



# *Another Month in Honduras...*

## Human Rights Monitor – June 2019

The Honduran people stayed strong for another month facing the JOH regime on the streets. The protests which started in the education and healthcare sector have spread to Honduras as a whole and this month more people joined on the tenth anniversary of the coup d'état. The JOH regime reacted with even more violence and the further militarization of the state security forces. In an especially violent night of repression, at least five people were killed. In the midst of this, new corruption cases involving JOH appeared while the fate of the international anti-corruption body MACCIH remains in the air. Welcome to another month in Honduras.

In solidarity,

Daniel Langmeier

Honduras Forum Switzerland

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## Abbreviations

ASJ	Association for a More Just Society
ATIC	Technical Bureau for Criminal Investigation
BID	Inter-American Development Bank
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
CDM	Center for Women's Rights
CIPRODEH	Center for Human Rights Research and Promotion
CMH	Medical Association Honduras
CNA	National Anti-Corruption Council
COFADEH	Committee of Families of the Detained-Disappeared in Honduras
COIPRODEN	Coordination of Private Institutions for Children's Rights
CONADEH	National Human Rights Commission
COPINH	Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras
FEPRODDHH	Special Public Prosecutor Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators
FOSDEH	Social Forum on the External Debt of Honduras
FOSDEH	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IACtHR	Inter-American Court of Human Rights
ILO	International Labor Organization
ISHR	International Service for Human Rights
MACCIH	Support Mission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras
MADJ	Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice
MP	Attorney General's Office
OACNUDH	UN Human Rights Office in Honduras
TSC	Supreme Audit Court
UFECIC	Anti-Corruption Unit of the Attorney General's Office
UNAH	National Autonomous University of Honduras
ZEDE	Zone for Employment and Economic Development

# Human Rights and Their Defenders

## Assassinations

The human rights defender and environmental leader Santos Isidro Cruz was found in El Guante, Francisco Morazán with signs of torture and three bullet wounds. He was brought to the University Hospital in Tegucigalpa, but on the way there he died.<sup>1</sup> Cruz was the speaker of the Environmental Committee of the Syrian Valley.<sup>2</sup> OACNUDH demanded an swift, independent and transparent investigation.<sup>3</sup>

## Attacks, Criminalization and Harassment

Human rights defender and member of MADJ, Marlon Cruz, denounced receiving death threats by a soldier when accompanying a protest in Arizona, Atlántida.<sup>4</sup> Various HRDs and organizations were targeted in defamatory attacks this month. OACNUDH expressed its solidarity with them.<sup>5</sup>

## Indigenous Peoples

On June 24,, nine indigenous Tolupán defenders faced their initial hearing in the newest attempt of criminalization against them. More than 100 national and international human rights organizations condemned it. "We demand an immediate end to the prosecution of the nine Tolupán land defenders currently charged. Likewise, we ask the authorities to cease the violence, discrimination, and criminalization of the Tolupán tribe of San Francisco Locomapa and to guarantee their rights over their ancestral territory, protect their lives and punish those who have systematically violated their human rights. Finally, we lend our solidarity to the legitimate and dignified defense exercised by the Tolupán defenders and call on the national and international community to closely follow and demand justice for their case."<sup>6</sup> The nine Tolupán defenders are members of MADJ and they are accompanied by MADJ lawyers. MADJ additionally published an overview of the case which goes back at least to 2010.<sup>7</sup> They summarized the strategy of the JOH regime as follows: "First, they steal their land then they criminalize them, and if that does not succeed, they assassinate them".<sup>8</sup> OACNUDH announced to accompany the process.<sup>9</sup>

Criterio spoke with OFRANEH representative Geovany Bernárdez about the persecution of the Garífuna people in the north of Honduras through the JOH regime and its extractivist projects.<sup>10</sup>

1 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensores-exigen-investigacion-por-crimen-de-ambientalista-del-valle-de-siria/>

2 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3406-alerta-otro-ambientalista-es-asesinado-en-honduras>

3 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1141356807346098182>

4 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensor-del-madj-denuncia-amenaza-hecha-por-militar/>

5 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1140725941121048577>

6 <https://www.cejil.org/en/more-100-national-and-international-organizations-condemn-criminalization-nine-indigenous-tolupan>

