forma-en-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tercera-caravana-de-migrantes-sale-manana-de-san-pedro-sula-hoy-duermen-en-la-terminal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/burocratas-y-policias-piden-a-hondurenos-desistir-de-caravana-migrante/>

Nincy Perdomo published the first edition of her parliamentary chronicles of 2019 focusing on the dispute inside the Liberal Party.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-8910-01-2019/>

A recent statement by Security Minister Julián Pacheco opened a debate regarding the place of the Military Police. Now, Omar Rivera claims that even though the police improved, the Military Police is still necessary for public security.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1250111-410/polic%C3%ADa-militar-ejercito-criminalidad-inseguridad-pandillas-violencia-honduras->

15/01/19

Honduras Daily: Migration - Caravan, Women; Violence - JOH, Migration; Corruption - de Lobo; Libre; Toll Booths; and the Electoral Reforms

The third major migrant caravan took off yesterday from San Pedro Sula. El Pulso writes off some 1500 people traveling together.

They encountered the first obstacle at the Guatemalan border Agua Caliente, where by then 2500 Hondurans were stopped by both the Honduran and Guatemalan police. According to the journalist Andrés Molina, 1500 were already in Guatemala, 1000 still in Honduras at 10.30pm.

Initially, the security minister Julián Pacheco had said that they won't stop anyone migrating as it is a human right.

Later, they confirmed having held back at least 60 minors.

ContraCorriente accompanies the caravan with an OpEd entitled "The Exodus as a Form of Protest".

The caravan was also accompanied by a press release by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

<http://elpulso.hn/para-la-nueva-caravana-no-hay-vida-mejor/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-medio-de-amenazas-avanza-caravana-de-migrantes-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/15/2500-hondurenos-de-la-caravana-estan-varados-en-frontera-con-guatemala/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3175-alerta-gobierno-hondureno-aseguro-frontera-para-impedir-salida-de-nuevo-exodo>

<https://confidencialhn.com/seguridad-no-impedira-migracion-de-hondurenos-porque-es-derecho-humano/>

<http://elpulso.hn/gobierno-retiene-en-la-frontera-a-60-menores-de-edad/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/01/15/el-exodo-como-forma-de-protesta/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2380-advierte-consejo-noruego-para-los-refugiados-nueva-caravana-enfrentara-graves-peligros-xenofobia-y-agotamiento-de-comunidades>

For those still in doubt about the difficult situation in Honduras, the first days of 2019 served as an important reminder. In just two weeks, eight mass killings took place, letting doubt grow regarding the statistics presented by the JOH regime. The former police commissioner María Luis Borjas holds the JOH regime responsible for the violence as a response to the arrest of JOH's brother Tony Hernández. "I definitely think that security forces are behind these massacres, at this moment they are wiping the table clean, this always happens after the capture of a high cartel boss, as in this case, the capture of the brother of the president".



InSight Crime also has picked up the increase in mass killings. "Authorities in Honduras have touted a decline in homicides in recent years, but a series of massacres to start 2019 raises questions about the ongoing security situation in the Central American nation."

The police, meanwhile, continues to claim that there are less murders taking place in Honduras.

Rodolfo Pastor Campos makes the link to migration writing about "eight massacres and a caravan".

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/15/las-masacres-obedecen-a-captura-de-tony-hernandez-maria-luisa-borjas/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/new-year-bloodshed-casts-doubt-honduras-security-gains/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-pesar-de-masacres-policia-asegura-que-ha-bajado-tendencia-criminal/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/15/ocho-masacres-y-una-caravana/>

Citerio published a long and haunting article on Honduran women forced to flee from an unbearable situation of violence.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/15/las-victimas-que-huyen-en-silencio-dejando-una-huella-de-dolor/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/15/imagenes-y-relatos-que-plasman-la-expulsion-de-la-mujer-en-honduras/>

The head of UFECIC, Luis Javier Santos, revealed yesterday that they currently are investigating 10 cases of corruption regarding the public administration.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ufecic-revela-que-tiene-10-casos-de-irregularidades-de-varios-gobiernos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ufecic-trabaja-10-casos-que-involucran-a-funcionarios-y-ex-funcionarios/>

Next Monday the corruption trial against the former first lady is planned to start.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1250443-466/jueces-ratifican-inicio-de-juicio-contr-rosa-elena-de-lobo>

El Puslo interviewed Libre leader Gilberto Ríos about the challenges ahead for the party in 2019.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-problema-es-mucho-mas-profundo-que-decir-fuera-joh-gilberto-rios/>

Criterio and El Libertador denounce an increase in toll on the highway between Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. Some years back, the introduction of the toll booths led to widespread protests especially around El Progreso.

The transport sector is discussing strike actions.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/15/honduras-nuevo-trancazo-en-peaje-de-carretera-ca-5/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3172-sorpresa-nuevo-golpe-a-hondurenos-aumentan-tarifa-de-peajes>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/15/transportistas-de-carga-anuncian-paro-de-labores-por-alza-al-peaje/>

Former TSE magistrate Augusto Aguilar disputes the claim by the National Party that a two-round presidential election would be very expensive.

<https://confidencialhn.com/expresidente-del-tse-niega-que-segunda-vuelta-sea-cara/>

16/01/19

Honduras Daily: HRDs; OFRANEH; Political Prisoners; FoE; Migration - Caravan; Hydroelectricity - Reitoca; JOH; National Police; Corruption - IHSS; and the Toll Booths Business Front Line Defenders documented 321 murders of human rights defenders worldwide in 2018, eight of them in Honduras making it once more one of the country with the highest murder rate of HRDs per capita.

[https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/global\\_analysis\\_2018.pdf](https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/global_analysis_2018.pdf)

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces that the coordinator of OFRANEH, Miriam Mirana, was stopped and harassed by the Military Police yesterday.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1085759282719674369>

In two days, on January 19, Edwin Espinal will have been a political prisoner for one year. Óscar Esquivel dedicates an OpEd to him, "a symbol of struggle against the injustices in the country".

<http://elpulso.hn/edwin-espinal/>

The debate about the use of crimes against the honor to silence journalists has taken up again in Honduras with the confirmation of the sentence against David Romero Ellner. Yesterday, C-Libre and Ciprodeh held a joint press conference denouncing this practice. They have documented at least 41 cases of this sort since 2003.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/927-delitos-contra-el-honor-se-utilizan-para-criminalizar-periodistas-denuncian-organizaciones>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/16/en-honduras-hay-41-procesos-penales-por-delitos-contra-el-honor/>

Radio Progreso published an update on the caravan reporting that some 1700 men, women and children have successfully reached Guatemala.

The Guatemalan Institute of Migration published a press release announcing that they won't impede Hondurans from entering and transiting the country.

At the same time, they denigrate the migrants speaking of violent groups destroying infrastructure.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/caravana-de-hondurenos-se-encuentra-en-guatemala-ilusionada-con-llegar-a-estados-unidos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/guatemala-confirma-que-centroamericanos-pueden-entrar-a-su-territorio/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/mundo/1250811-410/migrantes-caravana-hondure%C3%B1o-guatemala-mexico-r%C3%ADo-suchiate-trump-eeuu->

Criterio reports that hydroelectric company PROGELSA uses the old divide and conquer strategy to force through a disputed hydroelectric project on the Petacón river. Inhabitants of Reitoca have been peacefully resisting the projects for months.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/16/denuncian-a-progelsa-de-pagar-pobladores-para-crear-confrontacion-en-rio-petacon/>

The labor union STIBYS announced a march for Sunday, January 20, to protest the upcoming anniversary of the second inauguration by JOH.

Maybe sensing the pressure, JOH announced yesterday to use proceedings from the security tax for the transformation of the education system.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/16/stibys-convoca-a-movilizacion-el-20-de-enero/>

<https://tiempo.hn/el-stibys-convoca-a-una-masiva-movilizacion-para-el-proximo-domingo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-usara-fondos-del-tason-para-la-educacion-nacional/>

A public prosecutor dropped the charges, without explanation, against three police agents in possession of prohibited weapons.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscal-deja-libres-a-policias-que-transportaban-armas-prohibidas/>

A judge canceled the house arrest against one of the accused in the IHSS corruption case, the former COHEP president Óscar Galeano.

<https://confidencialhn.com/quitan-casa-por-carcel-a-implicado-en-licitacion-amanada-en-el-ihss-se-defendera-en-libertad/>

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<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1250812-466/m%C3%A1s-de-560-millones-de-lempiras-generan-ala%C3%B1o-casetas-de-peaje>

17/01/19

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Protection; JOH - Protests, Pepe Lobo; Migration - Caravan, CONADEH; Int. Delegations; Corruption - de Lobo, Judicial Power; Electoral Reforms; and the Prize of Honor

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders

published the World Report on the Situation of HRDs. The subsection on

Honduras is one of the longest in the report. Another point is worth

highlighting: "In the last five years almost half of the Special

Rapporteur's communications have been sent to the Americas with Honduras

receiving more than any other State in the region. Many of the

communications concern the killing of defenders. Each time the Special

Rapporteur has expressed concern at the dangerous environment in which

human rights defenders work and has condemned the killings, attacks,

harassment and defamation of defenders which take place in a climate of

growing violence and insecurity."

<https://www.protecting-defenders.org/sites/protecting-defenders.org/files/UNSR%20HRDs-%20World%20report%202018.pdf>

The above-mentioned report also includes a statement on the protection mechanism for HRDs. " It has yet to be fully implemented or adequately resourced and has not prevented the rise in attacks and the prevalence of impunity."

<https://www.protecting-defenders.org/sites/protecting-defenders.org/files/UNSR%20HRDs-%20World%20report%202018.pdf>

Radio Progreso speaks with former congressman and lawyer Walter Banegas who is part of Citizen Action against the Dictatorship (ACCD), a newly founded platform in opposition to the JOH regime.

ACCD and others challenged once more Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla for failing to prosecute JOH in the Pandora corruption case.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/derrotar-la-dictadura-pasa-por-la-unidad-organizacion-y-la-articulacion-de-la-oposicion-senala-walter-banegas-de-accion-ciudadana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cuestionan-a-chinchilla-por-no-proceder-contra-joh-en-trama-pandora/>

Nationwide protest have been announced in the run-up to the first anniversary of JOH's second inauguration. Some observers fear that the recent announcement of launching the Operation Morazán Two is also directed against protesters.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1251103-410/honduras-violencia-paz-combate-extorsion-crimen-organizado>

The lingering dispute between JOH and the former president Pepe Lobo becomes more public. In the past, Lobo denounced JOH for putting his wife on trial and accused his government of corruption. Yesterday, he doubled down on Twitter. "It is not spending millions on publicity that decreases people's animosity to a ruler, it is better to reflect, ask God to give him humility, strength, wisdom and the courage to change what should change. Deeds not words!"

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/17/no-es-con-millones-en-publicidad-que-se-logra-que-lo-quieran-pepe-lobo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/pepe-lobo-a-joh-es-mejor-reflexionar-y-pedirle-a-dios-humildad/>

An international delegation from the Basque country will visit Honduras at the end of the month to find out more about the its human rights situation.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nueva-mision-del-gobierno-vasco-visitara-el-pais-en-los-proximos-dias/>

La Prensa reports that the first members of the new migrant caravan are already in Mexico, three days after they sett off in San Pedro Sula.

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the obstacles faced by the migrants especially in the form of state repression.

ContraCorriente published a portrait of the new caravan, its participants and highlighting once more why the flee Honduras.

In a second article, they accompany the caravan photographically.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/mundo/1251038-410/primeros-migrantes-caravana-ya-estan-mexico>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2381-gobierno-arrecia-campanas-psicologicas-y-de-intimidacion-para-retener-a-migrantes>

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/01/17/una-caravana-fragmentada-huye-aceleradamente-de-honduras/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/01/15/una-nueva-caravana-avanza/>

Honduras' human rights ombudsman (CONADEH), Roberto Herrera Cáceres, also commented on the caravan. "We have to find a solution to the structural causes that motivate these displacements and not only that, but also to other public ills that affect our society and our State".

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/17/conadeh-cuestiona-que-honduras-sea-un-pais-expulsor-de-migrantes-forzados/>

The trial against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo has been postponed once more. According to El Heraldo, the amount of expert evidence presented to the legal teams was so high, that they needed additional time to examine it. A new date has been set for January 28.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1251120-466/por-pericia-de-1908-folios-se-retraso-juicio-de-mi-rosa>

ConfidencialHN continues to cover the irregularities at Honduras' Judicial Power including expensive foreign travels by the 15 Supreme Court judges.

<https://confidencialhn.com/vida-de-potentados-asi-dilapidaron-el-dinero-los-magistrados-del-poder-judicial/>

Congress is expected to vote on the electoral reforms next week. Congress' Nationalist president Mauricio Oliva promises "the most profound [electoral reforms] in the history of Honduras". He also claims that they have a majority in Congress by over 100 votes (out of 128).

A second statement by Oliva raises doubt about that as he dismisses the importance of a two-round presidential election, a red line for the political opposition. Another key topic, the presidential reelection won't be discussed either.

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez presented some proposals as well, among them the prolongation of the term by presidents, congresswo/men and mayors to five years. In the case of the president, there would be a recall referendum after two years, a possibility for the people to be heard. In the case of congresswo/men, there would be a term limit of two terms.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1251127-466/oliva-asegura-que-el-cn-aprobara-reformas-electorales-profundas>

<https://tiempo.hn/oliva-sobre-segunda-vuelta-a-corto-plazo-no-es-un-tema-urgente/>

<https://tiempo.hn/a-cinco-anos-pide-el-pinu-que-se-amplie-el-periodo-presidencial/>

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<https://confidencialhn.com/parlamentario-muestra-reservas-por-despenalizacion-de-delitos-contra-el-honor/>

18/01/19

Honduras Daily: Garífunas - Land; Post-Electoral Violence; HRDs; Journalists - FoE; National Police - Repression; Military Police; Migration - Caravan; MACCIH; Education; and Minimum Wage in Honduras

OFRANEH reports on their struggle to get access to a resolution by a Trujillo court on communitarian land possession. Honduras indigenous peoples have been protesting the Property Law since its elaboration and approval in 2004 for violating indigenous rights. The case looked at by the Trujillo court regards a decision based on this law about communitarian land in Guadalupe, Colón granted to a Canadian businessman. A local employee was accused of abuse of authority for granting him the land, but based again on the Property Law, she was acquitted. According to OFRANEH, this decision means the end of communitarian land in Honduras.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/01/18/resolucion-del-juzgado-de-trujillo-y-el-fin-de-la-propiedad-comunitaria-en-hondura/>

On July 27, 2018, the MP pressed charges against the police sub-commissioner Raúl Martínez Alvarado for abuse of authority and torture during the post-electoral repression against the journalists Rony Jonathan Martínez and Cesar Omar Silva as well as Libre congressman Jari Dixon. Now, six months later, the initial hearing took place. "C-Libre positively assesses the accusation, however, considers that in this case there are evidentiary elements to accuse other police and military officials who participated in the assaults on the aforementioned victims as in the general attack against the peaceful protest."

At the same time, the assassinations by public security forces during the same time rest in impunity and with a week of protests up to the anniversary of JOH's second inauguration starting this Sunday, more violent repression is feared. The Security Secretariat published a press release warning that they won't allow "violent protests".

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/18/exigen-sancion-para-policias-y-militares-agresores-de-protestantes-por-el-fraude-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-de-honduras-advierte-que-no-permitira-actos-violentos-ante-protestas-de-libre/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the increase of requests for protection filed at the protection mechanism. At the same time, its budget decreased.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2382-incrementan-las-solicitudes-de-proteccion-por-agresiones-a-periodistas-y-defensores-de-derechos-humanos>

The journalist and owner of Lajas TV fled Honduras after months of threats and being extorted. He criticizes that the anti-extortion force of the MP failed to act after he had informed them about his situation.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/amenazas/938-comunicador-abandona-el-pais-tras-ser-victima-de-la-extorsion>

CONADEH joins the debate regarding crimes of honor calling imprisonment for such crimes a "severe and disproportionate" measure.

The debate started with this week's confirmation of a sentence against journalist David Romero Ellner. Another journalist, Carlos Martínez, faces the second accusation for defamation in seven months by congressman Bernardo Enrique Yllescas.

But it also affects congresswo/men directly, as highlighted in the case of congresswoman María Luisa Borjas accused of defamation by the businessman Camilo Atala.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/929-conadeh-medida-severa-y-desproporcional-encarcelar-personas-por-delitos-contr-el-honor>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/procesos-legales/939-en-siete-meses-periodista-enfrenta-segunda-querella>

<https://tiempo.hn/periodista-carlos-martinez-teme-ser-victima-de-los-tribunales-y/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/querellada-por-banquero-insiste-en-que-no-ha-cometido-ningun-delito/>

Defensores en Línea denounces police repression against members of the campesino association El Buen Samaritano in El Guanábano, Francisco Morazán.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/persisten-las-denuncias-por-la-brutalidad-que-ejerce-la-policia-nacional-en-contra-de-la-ciudadania/>

As the amount of mass killings has dramatically increased in the first days of 2019, JOH felt compelled to act. While previously he only announced more police presence, in recent statements he now announced an increase in Military Police agents.

<https://tiempo.hn/mas-policias-mas-militares-mas-inteligencia-e-invertir-en-mas-logistica-anuncia-joh/>

Both Avispa Midia and Criterio report on a successful arrival of the migrant caravan in Mexico, where "[t]he migrants have been assisted by migration personnel who were trained to instruct them about the humanitarian visa".

<https://avispa.org/migrantes-son-recibidos-de-forma-organizada-en-mexico-y-les-dan-visa-humanitaria/>



<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/18/mexico-abre-sus-brazos-a-migrantes-hondurenos/>

The MACCIH will hold a public discussion with civil society regarding the Efficient Collaboration Bill, a bill they have lobbied for since the beginning but which has been successfully blocked by the Nationalist-controlled Congress.

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_MACCIH/status/1086355779727310848](https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1086355779727310848)

Reporteros de Investigación highlights a case of illegal suspension of payments to 119 teachers going back to 2014 and which rests in impunity.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/01/18/cuatro-anos-cuatro-ministros-de-impunidad-y-el-calvario-de-la-profe-claudia/>

The discussions on minimum wage in the public sector will continue on Monday. FOSDEH criticizes a fundamental problem with the approach in Honduras. "The problem is that in the country the adjustment is being made on the basis of an unrealistic index, because with the reality of the increase in prices for basic goods and other services, the current salary of people does not adjust more than to survive."

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/economia-familiar-en-picada-por-pirricos-salarios/>

19/01/19

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; JOH - Public Employees; Violence - Youth; Migration - Caravan; Electoral Reforms; Congress; and a New Situation

Canadian human rights defender and coordinator of the Honduran Solidarity Network writes about the day one year ago when her now husband Edwin Espinal was detained. "Little did we both know that evening, Edwin would be quickly 'processed' by the Honduran judicial system and the Public Prosecutor's office that would within a day, send him to a maximum security prison where he still remains. Little did I know, I would spend the year fighting to get him out alongside the incredible Honduran social movement."

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/1/19/one-year-later-the-day-edwin-was-arrested-un-ao-despus-el-da-edwin-fue-capturado>

As a response to the events of one year ago and to the general situation in Honduras, a week of protests has been announced by the three main opposition parties as well as different sectors of civil society such as the Convergence against the Reelection. They demand the resignation of JOH, the release of the political prisoners and justice for the victims of the post-electoral violence.

The JOH regime sent not-so-veiled threats to the protesters.

<https://tiempo.hn/accion-contrala-dictadura-convoca-a-movilizacion-manana-para-exigirla-salida-de-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/19/partido-libre-convoca-a-movilizaciones-a-nivel-nacional-este-27-de-enero/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/18/policia-nacional-anuncia-represion-por-paro-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fuerza-publica-no-permitira-disturbios-durante-protestas-antigubernamentales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ebal-diaz-hace-fuertes-criticas-y-una-peticion-a-manuel-zelaya/>

Public employees, meanwhile, announce new strike actions for Monday demanding an adjustment of their salaries to the rising living costs.

<https://confidencialhn.com/trabajadores-iran-a-asambleas-si-el-gobierno-no-efectua-ajuste-salarial/>

CONADEH estimates that between 2010 and 2018, 51'000 human beings violently lost their lives in Honduras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1251593-466/conadeh-en-9-a%C3%B1os-han-muerto-51000-personas-por-violencia>

Casa Alianza's Observatory for the Rights of Children and Youths in Honduras documented the violent murder of 75 Hondurans below 30 in November 2018.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/casa-alianza-en-noviembre-se-registraron-75-muertes-violentas-de-jovenes/>

Radio Progreso continues to cover the situation in the south of Mexico after the arrival of the newest migrant caravan. According to the Mexican National Institute for Migration, 2373 migrants recently arrived, 1933 were from Honduras.