7 <https://madj.org/index.php/2019/06/25/conflicto-tolupan-corrupcion-y-saqueo-de-su-territorio/>

8 <https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1138103606547308544>

9 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1143175952404570112>

10 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/17/comunidades-garifunas-viven-persecucion-estatal-para-implementar-proyectos-extractivistas-video/>

OFRANEH also denounced the massive exodus of Garífuna youth as a result of the desperate state of Honduras under Nationalist rule. "In the last ten years, the state has been looted by politicians and their relatives, who have dedicated themselves to legislate in order to infringe on rights and divide up the spoils. Meanwhile, poverty has exploded at the same time as the neoliberal reforms led to the privatization of demolished institutions; On the other hand, biodiversity and national territory are auctioned, through "model cities" (ZEDE).<sup>11</sup>

COPINH denounced the ongoing smear and criminalization campaign against human rights defenders and international human rights organizations accompanying them.<sup>12</sup>

## The Case of Berta Cáceres

Seven months have passed since the conviction of the material authors in the Berta Cáceres case but there is still no sentence.<sup>13</sup>

## LGBTQ

### Assassinations

El Tiempo reports that the 20-year old member of the LGBTQ community Jhony Alexander Gutiérrez Sabillón was murdered in Choloma, Cortés. According to El Tiempo, he was stoned to death.<sup>14</sup>

## Freedom of Expression and Journalists

The journalist César Omar Silva was sentenced to 37 days and 12 hours in prison for confronting the ambassador Marcos Tulios Porras Toledo of the self-proclaimed president of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó.<sup>15</sup> Reporteros de Investigación highlighted what the journalist Gabriel Hernández had been investigating before he was assassinated - the construction of a 18.2 million Lempiras dirt street.<sup>16 17</sup> Journalist Rogelio Trejo was harassed by the municipal police in Choloma.<sup>18</sup> Radio Progreso denounced the persecution by car of the journalist Eleana Borjas by state security forces.<sup>19 20</sup> OACNUDH expressed its concerns and demand an investigation.<sup>21</sup>

On June 5, three men were found guilty for the murder of journalist Igor Padilla in 2017. Pasos de Animal Grande lamented that once more the intellectual authorship was not investigated.<sup>22</sup> The MP

11 <https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/06/20/exodo-masivo-narcodictadura-y-sus-padrinos-en-washington-y-telaviv/>

12 <https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1138601126343974913>

13 <https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1145054867708370945>

14 <https://tiempo.hn/muerto-a-pedradas-en-choloma/>

15 <https://tiempo.hn/culpable-agresion-periodista-cesar-silva/>

16 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/06/05/esta-carretera-de-tierra-de-20-millones-investigaba-periodista-asesinado/>

17 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/06/10/sicarios-de-la-mara-del-poder/>

18 <https://hch.tv/2019/06/13/policia-municipal-de-choloma-agrede-al-periodista-rogelio-trejo/>

19 <https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/radio-progreso-denuncia-seguimiento-a-periodista-en-tegucigalpa/>

20 <http://im-defensoras.org/2019/06/alertadefensoras-honduras-seguimiento-e-intimidacion-a-la-periodista-eleana-borjas-de-radio-progreso/>

21 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1140620628606771200>

22 <http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2485-quien-ordeno-el-crimen-del-periodista-igor-padilla>

announced that they arrested a former police agent for attacking the journalist Ronnie Huete Salgado.<sup>23</sup> Huete fled Honduras to the US after being tortured by the police and receiving death threats.<sup>24</sup>

## Violence against Women

"Honduras' total ban on abortion in all circumstances puts women and girls in danger and violates their rights, Human Rights Watch said today, releasing a web feature on the topic. Abortion in Honduras is illegal in all circumstances, including rape and incest, when a woman's life is in danger, and when the fetus will not survive outside the womb."<sup>25 26</sup>

## Protection Mechanism

Reporteros de Investigación denounces the failures of the protection mechanism in the case of journalist Miriam Elvir. Even though she had already denounced two attacks against her, the mechanism did not offer her protection and she was robbed and threatened again this month. Her cell phone was stolen and afterwards unknown attackers tried to enter her e-mail account she uses for work.<sup>27</sup>