Meanwhile in Honduras, El Tiempo reports that another caravan will take off from San Pedro Sula.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/obierno-mexicano-anuncia-implementacion-de-protocolo-de-atencion-al-migrante-de-forma-organizada-y-legal/>

<https://tiempo.hn/se-afianza-la-crisis-en-honduras-esta-noche-sale-la-cuarta-caravana-de-migrantes-para-estados-unidos/>

El Heraldo claims that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal(TSE) will disappear and be replaced by a newly created National Electoral Council (CNE).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1251598-466/tres-partidos-pol%C3%ADticos-conducir%C3%A1n-el-consejo-nacional-electoral-cne>

Nincy Perdomo published the newest installment of the parliamentary chronicles focusing on the debates around the electoral reforms.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-151617-01-2019/>

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<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-nueva-coyuntura/>

20/01/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests; Mining - Guapinol; Armed Forces; Migration - Caravan, Mexico; Public Health; and Poor Migrants and Mighty Lies

Yesterday, a week of protest leading up to the first anniversary of JOH's second inauguration has begun.

Today, a protest will be held at 10:00am in front of the MP.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/20/hacen-a-un-lado-las-canas-y-el-cansancio-para-sumarse-a-la-lucha/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oposicion-cierra-filas-en-respaldo-a-director-de-radio-globo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/20/hondurenos-exigen-la-salida-de-la-narco-dictadura-de-juan-herandez/>

The 24 communities around Tocoa, Colón, participated in municipal summit against mining reiterating their demand that the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares leaves their region.

<https://tiempo.hn/tocoa-libre-de-mineria-pobladores-mantienen-su-postura-de-sacar-a-inversiones-pinares/>

Criterion reports that two active soldiers shot dead a 40-year old man, Carlos Alberto Cuellar Vásquez, in Gracias, Lempira. The National Police Force tried to present it as a brawl to which the soldiers were called to which then went out of hand and "one of the shots fired reached Cuellar hurting him badly and later causing his death". According to the victims sister, he died with 12 bullet wounds on his body.

The two soldiers were arrested yesterday.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/20/militares-disparan-y-matan-a-hombre-en-gracias-lempira/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/detienen-a-dos-militares-por-la-muerte-de-una-persona-durante-una-confusa-turba/>

ConfidencialHN reports that another large group of Hondurans left San Pedro Sula yesterday morning in direction of the US.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sale-otro-nutrido-grupo-de-hondurenos-en-caravana-hacia-ee-uu/>

According to the Institute of Migration of Mexico, the number of humanitarian visas requested by Hondurans in Chiapas has reached 4383.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/20/4383-hondurenos-han-solicitado-asilo-humanitario-en-mexico/>

Between 2012 and 2016, the University Hospital bought expired reagents needed for biopsies worth 2.4 million Lempiras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1251861-466/24-millones-de-lempiras-se-perdieron-en-reactivos-yencidos-en-el-hospital>

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<https://contracorriente.red/2019/01/20/migrantes-pobres-mentiras-poderosas/>

21/01/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests, Drug Trafficking, Church, Public Consultation; Electoral Reforms; MACCIH; Penitentiary System; and a Tale of Institutions and Institutionalism

The week of protest against the JOH regime which had started on Sunday continued yesterday. COPINH joined by other organizations and local inhabitants occupy the border location El Florido in Copán between Honduras and Guatemala.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/21/aduana-de-el-florido-copan-amanece-tomada-por-el-copinh/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/copinh-mantiene-toma-en-aduana-por-rechazo-al-regimen-hernandez/>

The Citizen Action against the Dictatorship (ACCD) presented a petition to Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla demanding an investigation of JOH. "He [Juan Orlando Hernández] being the president of the Council of Defense and National Security, where all the policies are designed to fight crime in all its manifestations, we do not believe that this situation should be ignored and rather; with sufficient reason we believe that he consented, promoted and even benefited from the illicit activities of his brother Antonio 'Tony' Hernández."

ConfidencialHN challenged both the Secretary of Security Julián Pacheco and the head of the Armed Forces Rene Ponce regarding Tony Hernández. Both men have praised their and their institution's work against drug trafficking but they only offer excuses when confronted with the fact that Tony Hernández is accused of having been active in drug trafficking since 2004 without their apparent knowledge.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/accion-ciudadana-contr-la-dictadura-accd-pide-al-mp-que-investigue-de-oficio-a-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/21/piden-al-ministerio-publico-investigue-a-joh-por-vinculos-con-el-narcotrafico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/accion-ciudadana-presenta-segunda-solicitud-al-mp-para-investigar-a-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/autoridades-se-derriten-en-justificaciones-por-no-proceder-contr-tony-hernandez/>

The Central American District of the Society of Jesus organized MAG+S, a youth summit, in Panama between January 11 and 21. On state, a group of young Hondurans presented their country in songs, ended their performance with the protest song "JOH es pa' fuera que vas" accompanied by a banner "Fuera JOH".

<https://tiempo.hn/fuera-joh-se-grita-en-panama-antes-de-la-llegada-del-papa-y-en-londres-es-la-entonacion-de-extranjeros/>

<http://libertaddigital.news/comparte/asi-cantaron-jovenes-catolicos-el-joh-es-pa-fuera-que-vas-en-panama/>

As part of the resistance against the JOH regime, the Convergence against the Reelection (CCC) started a public consultation process last year. It continued last weekend in San Nicolás, Santa Bárbara. 1529 people (about 20% of all inhabitants) participated and with great majorities over 90% rejected the extractive development model promoted by the JOH regime, they denied living in a democratic state with rule of law and they demanded the resignation of JOH. In a fourth question about a local mining project, 96.34% demanded its withdrawal.

<http://wp.radioprogresohn.net/ciudadania-de-san-nicolas-rechaza-presencia-de-minera-en-el-municipio-y-se-pronuncia-sobre-la-continuidad-del-gobierno-del-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

Libre congressman Juan Barahona denies the fears voiced by some that Libre may back down on their demands for transforming electoral reforms due to secret deals with the National Party. Congress will discuss the reforms tomorrow and on Thursday and Barahona says they will insist on the two-round presidential election.

Participating in the protest outside the MP (see above), Salvador Nasralla denounced the proposed reforms as "a distraction of what Honduras really needs" which for him also includes a two-round presidential election.

<https://confidencialhn.com/diputado-de-libre-niega-maridaje-con-nacionalistas-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/21/reformas-electorales-en-el-congreso-son-puro-maquillaje-nasralla/>

The Canadian ambassador in Honduras, James K. Hill, wrote an article on the importance of the MACCIH to fight corruption. "At this historic moment for Honduras, the efforts of all the institutions that contribute to the fight against corruption must be redoubled, to show that there can be a positive and sustainable change restoring the confidence of citizens in public institutions."

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/embajada-de-canad%C3%A1-en-costa-rica-nicaragua-y-honduras/la-maccih-pieza-clave-en-la-lucha-contr-la-corrupci%C3%B3n/2673254499381222/>

According to La Prensa, new funds were authorized to finish the La Acequia prison near San Pedro Sula.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sanpedro/1252186-410/autorizados-los-fondos-para-terminar-la-c%C3%A1rcel-de-la-acequia>

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<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/21/de-instituciones-e-institucionalidad/>

22/01/19

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Protection; JOH - Protests, US; SouthComm; Tourism; Femicide; Electoral Reforms; Migration - Mexico, US, Deportation; War on Drug; Corruption - Open Chest, IHSS, IPP; Public Health; National Police; Identity Cards; and Pepe vs. JOH - Round 3

Almost one year ago, the Public Prosecutor Office for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators (FEPRODDEHH) was opened. Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that it fails to report on its work and it has not even published any statistics yet on the cases it attended.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2383-fiscalia-especial-de-proteccion-se-niega-a-dar-cuentas-de-su-trabajo>

Defensores en Línea reports on Day 3 of the week of protest against the JOH regime.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/continuan-protestas-para-exigir-la-salida-de-la-dictadura-en-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3189-hondurenos-no-quieren-reeleccion-presidencial>

A protest took also place outside the US embassy to denounce their ongoing support of the JOH regime.

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/409226/protesta-eeuu-hernandez-migrantes-crisis>

A case in point was a meeting yesterday between the head of the US Southern Command with the JOH regime in Honduras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1252395-410/jefe-comando-sur-eeuu-reitera-compromiso-honduras-trabajar-paz-seguridad>

Giorgio Trucchi reports on the negative impacts of tourism in Honduras' Golfo de Fonseca region. "Honduran social activists in the Gulf of Fonseca question the Honduran government's discourse on the benefits of tourism development and denounce the brutality of the process of dispossession of the communities by these investments. (...) Also for Fabián Ávila [of the social movement ADEPZA], tourism could be something very important to improve the living conditions of the people. "We have always said: those of us who fight for the defense of the territory do not oppose development. We want development, we want work, we want tourists to arrive, enjoy the beauties of our island, these beautiful beaches, the Sea and the sun of southern Honduras. But it must be something that benefits everyone. We have lived here for decades and communities must be consulted and participate in these processes. We want a tourism that comes from within the communities. Tourism can no longer be built on dispossession and privatization. We are tired of this, "concluded Avila."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/197692>

The Center for Women's Studies (CEM-H) demands a higher budget to investigate femicides. From the required 234.8 million Lempiras, only 40 millions have been approved.

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-mas-presupuesto-para-investigacion-de-femicidios/>

El Pulso spoke with the former TSE magistrate Denis Gómez about the electoral reforms, "a historic necessity" as he calls them.

The same day, El Pulso also published an OpEd by Óscar Esquivel on "the electoral reforms which won't change anything" highlighting the lack of hope by many in Honduras in the current process.

Sociologist Eugenio Sosa shares the lack of optimism. Furthermore, he highlights some parts of a successful reform process which do not get enough public attention such as the transparency of campaign money.

After Libre, it is the turn of the Liberal Party to publicly announce that they won't accept the limited reforms proposed by the National Party.

<http://elpulso.hn/reformas-electorales-denis-gomez/>

<http://elpulso.hn/reformas-electorales-no-cambian-nada/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/22/honduras-las-reformas-politicas-iran-a-cualquier-parte/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3190-partido-liberal-no-apoyara-reformas-cosmeticas-de-mauricio-oliva>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/22/liberales-no-aprobaran-reformas-electorales-si-no-son-profundas-y-beneficiosas-para-el-pueblo/>

CIPRODEH believes that the migrant exodus clearly highlights that Honduras suffers from a humanitarian crisis and it wants the UN and international human rights bodies to recognize this in opposition to the JOH regime which denies it and promotes questionable tales of people returning on their own will to Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/22/ciprodeh-pide-a-la-onu-reconozca-que-en-honduras-existe-una-crisis-humanitaria/>

The number of humanitarian asylum requests by Hondurans in Mexico reached 7,281 yesterday, i.e. it rose by more than 1000 in just one day.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/22/a-7281-suben-solicitudes-de-asilo-humanitario-de-hondurenos-en-mexico/>

US vice-president agreed with JOH per phone to continue collaborating on the reduction of migrants leaving Honduras for the US.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1252550-466/estados-unidos-y-honduras-acuerdan-continuar-acciones-para-reducir-la-migraci%C3%B3n-irregular>

ProPublica uncovered that a former Mara member turned informant for the FBI was deported by the US. "An immigration judge said he was "very sympathetic" to the teenager who cooperated with authorities only to be jailed with those he informed on. The judge nonetheless rejected his plea for asylum."

<https://www.propublica.org/article/ms-13-member-who-secretly-helped-police-is-deported>

The International Drug Policy Consortium published an interesting report called "Taking Stock - A Decade of Drug Policy. A Civil Society Shadow Report".

[http://filesserver.idpc.net/library/Shadow%20Report\\_FINAL\\_ENGLISH.pdf](http://filesserver.idpc.net/library/Shadow%20Report_FINAL_ENGLISH.pdf)



The accused in the Open Chest corruption case will appear in court this afternoon after the initial hearing was postponed for a day yesterday.

<http://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/juez-otorga-espacio-a-partes-procesales-y-audiencia-inicial-sigue-este-miercoles.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-audiencia-inicial-20-implicados-en-caso-arca-abierta.html>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2019/01/honduras-arca-abierta-juez-otorga.html>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2019/01/honduras-en-audiencia-inicial-20.html>

A court provisionally acquitted on of the accused of money laundering in the IHSS corruption case.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1252528-466/corte-sobreesee-a-acusado-en-el-desfalco-del-instituto-hondure%C3%B1o-de-seguridad>

Criterio continues to cover the ongoing irregularities at the Social Security Institute for Journalists (IPP).

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/22/desangran-recursos-del-instituto-de-pensiones-de-periodistas/>

The Intervention Committee at the University Hospital announced that there will be consequences regarding the expired drugs used to detect cancer worth 2.4 million Lempiras. El Heraldo reported on this some days ago.

<https://confidencialhn.com/procederan-contraquequienes-dejaron-vencer-medicamentos-en-hospital-escuela/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/de-forma-sutil-asj-pide-carcel-para-julieta-castellanos-por-dejar-vencer-farmacos-en-heu/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1252532-466/quisieron-ocultar-la-auditoria-de-los-reactivos-vencidos>

JOH announced that the National Police will receive 205 new cars and a new lab for criminal investigations.

<https://confidencialhn.com/policias-reciben-de-joh-lote-de-vehiculos-y-moderno-laboratorio-para-investigacion-criminal/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1252318-410/presidente-hernandez-inaugura-laboratorio-criminal%C3%ADstica-tegucigalpa>

The new Honduran identity cards are estimated to cost \$52 million of which the Inter-American Development Bank (BID) pays \$20 million and the EU \$24 million.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1252531-466/bid-y-ue-destinaran-l-1073-millones-para-la-nueva-identidad>

The former president Pepe Lobo once more publicly challenges JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/22/pepe-lobo-reta-a-joh-a-un-duelo-de-artes-marciales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/yo-no-votaria-por-el-pepe-reafirma-que-no-tiene-nada-que-hablar-con-joh/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/01/22/juan-orlando-hernandez-podria-reelegirse-en-candidatura-por-consenso-dentro-el-partido-nacional-pepe-lobo-hay-intencion-de-prescindir-de-las-internas/>

23/0119

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; JOH - Protests, US; Solar Energy; Wind Energy; Migration - Femicide; Security Spending; Electoral Reforms; MACCIH; Corruption - Open Chest, Impunity Pact, TSC; ENEE - IMF; Coalianza; and Treading New Paths

The US Department of Justice emitted a press release yesterday informing that "charges have been filed in Manhattan federal court against former Honduran mayor Amilcar Alexander Ardon Soriano and, in a separate Superseding Indictment, Mario Jose Calix Hernandez. The charges in each indictment include conspiring to import cocaine into the United States and related weapons offenses involving the use and possession of machineguns and destructive devices. The United States is seeking the defendants' extraditions from Honduras and Guatemala." Both are members of the National Party and Calix Hernandez is also accused of being linked to JOH's brother Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández.

Criterion published a Spanish translation of the press release.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/second-former-honduran-mayor-charged-conspiring-import-cocaine-united-states-and>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/23/socio-de-tony-hernandez-y-exalcalde-de-el-paraiso-copan-se-entregan-a-justicia-de-ee-uu/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/01/23/unidad-de-terrorismo-y-narcoticos-internacionales-de-nueva-york-acusa-a-segundo-narco-alcalde-complice-del-hermano-de-presidente-de-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ee-uu-pide-en-extradicion-a-presunto-complice-de-tony-hernandez/>

The news above from the US won't improve the situation of JOH in Honduras who faces a week of protest. Yesterday, the platform Citizen Action against the Dictatorship (ACCD) demanded the resignation of JOH in front of the Supreme Court.

The former Libre congressman Rasel Tomé and the current one Nelson Ávila ask Manuel Zelaya to join ACCD for a united opposition.

Rodolfo Pastor Campos published an Insurrection Manifesto to accompany the protests.

<https://tiempo.hn/accion-ciudadana-sigue-con-sus-protestas-frente-a-csj-exigen-salida-de-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/23/llaman-a-mel-zelaya-a-unirse-a-la-oposicion-contra-la-dictadura/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/23/manifiesto-insurreccional/>

The former presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla denounces the bad example set by the US to stand by JOH even though there is reason to believe that he is linked to drug trafficking and his name appears in many corruption cases.

The US, meanwhile, published a summary of the phone call between JOH and US vice-president Mike Pence (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/23/ee-uu-da-mal-ejemplo-al-mundo-al-defender-a-un-narcotraficante-salvador-nasralla/>

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/resumen-llamada-telefonica-vicepresidente-pence-presidente-honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

Inhabitants of Guanacastillo, Choluteca, denounce that a Spanish solar company promised them an improved school, new roads and much more to have their solar energy projects installed in the community but none of the promises have been kept.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/el-informador/item/2385-cuando-llego-ofrecio-el-sol-y-la-luna-empresa-de-energia-solar-se-le-esconde-a-comunidades-para-no-cumplir-promesas>

There are also problems with wind energy projects in Honduras, especially the wind park in Santa Ana, Francisco Morazán, which started producing energy in 2011. Its construction was accompanied by irregularities, in 2015 the local mayoralty was accused of misappropriation of money partly coming from the wind energy company and local inhabitants denounce the sound emissions.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/932-parque-eolico-de-santa-ana-el-monstruo-que-nunca-duerme>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports that at least 324 Honduran women were deported from the US last year even though they face death threats in Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2384-en-riesgo-la-vida-de-324-mujeres-que-fueron-deportadas-de-estados-unidos>

FOSDEH published a new report evaluating security and defense spending in Honduras.

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2019/01/cual-es-el-costo-de-la-seguridad-y-la-defensa-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cuestionan-errada-estrategia-militarista-implementada-por-joh-para-reducir-inseguridad/>

Congress decided to abolish the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and replace it with a National Electoral Council and a Electoral Justice Tribunal to separate the organization of elections with the receiving of complaints about it. A special commission was created to elaborate a plan.

The former magistrate René Adán Tomé says that this proposed reform is unconstitutional because Congress presents to fast-track a constitutional modification.

CIPRODEH director Wilfredo Méndez denounces that the two new bodies will become white elephants believing the whole process to be a farce.

Further reforms, such as the two-round presidential election, were not agreed upon. The president of the Liberal Party denounced that Libre agreed to the reform of the TSE even though they conditioned their approval initially on the approval of the two-round election.

He speaks of a plot to present "cosmetic reforms".

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/23/politicos-acuerdan-repartirse-puestos-en-organos-electorales-sin-hacer-reformas-estructurales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/anuncia-congreso-nacional-la-segunda-vuelta/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/23/reformas-electorales-son-inconstitucionales-y-un-engano-para-el-pueblo-rene-adan-tome/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nuevos-organos-de-justicia-electoral-no-funcionaran-y-sera-elfantes-blanco-mendez/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/23/luis-zelaya-dice-que-se-queda-solo-con-la-segunda-vuelta-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-insiste-en-que-hay-un-complot-para-crear-reformas-cosmeticas/>

Congressman Yahvé Sabillón, members of the Parliamentary Front in Defense of the MACCIH, warns of new attacks against the institution and attempts to get rid of it.

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-clase-corrupta-intenta-ponerle-fin-a-la-maccih/>

One of the accused in the Open Chest corruption case, former Nationalist congressman Óscar Álvarez, offered to pay 1.6 million Lempiras in bail to be allowed to leave the country.

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana dedicates an OpEd to a "transcendental" decision by a judge in the Open Chest corruption case. The defense of the accused current and former congresswo/men wanted to judge to suspend the charges against them for three years based on the

very disputed reforms to the budget bill, the so-called Impunity Pact. The judge denied this arguing that this change, according to him, is unconstitutional.

<https://radiohrn.hn/2019/01/23/un-millon-600-mil-lempiras-propone-defensa-de-oscar-alvarez-para-cambio-de-medidas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oscar-alvarez-propone-fianza-millonaria-para-regresar-a-su-trabajo-en-ee-uu/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/23/decision-trascendental/>

Yesterday also produced news regarding the above-mentioned impunity pact. A judge confirmed an upcoming trial against Nationalist congresswoman Sara Medina Galo, but at the same time dropped the charges against the Nationalist vice-president of Congress Antonio Rivera Callejas.