FOSDEH published an analysis on state spending on the protection of human rights defenders.<sup>28</sup> "The analysis shows the incongruity that exists in terms of the protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Communicators and Operators of Justice, by the State, since most of the acts of aggression against them are carried out by police, military and other public officials. Within the program budget of the institutions that make up the National Council for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, the protection of Human Rights is superficially included, and in some cases there is no mention of the subject, which shows that there is no budget linked to the protection of Human Rights Defenders in Honduras."<sup>29</sup> During the presentation, FOSDEH concluded that "[d]espite the increased demand for protection by human rights defenders, journalists and justice operators in Honduras, the funds of the institutions responsible for protecting them are not executed on time and are not effective."<sup>30</sup>

## Political Prisoners

The JOH regime produced another political prisoner this month. In the context of the protests, tires were set on fire outside the US embassy, an act which then was used to criminalize and denigrate the protests in general. OFRANEH rhetorically asks why this was able to take place just outside one

23 [https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1141140102007132160](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1141140102007132160)

24 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1131-en-busca-de-justicia-tras-la-tortura-contr-periodista-ronnie-huete>

25 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/06/06/honduras-abortion-bans-dire-consequences>

26 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/06/06/life-or-death-choices-women-living-under-honduras-abortion-ban>

27 <http://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/06/04/periodista-asaltada-una-vez-mas-tras-ser-rechazada-por-mecanismo-de-proteccion-y-por-fiscalia-de-proteccion-va-habia-denunciado-dos-ataques/>

28 <http://www.fosdeh.com/2019/07/dentro-del-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-de-honduras-la-linea-para-los-derechos-humanos-continua-siendo-una-agenda-pendiente/>

29 <http://www.fosdeh.com/2019/06/analisis-de-la-efectividad-del-gasto-publico-en-proteccion-de-defensores-de-derechos-humanos/>

30 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1136-incongruencia-honduras-no-ejecuta-presupuesto-en-proteccion-de-ddhh>

of the best protected buildings in the country.<sup>31</sup> Defensores en Línea called it false positive.<sup>32</sup> Afterwards, the young teacher Rommel Valdemar Portillo Herrera was arrested and accused of setting the fire. Human rights organization denounced his persecution and even though the Supreme Court accepted a Habeas Corpus in favor of him presented by COFADEH, Herrera was sent to the maximum-security prison La Tolva violating court orders.<sup>33 34</sup>

Just a day later, the initial hearing took place.<sup>35</sup> The judge decided to open trial with pre-trial detention. Portillo had to return to the high-security prison La Tolva.<sup>36</sup> A protest in support of him was held outside the court.<sup>37</sup> In a press release, the US Cross Border Network raises question about the narrative presented by the US and the Honduran authorities regarding the fire. Some of its members were inside the embassy as part of a human rights delegation when it happened.<sup>38</sup> Nevertheless, the US embassy fueled the criminalization of Portillo by publishing press releases or tweets claiming that they had to temporarily stop the emissions of visas at the embassy implying that it is Portillo's fault.<sup>39 40</sup>

The Honduras Solidarity Network published a call to free the political prisoners Edwin Espinal, Raúl Álvarez, Gustavo Cáceres and Romel Herrera. Three of them have been imprisoned since the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018, while Herrera is the newest victim.<sup>41</sup> The political prisoners fear for their lives as other inmates may be hired to murder them.<sup>42</sup> Additionally, Honduran prisons in general are described as "torture centers" by human rights organizations such as CPTRT. "Pavón [HRD at the CPTRT] said that the maximum security prisons La Tolva I and II and El Pozo are terrible places where people deprived of their liberty live in conditions of permanent torture and isolation and where they are often denied visits, which is their only contact with the outside world."<sup>43</sup>

## Extractive Industries

FOSDEH published a report on the mining and energy sector in the south of Honduras.<sup>44</sup>

31 <https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1134560568411643907>

32 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/rommel-es-una-victima-mas-de-los-falsos-positivos-del-regimen/>

33 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/04/violando-orden-judicial-inp-lleva-a-ronmel-valdemar-portillo-a-la-tolva/amp/>

34 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/inp-contraviniendo-orden-de-juez-traslada-a-ronmel-valdemar-herrera-a-la-tolva/>

35 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/audiencia-inicial-contra-ronmel-valdemar-herrera-portillo/>