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-fe-de-errata-sara-medina-a-proceso-y-sobreseimiento-a-rivera-callejas/>

El Herald reports on irregularities at the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) regarding high travel expenses.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1252909-466/los-magistrados-del-tsc-reciben-hasta-l-35-mil-diaros-en-viaticos>

Javier Suazo published an analysis on the role of the IMF in the privatization of ENEE.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/197714>

The privatizing body Coalianza has not been paying its employees since December.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1252895-466/honduras-coalianza-sigue-en-crisis-y-sin-dinero-para-salarios>

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<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/hacer-caminos-23-enero-2019/>

24/01/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; JOH - Protests, US; National Police; Corruption - Impunity Pact, Open Chest; MACCIH - TSC; TSC; Electoral Reforms - US; Migration - Mexico, Disappearance; Labor Rights;

On Wednesday, the US Department of Justice informed about the criminal charges filed against Amilcar Alexander Ardón Soriano and Mario Jose Calix Hernandez (see yesterday). A link between

Calix Hernández with Tony Hernández, and therefore at least indirectly with JOH, was directly highlighted in the press release, but not for Ardón Soriano. A 2013 article by CEPR does a great job at this. As the mayor of El Paraíso, Ardón Soriano was directly involved in the 2013 electoral fraud in favor of JOH.

El Herald reports that there is no arrest warrant out in Honduras against Ardón Soriano.

<http://cepr.net/blogs/the-americas-blog/honduras-flawed-election-the-case-of-el-paraiso>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1253208-466/no-hay-orden-de-captura-contra-alexander-ard%C3%B3n-y-alias-cubeta>

As part of the week of protest running up to the anniversary of JOH's second inauguration, Radio Progreso spoke with sociologist Eugenio Sosa about the JOH regime and why it has stayed in power.

One important voice of protest is the platform Citizen Action against the Dictatorship. Yesterday, its members visited the UN human rights office in Honduras where they denounced that some of its members had received death threats.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-posicion-paso-de-ser-una-amenaza-de-desestabilizacion-a-un-factor-importante-de-estabilizacion-senala-eugenio-sosa/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/24/accion-ciudadana-contra-la-dictadura-denuncia-amenazas-a-sus-miembros/>

The Honduran Solidarity Network published a press release in support of "the Honduran Peoples' Call to End the Dictatorship"

See Attachment

ConfidencialHN published findings that charges against nine police officials as part of the purge were fabricated based on rumors spread by the disputed former head of police Juan Carlos "el Tigre" Bonilla. The article further claims that Omar Rivera and Carlos Hernández, two members of the purging body, 'are endorsing the hunt against the so-called "uncomfortable elements"'.

<https://confidencialhn.com/persecucion-contra-expolicias-fue-por-chismes-del-tigre-bonilla-y-avalado-por-julieta-y-asj/>

On Wednesday, Libre congressman Yahvé Sabillon denounced that there is an attempt to get rid of the MACCIH (see yesterday).

Yesterday, this was followed by statements from the Liberal Party president Luis Zelaya denouncing that the fate of the MACCIH in Honduras is sealed by an alliance of the National Party, Libre and part of the Liberal Party.

<https://tiempo.hn/yahve-sabillon-sobre-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/24/eliminacion-del-convenio-de-la-maccih-ya-fue-pactado-luis-zelaya/>

As part of the Impunity Pact corruption case, two Nationalist strongmen have been acquitted so far, while the less powerful Nationalist congresswoman Sara Mediana still faces a trial. Another Nationalist congressman, Román Villeda, had his preliminary hearing postponed to February 12.

<https://confidencialhn.com/reprograman-audiencia-preliminar-para-diputado-roman-villeda/>

The anti-corruption arm of the MP, Ufecic, shows surprise that the Public Prosecutor (Procurador de la República) did not attend the hearing in the Open Chest corruption case.

<https://tiempo.hn/arca-abierta-ufecic-cuestiona-ausencia-procurador/>

The MACCIH published their analysis of the proposed reforms to the organic law of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC). While they highlight some progress, they also criticize that "part of these reforms weaken the audit and control powers of the Court and the independence of the Public Ministry". With the proposed reforms, the TSC would not be allowed to audit funds by Public Private Partnerships or by NGOs using state funds. Another proposed reform would even violate the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

[https://www.oas.org/es/centro\\_noticias/comunicado\\_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-002/19](https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-002/19)

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1253200-466/maccih-advierte-que-reformas-debilitar%C3%A1n-al-tribunal-superior-de-cuentas-y-el>

The same TSC and especially its magistrates have faced criticism for a while based on findings of irregularities by the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ).

<https://confidencialhn.com/sitraina-exige-firma-de-contrato-de-negociacion-para-alcanzar-aumento-salarial/>

As expected, Congress (in form of the National Party, Libre and parts of the Liberal Party) approved the disappearance of the TSE and its replacement with two new institutions (see yesterday).

The criticism of this limited reform continues to be voiced, yesterday for example by the former Human Rights Minister Ana Pineda.

The members of the Liberal Party still close to its president Luis Zelaya, meanwhile, presented a bill for a plebiscite on the two-round presidential election as well as on the presidential reelection.

Libre congressman Jorge Cáliz requested recall referendum.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/24/nacionalistas-libres-y-liberales-logran-acuerdos-parciales-sobre-reformas-electorales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-consejo-y-tribunal-electoral/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/24/ellos-son-los-17-diputados-del-partido-liberal-que-no-apoyaron-las-reformas-electorales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-tribunal-de-justicia-electoral-adscrito-al-poder-judicial-sera-mas-de-lo-mismo-abogada/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/24/bancada-liberal-plantea-plebiscito-para-segunda-vuelta-y-reeleccion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/aprueban-reformas-electorales-consejo-y-tribunal-de-justicia-electoral/>

The US detaché d'affaires Heide Fulton commented on Twitter on the electoral reforms: "The Honduran people deserve electoral reforms that strengthen Honduran electoral institutions, increase transparency, and inspire confidence in the electoral process - including a continuation of the Clean Politics Unit. We support efforts that improve democratic processes."

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1088592656438120448>

The number of humanitarian visas requested by Hondurans in Mexico rose to 9120, more than during the first migrant caravan.

But according to the Washington Post, they are less structured.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/24/alarmante-9120-hondurenos-han-pedido-asilo-humanitario-en-mexico/>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/more-than-10000-migrants-request-visas-as-caravan-hits-mexico/2019/01/23/340169b8-1f2b-11e9-a759-2b8541bbbe20\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.45a9a4c2709f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/more-than-10000-migrants-request-visas-as-caravan-hits-mexico/2019/01/23/340169b8-1f2b-11e9-a759-2b8541bbbe20_story.html?utm_term=.45a9a4c2709f)

CESPAD portrays the Committee of Family Members of Disappeared Migrants of Honduras (COFAMIPROH), which was founded in 1999 and has documented over 700 cases of disappeared migrants by 2018.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/01/24/las-madres-de-los-migrantes-desaparecidos-de-honduras/>

INA employees announce strike actions for not having received any pay rise for eight years.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sitraina-exige-firma-de-contrato-de-negociacion-para-alcanzar-aumento-salarial/>



25/01/19

Honduras Daily: Women's Day - Femicide; JOH - Protests, Police, Libre; MACCIH; Corruption - Open Chest; Electoral Reforms; Migration - US/Mexico; Fascism; Congress;

Honduras commemorated the Day of the Honduran Woman yesterday.

In 1955 on January 25, Honduran women got the right to vote.

Women and feminist organization held a protest in Tegucigalpa.

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/dia-de-las-mujeres-hondurenas-25e/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/25/la-lucha-politica-de-las-hondurenas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/25/mujeres-de-honduras-luchan-cuesta-arriba-por-sus-derechos/>

And while Honduras commemorates its women, it still continues to murder almost daily. In the first 16 days of 2019, at least 13 women were murdered.

<https://joaquinmejiaivera.blogspot.com/2019/01/13-femicidios-en-16-dias.html>

In another day of protests, ARCAH Movement blocked the Honduras-Nicaragua border demanding the resignation of JOH as well as the liberation from their land of mining concessions.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1088827883190145025>

The former head of the National Police, Ricardo Ramírez del Cid, filed a complaint at the MP denouncing that JOH is conspiring to have him murdered.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3195-alerta-exdirector-de-policia-acusa-que-quiere-asesinarlo-el-gobierno-de-honduras>

Libre's approval of limited electoral reforms undermining the red line they themselves set (see further down), raised some criticism. But the JOH regime also uses it to try to undermine the protests. Presidential Secretary Ebal Díaz said yesterday that Libre had no reason to protest anymore as they came to an agreement with the National Party in Congress.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mel-zelaya-ya-no-tiene-argumentos-para-seguir-instando-a-la-violencia-ebal-diaz/>

For the third day in a row, a Honduran politician warns of imminent threat to the MACCIH. Eduardo Martell, member of the Central Committee of the Liberal Party, denounces that the agreed upon electoral reforms will bring the end of the MACCIH. He claims that as part of the deals made to get through the, limited and widely criticized, electoral reforms is an agreement not to renew the

contract with the MACCIH. Neither his, nor the two previous claims in this direction have been addressed by the MACCIH and it will be interesting to see if they will react in the coming days.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/01/25/con-las-reformas-electorales-se-pacto-el-fin-de-la-maccih-eduardo-martell-partido-liberal/>

The judge of the Open Chest corruption case approved 95% of the presented evidence.

The process will continue on Monday.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1253457-466/juez-aceptan-el-95-por-ciento-de-las-pruebas-de-arca-abierta>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-28-de-enero-seguira-audiencia-inicial-en-caso-arca-abierta-con-la-evacuacion-de-medios-probatorios.html>

ContraCorriente interviewed the above-cited Eduardo Martell about the electoral reforms. He denounced the deals made between the National Party, Libre and one section of his own party which led to the reforms. According to him, what is needed is "a comprehensive reform that includes a second round [presidential election], a plebiscite for [presidential] re-election, a totally scientific and nonpartisan record, a reliable electoral body with the guarantees and self-control mechanisms that guarantee a process respecting the sovereign will."

Criticism comes also from social movements and human rights organizations. Radio Progreso summarized them as "a repartition of state bodies" between the political parties.

The political analyst Agustuo Aguilar warns that without the two-round presidential election the effect of the already limited reforms will be further diminished.

It is, therefore, especially disappointing that UN representative Igor Garafulic praised the reforms and belittles the fact that the two-round election has not been approved yet.

The OAS also welcomed the reforms.

JOH showed his approval of the reforms yesterday in Congress, which says a lot about its content.

Congress' president, meanwhile, announced that the elements of the electoral reform for which no consensus are found will be part of a popular consultation. But this could also be a delay tactic, for example by including such questions in the next presidential election, i.e. holding further elections with the current system.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/01/25/con-las-reformas-electorales-se-pacto-el-fin-de-la-maccih-eduardo-martell-partido-liberal/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/con-reformas-electorales-politicos-se-reparten-instituciones-del-estado/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-sin-segunda-vuelta-nuevos-organos-electorales-no-tendran-efectividad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/garafulic-esta-satisfecho-por-reformas-electorales-hechas-en-el-parlamento/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/garafulic-no-ve-drama-en-postergacion-del-debate-de-segunda-vuelta-y-reeleccion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1253444-466/garafulic-est%C3%A1-contento-con-reformas-pero-pide-continuar>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reformas-electorales-un-paso-importante-para-elecciones-libres-justas-y-transparentes-oea.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3196-reformas-electorales-fortalecieron-reeleccion-de-joh>

<https://tiempo.hn/oliva-en-reformas-electorales-sin-consenso-haremos-consulta/>

Mexico's government emitted a press release yesterday expressing discomfort with the unilateral application of the "Secure Third Country Agreement" under which the US sends back migrants to Mexico while they await, sometimes for years, for their asylum claims in the US to be processed.

<http://elpulso.hn/mexico-responde-al-protocolo-de-migracion-de-eeu/>

The anthropologist Adrienne Pine published a new academic article involving Honduras as a case study. "In this article, drawing on case studies from Honduras and the United States, I argue that—despite Orwell's warning that the term has lost its meaning—anthropologists can still productively engage fascism as an analytical category. An anthropological engagement of contemporary fascism must help to elucidate the strong links between neoliberal capitalism and today's global militarized nationalism."

See Attachment

Congress inaugurated the second session with speeches from JOH, president of the Judicial Power Rolando Argueta and president of Congress Mauricio Oliva. In their speeches they painted a picture of Honduras unknown to most Hondurans.

Congress and the streets leading to it were closed of during the inauguration to quell protests.

<https://confidencialhn.com/instalan-segunda-legislatura-joh-promete-que-hondurenos-viviran-como-en-el-primer-mundo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/25/el-encierro-de-la-manipulacion-y-la-indignidad/>

26/01/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests, Repression, Congress; Women's Rights; WHRDs; Students; Bajo Aguán; Electoral Reforms; Journalists; and Watching the Watchmen

Today is the anniversary of the second, illegal inauguration of JOH. The Honduras Solidarity Network reports live on Facebook and Twitter about the events of the day, for which "at least 63 protests of different types (road blockades, gatherings, rallies, etc) in 14 departments" are planned in Honduras. Combined with heavy military and police presence and the memory of the two months after the illegal reelection in 2017, repression by state security forces must be feared.

El Tiempo reports on protests having taken place on Saturday in La Paz, Choluteca and Francisco Morazán.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol>

<https://tiempo.hn/video-libre-comienza-las-protetas-en-la-paz-choluteca-y-tegucigalpa/>

C-Libre denounces that the Security Secretariat announced repression of what they label "acts of vandalism".

In the south of Honduras, at the border with Nicaragua in El Paraíso as well as in Choluteca, state security forces had already repressed protests on Thursday and Friday.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-proteta-publica/940-secretaria-de-seguridad-anuncia-represion-a-manifestaciones-proximas-al-27-de-enero>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-proteta-publica/941-fuerzas-policiales-reprimen-protetas-al-sur-y-oriente-del-pais>

When JOH inaugurated the second session of Congress (see also yesterday), Libre congresswo/men walked out as a sign of protest wearing "Fuera JOH" t-shirts.

<https://tiempo.hn/seguidora-de-joh-pobreza-subido/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published an additional article o the protests taking place on Friday's Day of the Honduran Woman.

CESPAD covers a public forum having taken place on the same occasion on "Feminist Struggles, Progress and Setbacks".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2386-95-de-impunidad-fomenta-la-implacable-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-hondurenas>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/01/26/2019-un-ano-con-un-nuevo-patron-de-agresion-sexual-hacia-las-mujeres/>

Also on Friday and linked with the protests, the Feminist Solidarity Mission "El Abrazo" ("A Hug") bringing together 52 national and international women human rights defenders informed about their one week visit of Honduras and the struggles they encountered.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/01/comunicado-mision-internacional-feminista-el-abrazo/>

Almost four years ago, in 2015, three Honduran UNAH students were criminalized and two years later sentenced for protesting for the right to a good education. Sergio Luis Ulloa, Cesario Alejandro Padilla and Moisés David Cáceres wanted to make use of a cassation appeal to challenge the sentence but the Honduran judicial system denied them this right.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2387-sin-acceso-a-la-justicia-tres-estudiantes-criminalizados-por-la-unah-porque-sentencia-esta-solo-en-audio>

The MP informed that they detained a former Orión security guard working for Agropalma, Walter Nahúm Matute Figueroa, accused of murdering Marvin Orlando Rivera Mejía in the Bajo Aguán in 2012.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/126-enero2019/3777-detencion-judicial-por-crimen-de-guardia-de-seguridad-de-agropalma-en-el-aguan>

The OAS welcomed the limited electoral reforms approved this week in Honduras (see the two last e-mails). But El Libertador reports that at the same time, the OAS also emphasized their expectation that Congress will approve further reforms, e.g. the two-round presidential election, in the coming three months. This remains to be seen.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3197-oea-urge-a-congreso-de-honduras-aprobar-voto-electronico-y-segunda-vuelta-en-tres-meses>

<https://tiempo.hn/luis-almagro-cn-aprobar-reformas-hn/>

Criterio criticizes that the board of the Journalist Association of Honduras (CPH) was reelected even though they lacked transparency in their previous tenure regarding the Social Protection Institute for Journalists (IPP).

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/26/periodistas-reeligen-directivos-enemigos-de-la-transparencia/>

Honduras found an answer to the question "who is watching the watchmen?". Police found that members of the criminal gang Los Aguacates had an app installed on their phone allowing to monitor police activities through security cameras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1253443-466/hasta-con-una-app-vigilaban-la-actividad-de-la-polic%C3%ADa-nacional>

27/01/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests, Repression; Journalists; Electoral Reforms; and Escaping the Land of Fear

Bladimir López Sánchez, political analyst at CESPAD, looks back at the first year after the electoral coup manifested in the illegal second inauguration of JOH on January 27, 2018. "On January 27, 2018, the country was divided into two. On the one side, Juan Orlando Hernández (JOH), after an illegal process of presidential re-election and electoral fraud, declared himself president of the Republic and on the other side, the popular forces in the streets did not recognize JOH as their president and put in question his re-electionist and continuist project. In the end, what was in dispute was the continuity of the authoritarian, extractivist and militarist project of JOH and the democratization of society through a government with social and popular orientation." The Sánchez goes on to analysis what has happened since, e.g. the reconfiguration of Honduras' political forces or the profound crisis of legitimacy of the JOH regime.

The image of the two Honduras further separated by the electoral coup also appears in an analysis by COFADEH.

MADJ looks also back at the previous year and it looks also forward at the struggles to come. "After a year of self-imposed narco-dictatorship, MADJ shouts "FUERA JOH" with even greater power, but we reiterate that we want him out and imprisoned, for being one of the main leaders of a criminal and corrupt political-economic class which has assaulted all the powers and constitutional institutions of the State to take over the goods and resources that must be public and for the collective benefit."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/01/27/honduras-a-un-ano-del-golpe-electoral-que-ha-cambiado/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-dos-mundos-divididos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/27/a-1-ano-de-dictadura-insurreccion-permanente/>

Libre coordinator Manuel Zelaya announced that the protests will continue as long as JOH does not accept new elections.

<https://tiempo.hn/mel-protestas-si-no-hay-nuevas-elecciones/>

As had to be feared, the state security forces widely and violently repressed protests taking place yesterday.

While repression was widespread, some sectors were especially targeted. Women human rights defenders in El Progreso denounced attacks by TIGRES, DPI and police agents when documenting human rights violations.

One HRD, Martha Lidia Maradiaga, was even arrested. She belongs to the Ecumenic Human Rights Commission.

Rádio America Honduras denounced that the house of Libre leader Nick Madrid had been illegally raided by the police.

In Tegucigalpa, Defensores en Línea reports on the arrest of at least seven young men peacefully protesting the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/27/policia-reprime-manifestaciones-con-gas-y-bala-viva/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/27/defensoras-de-ddhh-piden-respeto-a-su-labor-a-las-fuerzas-represivas-del-estado/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/27/policia-captura-periodista-y-defensora-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1089700469239308288>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-policia-detiene-a-jovenes-que-se-manifiestan-de-manera-pacifica-en-tegucigalpa/>

A special target of state repression once more were journalists. Jairo López was detained by the police, again, and even though he should benefit from the Honduran protection mechanism. He was arrested while covering a protest in Choluteca.

Issac Buezo, a cameraman for UNE TV, was shot at with a rubber bullet by a TIGRES agent when filming a protest in Tegucigalpa. According to Buezo, the agent aimed the shot directly at him.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2388-detienen-a-periodista-jairo-lopez-y-su-escolta-cuando-cubria-las-protestas-contrajoh>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/detencion-arbitraria/943-policia-hostiga-y-captura-al-periodista-jairo-lopez>

<https://tiempo.hn/detienen-periodista-jairo-lopez-choluteca/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/ataque-corporal/942-policia-agrede-a-camarografo-mientras-cubria-represion-a-protestas>

<https://tiempo.hn/policia-dispara-camarografo-de-unetv/>

According to El Heraldo, the approved electoral reforms will be ratified this week.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1253869-466/reformas-constitucionales-electorales-se-ratificar%C3%A1n-entre-mi%C3%A9rcoles-y-jueves>

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<https://contracorriente.red/2019/01/26/escapar-de-la-tierra-del-miedo/>

28/01/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests, Repression, Journalists; FoE; COFADEH; Southcom; Corruption - de Lobo, Infop, ENEE; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Electoral Reforms; Penitentiary System; Coalianza; and the Second Implosion of Central America

As the fog of tear gas has been lifted, some observers published an overview of Sunday's protests and its violent repression.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/39-conflictos/938-jornada-de-protestas-en-honduras-deja-detenido-y-afectados>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/represion-policial-militar-marco-jornada-de-protestas-contr-el-regimen-de-hernandez/>

<http://elpulso.hn/domingo-de-manifestaciones/>

But the repression did not cease on Monday. Criterio informs about the illegal detention of two UNAH students on Monday night.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/28/policia-detiene-a-dos-estudiantes-de-derecho-de-la-unah/>

The arrested journalist Jairo Lopez has been freed in the meantime. I failed to mention an additional disturbing detail about his arrest in yesterday's e-mail. As mentioned, Lopez should benefit from the protection mechanism, which includes in his case a guard. On Sunday, also his guard, the one person employed by the state to protect him, was arrested on trumped up charges.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2389-periodista-jairo-lopez-y-su-escolta-fueron-dejados-en-libertad-a-la-medianoche-de-este-domingo>

About two weeks ago, the confirmation of a sentence against David Romero for alleged defamation spurred up a discussion in Honduras about freedom of expression and its limits in Honduras. One case mentioned was the one of the former police commissioner and now Libre congresswoman Maria Luisa Borjas. Her case has now made international headlines. "Days before Honduras' elections in 2017, a former high-ranking official in the national police, Maria Luisa Borjas, held a news conference at which she read from government investigative reports about three high-profile killings. Now, as an opposition lawmaker, she faces the possibility of a fine and, more significantly, the loss of her seat in Congress when she goes on trial Monday charged with defamation. Her alleged crime was essentially naming names — the suspected "intellectual authors" of a slaying contained in one of those reports — in a country where the powerful have long enjoyed impunity."