36 <https://tiempo.hn/prision-rommel-herrera-embajada-eeuu/>

37 <https://twitter.com/Conexihon/status/1136705138217967616>

38 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/06/defensores-de-ee-uu-y-canada-sospechan-que-ataque-a-embajada-fue-preparado/>

39 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1291032-466/heide-fulton-ante-la-quema-de-la-embajada-de-ee-uu-confiamos>

40 <https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1139699944787501058>

41 <https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1143950432647045120>

42 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/26/presos-politicos-edwin-espinal-raul-alvarez-y-rommel-herrera-denuncian-posibles-asesinatos-video/amp/>

43 <https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-que-el-estado-hondureno-desatendio-la-crisis-del-sistema-penitenciario-carceles/>

44 <http://www.fosdeh.com/2019/06/territorios-en-riesgo-ii-el-caso-de-la-zona-sur-de-honduras/>

## Mining

Radio Progreso denounced the ongoing smear campaign against COPA and Radio Progreso correspondent Leonel George linked to the mining conflict around Guapinol, Colón.<sup>45 46</sup> CESPAD sent out an alert.<sup>47</sup>

## Hydroelectricity

Defensores en Línea denounced that the promised community development projects by the hydroelectric company behind Aurora 1 did not materialize. The plant started producing energy in 2014 and until recently was linked to the Nationalist congresswoman Gladys Aurora López through her husband. But according to Defensores en Línea, the plant has been transferred to another company.<sup>48</sup>

CESPAD regularly presents helpful overviews of territorial conflicts in Honduras. This month, they offered an analysis of the situation in Reitoca, where the indigenous Lenca population resists the imposition of a hydroelectric project on the Petacón river.<sup>49</sup>

## Corruption and Its Enemies

ConfidencialHN denounced that one year after leaving office as deputy attorney general, Rigoberto Cuéllar is still not being investigated for corruption.<sup>50</sup>

## The Onslaught against the Anti-Corruption Bodies

The former president Pepe Lobo continued his public and legal battle against the head of MACCIH, Luis Marrey. This month, he presented a complaint at CONADEH.<sup>51</sup> The contract keeping MACCIH in Honduras will run out in January 2020. The Parliamentary Front in Support of the MACCIH voiced fear that it would not be renewed.<sup>52</sup> On June 11, the MACCIH held a forum on the different setups of MPs in Latin America. During this, Luiz Marrey Guimarães made a worrisome statement. Proceso Digital cited him saying that UFECIC (the MP's anti-corruption body) is ready to work independently of the MACCIH. He then went on that there is still some work to do together, but it was still be interpreted that Marrey does not believe that the MACCIH will stay in Honduras for long.<sup>53</sup>

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45 <https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/incrementa-campana-de-odio-contra-organizaciones-de-ddhh-en-honduras/>

46 <http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2500-denuncian-persecucion-y-campana-de-odio-contra-defensor-los-derechos-humanos-del-aguan>

47 <http://cespad.org.hn/2019/06/27/alerta-en-riesgo-leonel-george-defensor-de-bienes-comunes/>

48 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/aurora-1-no-cumplio-con-sus-promesas-de-desarrollo-comunitario/>

49 <http://cespad.org.hn/2019/06/05/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-reitoca-un-municipio-enfrentado-por-la-instalacion-de-un-proyecto-hidroelectrico/>

50 <https://confidencialhn.com/cuellar-y-esposa-se-escudan-en-el-poder-para-no-ser-perseguidos-por-masiva-corrupcion/>

51 <https://tiempo.hn/pepe-lobo-denuncia-vocero-maccih-ante-conadeh/>

52 <http://elpulso.hn/la-maccih-podria-estar-con-los-dias-contados/>

53 <http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-ministerio-publico-demostró-su-evolucion-en-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-resalta-vocero-de-maccih.html>

On June 12, the US embassy thanked the head of the MACCIH Luis Marrey for his work and announced that it "will continue to support MACCIH and the fight against corruption".<sup>54</sup> The next day, other embassies joined in reiterating their ongoing support for the MACCIH.<sup>55</sup> <sup>56</sup> Also OACNUDH met with the parting representative of the MACCIH highlighting the importance of its work.<sup>57</sup>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounced that state bodies block corruption investigations highlighting five cases. Among the institutions failing to share information are the privatizing body COALIANZA and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE).<sup>58</sup> Later, a group of prosecutors denounced corruption at the MP and the Supreme Court.<sup>59</sup>