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/honduran-lawmaker-faces-defamation-trial-after-naming-names/2019/01/28/2b23353c-22ba-11e9-b5b4-1d18dfb7b084\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.54d6cb9ebd49](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/honduran-lawmaker-faces-defamation-trial-after-naming-names/2019/01/28/2b23353c-22ba-11e9-b5b4-1d18dfb7b084_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.54d6cb9ebd49)

<https://www.apnews.com/e15fa65729d544ffba93003e0c5747eb>



Spanish version: [https://tucson.com/spanish/legisladora-hondure-a-se-enfrenta-a-un-juicio-por-difamaci/article\\_3c245eca-37aa-5496-b354-00b1d0a6ae8a.html](https://tucson.com/spanish/legisladora-hondure-a-se-enfrenta-a-un-juicio-por-difamaci/article_3c245eca-37aa-5496-b354-00b1d0a6ae8a.html)

La Tribuna published a long interview with COFADEH's coordinator Bertha Oliva about her life, the origins of COFADEH and her ongoing struggle.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/26/bertha-oliva-coordinadora-del-cofadeh>

The Southern Command of the US held a workshop in Honduras for the Armed Forces about...human rights.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/28/comando-sur-y-las-ff-aa-en-conferencia-sobre-respeto-a-derechos-humanos/>

The oral trial in the corruption case against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo took place yesterday.

But shortly into the trial, it was postponed again. It is planned to continue on February 6.

Pepe Lobo continues to portray the trial as a political persecution and he denounces it as unconstitutional.

<https://confidencialhn.com/arranca-juicio-contr-ex-primera-dama-podria-posponerse/>

<https://tiempo.hn/reprograman-juicio-rosa-elena-de-lobo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pepe-cuestiona-irregularidades-en-juicio-contr-su-esposa/>

ConfidencialHN published the first part of an investigation into a corruption case at the National Institute for Vocational Training (Infop).

<https://confidencialhn.com/corrupcion-y-conexiones-politicas-prim-en-instalacion-laboratorio-mecanico-del-infop/>

Fosdeh denounces a new case of corruption at ENEE involving the purchase of an IT-system.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1254204-466/honduras-hay-corrupci%C3%B3n-o-torpeza-en-compra-de-software-de-la-enee>

A week ago, US authorities informed about charges filed against two Hondurans for drug trafficking. Their cases were linked to JOH's brother Tony Hernández. According to Radio Globo, one of them, Mario José Cáliz Hernández presented himself yesterday to the DEA office in San Pedro Sula. Apparently, he fears being murdered.

El Heraldo confirms this.

Another presumed drug trafficker linked to Tony Hernández, Nery Orlando López Sanabria, is currently held at the El Pozo prison. His lawyer denounces that his client receives death threats.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mario-cubeta-calix-se-entrega-a-la-dea-ante-complot-para-asesinarlo/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1254207-466/trasciende-entrega-a-la-dea-de-mario-jos%C3%A9-c%C3%A1lix-hern%C3%A1ndez-alias-cubeta>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1254187-466/defensa-de-supuesto-narco-que-fingi%C3%B3-su-muerte-solicita-traslado-de-el>

Tomas Andino Mencía takes apart some of the arguments presented by Libre to portray the electoral reforms so far agreed-upon as a success. He concludes: "The leadership of LIBRE has only two options: either stop playing along and really bet on making a unified fight against the dictator, or join his power block, being satisfied with the crumbs that are reserved for their good services."

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva told media outlets yesterday that a public consultation could take place in 2020 in which Hondurans could decide about the two-round presidential election and the possibility of members of the Armed Forces, Police and the church to vote.

After initially lauding the reforms, UN representative Igor Garafulic now finds some, slightly, more critical words.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/28/reformas-electorales-de-la-oposicion-a-la-colaboracion-con-la-dictadura/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-poder-legislativo-pronostica-que-la-consulta-popular-seria-en-el-2020/>

<https://tiempo.hn/no-es-suficiente-cambiar-nombre-a-organismos-electorales-igor-garafulic/>

Family members of detainees denounce that they are being harassed and their family members mistreated.

ConfidencialHN reports that marijuana was found in dozens of broom sticks inside the so-called maximum security prison El Pozo.

<https://tiempo.hn/familiares-de-reclusos-denuncian-abusos-graves-de-las-autoridades-en-centros-penales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hallan-droga-dentro-de-escobas-compradas-para-limpiar-el-pozo/>

COHEP denounces irregularities committed by the privatizing body Coalianza which violent free competition.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-denuncia-irregularidades-cometidas-por-coalianza-en-puertos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1254194-466/honduras-cohep-pide-invalidez-de-acciones-de-coalianza>

"The decline of global capitalism points to another total economic collapse of Central America, reminiscent of the regional upheaval of the 1970s and 80s."

<https://nacla.org/news/2019/01/28/second-implosion-central-america>

29/01/19

Honduras Daily: FoE; Berta - Trial; Journalists; JOH - Protests, Repression; Corruption - TSC; Palestine; Electoral Reforms; and the National Police and Used Tires

As feared, the former police commissioner and Libre congresswoman Maria Luisa Borjas was found guilty for defamation (see also yesterday). She is the second important critic of the JOH regime and his allies found guilty of this in the first month of 2019. "Speaking to local reporters outside the courtroom, Borjas said that she planned to appeal the verdict in Honduras and if necessary to international legal bodies. Borjas had said prior to the verdict that she feared it could be used to try to oust her from the congress."

Borjas denounced the verdict as a "judicial contract killing" by a co-opted judicial system.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation/judge-finds-honduras-lawmaker-guilty-in-defamation-case/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn/juez-declaro-culpable-a-la-diputada-maria-luisa-borjas-por-el-delito-de-calumnias/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/este-es-un-fallo-politico-no-es-un-caso-juridico-maria-luisa-borjas/>

The previously mentioned case of Borjas is also important for the Berta Cáceres case. Borjas had mentioned banker Camilo Atala as one of the intellectual authors of the murder of Berta. He then sued her leading to the trial. His lawyer now interprets the sentence as a not guilty verdict of Atala, even though this was never investigated as part of the trial.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1254420-410/me-asombra-la-celeridad-de-este-juicio-mar%C3%ADa-luisa-borjas>

And not just lawmakers are affected by a punitive use of libel laws. Journalists are especially targeted, Carlos Martínez even for the second time in less than a year. "We have a sensitive political class that intends to dictate to us how to practice journalism and which we must ask for permission to practice our profession; they practically believe that they can go to court with any journalist who is put in front and especially if this communicator does not bend to their will."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/939-hay-una-clase-politica-que-pretende-dictar-como-ejercer-el-periodismo>

The case of journalist Jairo López becomes more worrying by the day. After having been illegally detained, once more, this weekend, a group of police agents arrived at his house shortly after his release on Sunday night intimidating his family. The Association for Democracy and Human Rights (ASOPODEHU) will hold a press conference today in Tegucigalpa about his case.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2391-cada-minuto-cuenta-intensifican-la-persecucion-y-hostigamiento-con-el-periodista-jairo-lopez>

Giorgio Trucchi interviewed Carlos H. Reyes about last week's protest against the JOH regime and the need for all the opposition forces to unite.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/197830>

Defensores en Línea denounces that the repression has not ceased and several people remain in police custody for having exercised their right to protest.

Pasos de Animal Grande announces having identified a police agent who shot journalists with rubber bullets covering the protests on Sunday.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/continua-la-persecucion-contra-jovenes-de-la-oposicion/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2390-policia-reprime-a-la-prensa-no-tarifada-en-el-progreso-yoro>

The Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) and the Honduran Transparency International chapter presented the newest Perception of Corruption Index. Honduras remained with the same amount of points as in 201, 29 out of 100. This gives it the 132th rank out of 180 countries.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/29/honduras-entre-los-mas-corruptos-de-america-latina-y-el-mundo/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3200-regimen-de-joh-entre-las-notas-mas-altas-de-corrupcion-mundial-29-100>

The MACCIH met with the congressional group responsible for reforming the organic law of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC).

The same day, the Democracy without Borders Foundation warns about the negative effects of the proposed reforms.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-y-sociedad-civil-conocen-alcances-sobre-reformas-al-tsc-en-el-congreso.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/democracia-sin-frontera-alerta-que-desde-el-congreso-nacional-se-pretende-disminuir-al-tsc/>

Honduran-Palestinians held a public protest against the decision to transfer the Honduran embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/29/no-nos-quedaremos-de-brazos-cruzados-palestinos-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/palestina-aboga-porque-honduras-no-traslade-embajada-de-tel-aviv-a-jerusalen.html>

As expected, Congress ratified the recently approved electoral reforms.

<https://tiempo.hn/pleno-de-diputados-ratifica-reformas-constitucionales-electorales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ratifican-reformas-constitucionales-para-crear-nuevos-organos-electorales/>

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<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-eficacia-de-la-policia-nacional/>

30/01/19

Honduras Daily: JOH; Foe; Berta - Trial; Journalists; Corruption - Open Chest; MACCIH; Int. Delegations; Electoral Reforms; National Police; Poverty; and White Coffee

Javier Suazo published a short analysis of the first year of the second illegal term by JOH. As previous observers, he highlights the need for a united political and social opposition. "Although it may seem like a difficult crusade, the integration of the work and struggle of opposition political parties and civil society groups and associations of as well as citizen participation is urgent. Otherwise, JOH will be much stronger on next January 27, 2020.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/197867>

The Coalition against Impunity denounced in a press conference the recent ruling against María Luisa Borjas a "political ruling" (see previous two e-mails). They also highlighted irregularities in the process involving the president of the judicial system and JOH ally Rolando Argueta.