## Corruption around JOH

For months, ConfidencialHN has uncovered on an almost weekly basis new acts of corruption around JOH. This month, they reported that JOH and his wife acquired a luxurious apartment in Miami which later was transferred to a US couple for \$10.<sup>60</sup> Later, Criterio reported that JOH had offered 20 million Lempiras to three congresswo/men of the Liberal Party so that they would vote for Mauricio Oliva as the president of Congress.<sup>61</sup>

## The Narcopolítica Case

ContraCorriente published an analysis of the newest corruption case presented last month by the MACCIH and UFECIC, Narcopolítica.<sup>62</sup> Trial was opened against two more accused.<sup>63</sup> The initial hearing took place on June 4.<sup>64</sup> By the end of June, Carol Ivón Pineda Baide had received pre-trial detention while the charges against another accused had been dropped. In total, three people are in pre-trial detention and another three are additionally accused, but can await trial outside prison.<sup>65</sup>

## The Case against the Former First Lady Rosa Elena de Lobo

Another attempt by the defense team of Rosa Elena de Lobo to challenge the trial against her was dismissed.<sup>66</sup>

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54 <https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1138993506792484870>

55 [https://twitter.com/EmbaFrancia\\_Teg/status/1139169282594619393](https://twitter.com/EmbaFrancia_Teg/status/1139169282594619393)

56 <https://twitter.com/EmbCanCRHNNI/status/1139216183511724033>

57 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1141431512132390912>

58 <https://tiempo.hn/cna-instituciones-estado-obstaculizan-investigacion-corrupcion/>

59 <https://confidencialhn.com/fiscales-reafirman-infiltracion-de-delincuencia-organizada-en-el-ministerio-publico/>

60 <https://confidencialhn.com/descubren-otra-casa-a-mujer-de-joh-traspan-lujoso-apartamento-a-matrimonio-por-10-dolares/>

61 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/03/joh-ofrecio-20-millones-a-diputados-liberales-para-controlar-el-congreso-nacional/>

62 <https://contracorriente.red/2019/06/04/caso-de-narcopolitica-e-ilegitimidad-de-juan-orlando-hermanez-desestabilizan-pais/>

63 <http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/detencion-judicial-para-dos-imputadas-en-caso-narcopolitica.html>

64 <http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-audiencia-inicial-imputadas-en-caso-narcopolitica.html>

65 <http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/dictan-prision-preventiva-y-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-dos-sospechosas-en-caso-narcopolitica.html>

66 <http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/denegan-amparos-de-la-defensa-tecnica-en-caso-caja-chica-de-la-dama.html>

## The Pandora Case

This month, new evidence in the Pandora corruption case was admitted by the courts.<sup>67</sup>

## Astropharma

The MP published an update on the Astropharma corruption case in which 15 people are accused of various crimes such as fraud or crimes against health.<sup>68</sup> The case is currently in the last phase of the public hearing.<sup>69</sup> <sup>70</sup> The MP questioned a protected witness who declared that if something were to happen to them, they would hold the Gutiérrez' responsible.<sup>71</sup> On June 18, the MP withdrew accusations against two accused.<sup>72</sup>

## State Security Forces

Radio HRN reported that by 2022, Honduras will have 26'500 police agents compared to some 17'000 today.<sup>73</sup> An active member of the police force was sent to prison for extortion.<sup>74</sup> Two municipal police agents were found guilty of abuse of authority. On February 13, they detained someone, jailed them and the next morning, the person who remains unidentified, was dead.<sup>75</sup>

ContraCorriente published an article on women in the National Police Force. "Women within the Honduran National Police face many barriers to exercise their profession freely and on equal terms: they are victims of harassment by their peers or their superiors, and they are usually relegated to community work. Additionally, they are burdened with domestic work because they never stop being women in a society that tells them how they should live or die. That is why they also face being victims of unpunished femicides, even when they belong to institutions that should prevent and punish these crimes."<sup>76</sup>

## Repressions

Please see the sub-section on Social Unrest below.

## Assassinations

Up to five assassinations were committed by state security forces this month. For more details, see the sub-section on Social Unrest below.

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67 <https://tiempo.hn/admiten-pruebas-peritos-caso-pandora/>

68 <https://criterio.hn/2016/01/06/astropharma-uso-cinco-registros-sanitarios-falsos-expendio-medicamento-adulterado/>

69 <https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/136-junio2019/4383-delitos-de-corrupcion-y-contra-la-salud-del-pueblo-seran-probados-por-fiscales-anticorrupcion-en-juicio-oral-y-publico-por-caso-astropharma>

70 <https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/136-junio2019/4410-ministerio-publico-presenta-solidas-pruebas-contra-implicados-en-caso-astropharma>

71 [https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1139599710866608128](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1139599710866608128)

72 <http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/fiscalia-retira-acusacion-para-dos-imputadas-en-caso-astropharma.html>

73 <https://radiohrn.hn/a-2022-numero-de-policias-crecera-en-77-por-ciento/>

74 <https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/136-junio2019/4443-por-extorsion-envian-a-prision-a-miembro-activo-de-la-policia-nacional>

75 <https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/136-junio2019/4453-condenan-a-policias-municipales-por-abuso-de-autoridad-en-san-antonio-del-norte-la-paz>

76 <https://contracorriente.red/2019/06/22/mujeres-invisibles-y-acosadas-en-la-policia-nacional-de-honduras/>

## Penitentiary System

In a report on the so-called maximum-security prison El Pozo in Santa Bárbara, CESPAD highlighted regular abuse and human rights violations.<sup>77</sup> The weekend of the publication, the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) announced that family visits at El Pozo and La Tolva were suspended for "security reasons".<sup>78</sup>

On June 12, a confrontation between different gangs in the national prison in Támara, Francisco Morazán left three inmates dead and 26 hurt.<sup>79</sup> The human rights organization CPTRT held the prison administration responsible.<sup>80</sup> OACNUDH expressed concerns about the situation of Honduras' prisons.<sup>81</sup> At the end of June, another two inmates in El Pozo died in what was presented as another fight between gangs. But the victims didn't have neither gun nor knife wounds.<sup>82</sup> Nevertheless, the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) claimed that its prisons are secure and safe.<sup>83</sup> There are not only very dangerous, but also riddled by corruption.<sup>84</sup>

## Militarization

For the further militarization of Honduras and especially state repression, see the sub-section on Social Unrest below.

## International Community

The Central Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) announced to setup a guarantee fund worth \$450 million in support of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE).<sup>85</sup> But the main headlines came from Canada this month. On June 22, photos appeared showing the Honduran Military Police driving in cars donated by Canada to the Ministry of Health.<sup>86</sup> The Canadian ambassador reacted expressing that the Canadian government is "deeply worried about the images" and according to him, the cars were only meant to transport staff from the Health Secretariat.<sup>87</sup> The Health Secretary unconvincingly claimed that the soldiers had just accompanied them.<sup>88</sup>

## US

Trump's announcement some weeks ago to cut aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras had hung in the air for a while, but this month the State Department announced that they cut aid ""until

77 <http://cespad.org.hn/2019/06/07/el-pozo-de-ilama-el-alcataz-hondureno/>

78 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/07/gobierno-suspende-visitas-en-carceles-de-maxima-seguridad-durante-el-fin-de-semana/amp/>

79 <https://tiempo.hn/enfrentamiento-en-tamara-identifican-fallecidos/>

80 <https://tiempo.hn/juan-almendarez-la-no-entrada-de-garachana-a-tamara-era-senal-que-algo-andaba-mal/>

81 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1140789544364728320>

82 <https://tiempo.hn/motin-carcel-el-pozo-dos-reos-muertos-heridos/>

83 <https://confidencialhn.com/las-mentiras-de-gudiel-y-mcneil-sistema-penitenciario-reafirma-seguridad-carcelaria/>

84 <https://tiempo.hn/recluso-revela-enfrentamiento-tamara/>

85 <https://tiempo.hn/bcie-destinara-450-millones-de-dolares-para-saldar-deuda-y-rescatar-a-la-enee/>

86 <https://twitter.com/hondurasol/status/1142627257636143104>

87 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/27/canada-molesto-por-uso-de-vehiculos-donados-para-traslado-de-militares/>

88 <https://radiohrn.hn/salud-aclara-sobre-uso-de-vehiculos-del-gobierno-para-traslado-de-militares/>