Human right scholar Joaquín Mejía directs three questions at Argueta raising further doubt about the legitimacy of the ruling.

In a second and more detailed article, Mejía analyses the problems with freedom of expression in Honduras highlighting the criticism which regularly comes from the IACHR.

Libre congresswo/men also denounce the judicial persecution of their colleague.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/941-fallo-politico-fue-dictado-por-presidente-de-csj-contra-comisionada-borjas>

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-manipulacion-de-normas-procesales-para-lograr-sentencia-contradiputada/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/940-tres-cuestiones-que-hay-que-preguntarle-al-presidente-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-rolando-argueta-juez-natural-que-hoy-condeno-a-maria-luisa-borjas-por-delitos-contrael-honor-en-perjuicio-del-senor-camilo-atala>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/30/un-nuevo-golpe-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-y-al-debate-democratico/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/30/diputados-de-libre-denuncian-que-el-regimen-quiere-inhabilitar-a-maria-luisa-borjas/>

Olivia Zúniga Cáceres, daughter of Berta Cáceres, participated in the above-mentioned press conference and she did not hold back. Not letting herself be intimidated by the assassination of her mother nor the judicial persecution of Borjas, she reiterated that the Atala Zablah family is responsible for the murder of her mother.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/30/familia-atala-zablah-son-los-asesinos-intelectuales-de-mi-madre-olivia-zuniga-caceres/>

These last days, journalist Jairo López has been once more targeted by state security forces (see previous e-mails). Yesterday, the Human Rights Roundtable held a press conference about his case.

López himself announced that he would hold Mauricio Oliva Herrera, the current government and the protection mechanism responsible if something were to happen to him or his wife.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2392-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-demanda-del-estado-hondureno-medidas-reales-de-proteccion-para-el-periodista-jairo-lopez>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/30/si-me-pasa-algo-responsabilizo-a-mauricio-oliva-al-gobierno-y-al-mecanismo-de-proteccion-jairo-lopez/>

We have become used to the regular announcement of new corruption cases by both UFECIC and the CNA. The former talks about 18 investigations into public officials, the latter about three high-impact cases.

<https://tiempo.hn/ufecic-trabaja-en-18-investigaciones/>

The initial hearings in the Open Chest corruption case concluded yesterday. The sitting judge will present the resolution on Friday morning, i.e. if the trial against the 20 current and former congresswo/men continues.

According to ConfidencialHN, the MP demanded the suspension of the current congresswo/men.

<https://twitter.com/PJdeHonduras/status/1090756718575927301>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-suspension-de-diputados-involucrados-en-trama-corrupta-arca-abierta/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/30/fiscalia-pide-fianza-de-l-21-1-millones-a-diputados-ligados-en-caso-arca-abierta/>

The MACCIH held a forum yesterday on the Efficient Collaboration Bill, hoping that civil society support will finally bring Congress to approve it.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/30/la-maccih-urge-aprobacion-de-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz-para-desmontar-la-corrupcion-narcotrafico-y-otras-redes-criminales/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1254882-466/maccih-y-sociedad-piden-ley-al-congreso-nacional>

A delegation from the Basque Country is currently in Honduras invited by COFADEH to get to know the human rights situation of the country.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mision-del-gobierno-vasco-esta-en-honduras-verificando-la-situacion-actual-de-derechos-humanos/>

The criticism of the limited electoral reforms did not stop with yesterday's ratification of them by Congress. Sociologist Víctor Meza concludes: "The reform, having been postponed for so many years and so many times demanded by national and foreign actors, had awakened hopes in giving the electoral system the lost credibility and the necessary modernization. In the end, everything was a kind of grotesque farce, an unfinished initiative, an agreement to continue practicing the old culture of sectarian "partisanship" of institutions, always faithful to the harmful patrimonial vision of the State. The State as prey. Then, the lamentations will start."

Tomás Andino published a criticism of the reforms which some misunderstood as opposition to Libre being represented in the new National Electoral Council (CNE). He clarifies his position. "In the face of such a dictatorship, we are at another level of struggle and we can not continue with the practices of the past. You can not continue to see the presidential office and congressional seats as the goals of political activity. These would be in a real democracy, which does not exist here. Today in Honduras the real goals should be:

First, REMOVE JOH and, with him, the whole gang of officials, deputies and magistrates who are faithful to him.

Second, the installation of a PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT integrated by all the forces that truly participate in the struggle against the dictatorship and have a broad level of convocation.

And third, the call for an ORIGINAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, to organize the country we need."

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/30/otra-reforma-inconclusa/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/30/y-ahora-cual-es-la-ruta/>

The lawyer Rosme Lanza announces that at least 50 previously purged members of the police will be reintegrated.

<https://radiohrn.hn/2019/01/30/al-menos-50-agentes-depurados-seran-reintegrados-anuncia-abogado/>

UNAH economist and head of faculty Henry Rodríguez claims that poverty will increase this year again in Honduras. He counts with 110'000 new poor Hondurans by the end of the year.

<https://tiempo.hn/durante-2019-habran-110-mil-nuevos-pobres-en-honduras-senalan-expertos/>

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<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/30/incautan-en-italia-600-kilos-de-cocaina-proveniente-de-honduras/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1254893-410/incauta-coca-droga-cafe-italia-honduras-narcos-cargamento->

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1254887-466/exportadores-lamentan-da%C3%B1o-a-la-imagen-de-caf%C3%A9-hondure%C3%B1o-por-decomiso-de>

31/01/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Armed Forces, US, Migration; Corruption - Judicial Power, Secrecy, Impunity Pact; HRDs; FoE; Electoral Reforms; Migration; Congress; Penitentiary System; Infop; Extradition; Venezuela; and Hope for Honduran Cinema

The head of the Armed Forces, general René Ponce Fonseca said publicly that the slogan "Fuera JOH" is seen by them as a direct insult of the Armed Forces.

<https://twitter.com/unetvhn/status/1090641671535161344>

SOA Watch denounces the ongoing support by the US government of the JOH regime.

<http://www.derechoalapaz.com/?p=5325>

Sandra Cuffe published a new article on the link between the protests in Honduras and Hondurans migrating to the US.

<https://truthout.org/articles/hondurans-protest-us-backed-government-as-thousands-flee/>

CESPAD analyst Mario Sorto published an enlightening article on the role of the Supreme Court in corruption cases. "Although the articles of the Constitution that established that the main state



officials could not be registered, detained or tried by any authority, were repealed, it is evident that the judicial system continues to guarantee impunity."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/01/31/por-que-los-altos-funcionarios-corrup-tos-en-honduras-no-est-an-en-prision-el-rol-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-csj-en-la-judicializacion-de-casos-de-corrupcion/>

Fosdeh denounces that the JOH regime and its allies in Congress reclassified the General Budget of the Republic as a state secret.

This is part of what Criterio calls a new impunity pact, which shields information regarding the use of public funds.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3202-ultima-hora-gobierno-declara-secreta-informacion-del-presupuesto-de-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/31/presupuesto-de-2019-es-un-retroceso-en-la-transparencia-y-rendicion-de-cuentas-fosdeh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/31/congreso-de-honduras-aprueba-un-nuevo-y-escandaloso-pacto-de-impunidad/>

As Congress approves a second impunity pact (see above), the Constitutional Chamber rejected the first one as unconstitutional.

This means that the prosecution of five former congresswo/men may continue.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/31/sala-constitucional-deroga-pacto-de-impunidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/declaran-inconstitucional-el-blindaje-que-protegia-a-red-de-diputados/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1255200-466/declaran-inconstitucional-reformas-a-ley-de-presupuesto>

COFADEH informs about their legal representation of four criminalized persons from Santa Barbara, two of which are indigenous Lenca human rights defenders. COFADEH denounces that protected witnesses are being use to directly frame the HRDs. "They want to criminalize the defenders to stop the work of these people, they want to cause them fear in the sense that if they continue doing their job, they will be criminalized".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-santa-barbara-hay-varios-defensores-de-ddhh-que-enfrentan-la-condicion-de-presos-politicos/>

The Honduran Alliance USA Norcal published a note of solidarity with María Luisa Borjas (see the last three days).

See Attachment

Radio Progreso explains how the National Party still maintain control over the electoral bodies even after the ratified reforms. "The National Party maintains its control of these structures, since the alliance that it maintains with Carlos Flores and the liberal bench of Elvin Santos in the National Congress, allows it to place two titular magistrates in these bodies, allowing them to control completely the decisions in the electoral and administrative field."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/con-nuevas-reformas-partido-nacional-mantiene-control-sobre-entidades-electorales/>

Radio Progreso published an update on the situation of the Honduran migrants who have left the country as part of a migrant caravan.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/una-caravana-multiples-causas-dolorosas-historias/>

Last week, Congress started its second term. Radio Progreso believes that it will be defined by back-room negotiations, corruption and control by the National Party.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/segunda-legislatura-estara-marcada-por-negociaciones-corrupcion-y-dominio-del-partido-nacional/>

Deputy director of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP), German McNeil, belittles the protest by family members of inmates as unfounded.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/familiares-de-reos-protestan-porque-no-toleran-nuevo-orden-penitenciario-inp/>

The private business lobby Cohep withdrew from the National Institute of Vocational Training (Infop) after new irregularities came to light.

Infop's director Roberto Cardona is not happy about this.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/cohep-se-retira-del-infop-por-corrupcion-e-ineptitud/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cohep-condiciona-su-reintegro-a-junta-directiva-del-infop/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/director-de-infop-califica-de-desacertada-e-incendiaria-propuesta-del-cohep/>

A judge approved the extradition of Osman Donay Martínez Guevara to the US.

<https://tiempo.hn/poder-judicial-declara-solicitud-extraditar-valle/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2019/01/31/juez-ordena-extradicion-del-hondureno-osman-donay-martinez-guevara/>

The JOH regime recognized Claudio Sandoval as the new Venezuelan ambassador to Honduras. He represents the self-proclaimed illegal second president of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/01/31/hernandez-da-beneplacito-a-embajador-impuesto-por-guaido/>

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<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/nueva-ley-de-cinematografia-es-el-inicio-del-fomento-del-septimo-arte-en-honduras/>