[they] are satisfied that the Northern Triangle govts are taking concrete actions to reduce the number of illegal migrants coming to the US border".<sup>89 90</sup> The Washington Post reported: "The State Department said that after a review of more than \$615 million in assistance that President Donald Trump ordered in March to be cut entirely, it would go ahead with \$432 million in projects and grants that had been previously approved. The remaining amount will be held in escrow pending consultations with Congress, it said." And the disputed security assistance will continue either way.<sup>91</sup>

On June 6, some 300 US marines arrived in Honduras as part of the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force of SOUTHCOM.<sup>92</sup> Later, the head of SOUTHCOM, Adm. Craig Faller, visited Honduras, for the opening ceremony of the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Southern Command deployment to the region.<sup>93 94</sup> The US-Mexican civil society initiative Stop US Arms to Mexico published a fact sheet on US weapon sales to Honduras.<sup>95</sup> Libre demanded the immediate exit of all US military personnel from Honduras.<sup>96</sup>

On June 8, El Libertador reported that the US was pressuring the JOH regime to extradite the former Nationalist mayor and JOH ally Arnaldo Urbina Soto.<sup>97</sup> The next day, a judge approved the extradition of the former mayor of Yoro and JOH ally Arnaldo Urbina Soto.<sup>98</sup>

The Social Citizen Platform for Honduras wrote an open letter to the president of Oracle to inform him about the situation in Honduras, the illegal reelection of JOH and the irregularities in Congress that led to the \$8 million contract with Oracle.<sup>99</sup>

June ended with the announcement that US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton would be replaced by Lawrence Gumbiner after three years in Honduras.<sup>100 101</sup>

## EU

EU ambassador Alessandro Palmero met with the president of the Central Committee of the National Party, Reinaldo Sánchez, to discuss the stalling electoral reforms.<sup>102</sup>

89 <https://twitter.com/cspan/status/1140716831012982784>

90 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/17/ee-uu-recortara-millonaria-ayuda-a-centroamerica-por-flujos-migratorios/>

91 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/us-restores-some-aid-to-el-salvador-honduras-guatemala/2019/06/17/189ebb76-916d-11e9-956a-88c291ab5c38\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.216f0f8de6e9](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/us-restores-some-aid-to-el-salvador-honduras-guatemala/2019/06/17/189ebb76-916d-11e9-956a-88c291ab5c38_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.216f0f8de6e9)

92 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/07/ilegan-a-honduras-300-elementos-de-la-marina-de-ee-uu/amp/>

93 <https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1142074817677615104>

94 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/21/en-medio-de-crisis-comando-sur-de-ee-uu-reafirma-respaldo-a-regimen-de-joh/amp/>

95 <https://stopusarmstomexico.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Fact-Sheet-Gun-Sales-to-Honduras.pdf>

96 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/08/libre-exige-la-salida-inmediata-de-honduras-de-las-tropas-militares-de-ee-uu-y-de-heide-fulton/amp/>

97 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3388-ee-uu-presiona-por-extradicion-de-excalcalde-del-partido-nacional>

98 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/08/corte-extraditara-al-excalcalde-de-yoro-arnaldo-urbina-soto/>

99 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/08/envian-carta-a-oracle-por-ilegal-contrato-en-honduras/amp/>

100 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/24/se-va-heide-fulton-de-honduras/amp/>

101 <https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1143226367422713856>

102 <http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/partido-nacional-y-union-europea-dialogan-sobre-reformas-electorales.html>

## Drug Trafficking

An army helicopter crashed with one ton of cocaine in a remote community in Gracias a Dios.<sup>103</sup> And it is not just the army. In the US, the extradited drug trafficker Juan Carlos Arbizú Hernández accused the current head of the police Leonel Saucedo of having been involved in illicit activities.<sup>104</sup>

## Tony Hernández

In the beginning of the month, Radio Globo and ConfidencialHN uncovered that a decommissioned drug plane in 2014 had belonged to Tony Hernández and had been a gift by drug traffickers.<sup>105</sup> For the remainder of June, the main headlines in the Tony Hernández case came again from the US. Another petition by his lawyers was rejected.<sup>106 107</sup> At the same time, there were ongoing rumors that JOH himself is being investigated<sup>108</sup> and he was directly linked to the case.<sup>109</sup>

## Varia

### JOH

As the protests continue (see next sub-section), the JOH regime remains under pressure. This month, the platform Citizen Action against the Dictatorship published a press release demanding the resignation of JOH and inviting the Honduran people to remain in the streets until the end of the dictatorship.<sup>110</sup> Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle listed twelve accusations against JOH from being part of the conspirative group that led to the coup d'état 10 year ago to collusion with organized crime.<sup>111</sup> The Coalition against Impunity held a forum called "The State of the Dictatorship".<sup>112</sup> "The state of the dictatorship is what we have been struggling with since 2009, a scenario of permanent unconstitutionality, permanent exceptionality of democratic abnormality, where those who govern the country are not only the elites, but also the military and the embassy of the United States".<sup>113</sup> Another tool used by the JOH regime is the so-called security tax (tasa de seguridad). ConfidencialHN highlighted several aspects of misuse.<sup>114 115</sup>

An investigation by Reporteros de Investigación comes to the conclusion that the two gangs Mara Salvatrucha (MS) and Barrio 18 (18) receive different treatment from the JOH regime. Apparently,

<sup>103</sup> <https://confidencialhn.com/ffaa-en-la-mira-por-misterioso-viaje-de-cocaina-que-se-accidento-en-la-mosquitia/>

<sup>104</sup> <https://confidencialhn.com/narco-extraditado-a-ee-uu-acusa-a-leonel-saucedo-de-recibir-maletas-llenas-de-dinero/>

<sup>105</sup> <https://confidencialhn.com/narcoavion-decomisado-en-2014-era-un-obsequio-para-tony-hermandez/>

<sup>106</sup> <http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/juez-rechaza-peticiones-de-la-defensa-de-tony-hermandez.html>

<sup>107</sup> <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/28/las-batallas-perdidas-de-tony-hermandez-en-la-corte-del-distrito-sur-de-new-york/amp/>

<sup>108</sup> <https://confidencialhn.com/realizan-investigaciones-en-ee-uu-contra-joh-y-ebal-diaz-por-delincuencia-organizada/>

<sup>109</sup> <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/28/abogado-confiesa-que-blanco-de-investigacion-de-la-dea-es-joh/amp/>

<sup>110</sup> <https://defensoresenlinea.com/accd-exige-la-salida-de-joh-del-poder-y-llama-a-estar-de-manera-indefinida-en-las-calles/>

<sup>111</sup> <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/08/acuso-a-juan-hermandez-alvarado/>

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1094-estado-de-la-dictadura-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad>

<sup>113</sup> <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/11/dictadura-creo-toda-una-institucionalidad-para-blindarse-en-el-poder-video/amp/>

<sup>114</sup> <https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-del-tason-beneficia-a-parientes-con-contratos-para-compra-de-bombas-lacrimogenas/>

<sup>115</sup> <https://confidencialhn.com/molina-se-volvio-en-padrino-magico-de-vendedores-de-armas-quimicas-para-el-tason/>

the regime goes after the MS more leniently which Reporteros de Investigación explains with their connections to members of the JOH regime.<sup>116</sup> The Carnegie Council published an article by Lynn Holland on the activities of the DEA in JOH's Honduras focusing on drug trafficking and corruption investigation more and more linked to JOH himself.<sup>117</sup>

## Social Unrest - Public Sector and Coup Anniversary

May had ended with two days of nation-wide strikes and protests, a situation that continued through June. The protests even grew in strength with some 5000 IHSS employees announcing to join in on June 1.<sup>118</sup> The same day, the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortés also published a press statement in support.<sup>119</sup> And at the same time, international coverage grew.<sup>120 121 122</sup>

Honduras civil society did not mince words when it came to highlight what needed to change for the protests to stop. "There is no way to be found to end social conflicts that does not involve the resignation of the head of State. Everywhere you look, Juan Orlando Hernández is the problem. Once again the [US] Embassy is wrong to support the person who lost the confidence of the majority of society."<sup>123</sup> The same JOH, meanwhile, did not plan to step down, rather he continued to use state security forces to repress the protests.<sup>124 125 126</sup>

Amnesty International denounced in a press release: "It is shameful that instead of guaranteeing the rights of its population, the Honduran government continues opting to repress demonstrations with the indiscriminate use of tear gas and lethal weapons, in violation of international standards."<sup>127</sup> The day of the press release state security forces shot live bullets at protesters in the campesino community Guadalupe Carney and beat them wounding five persons, among them an eight-year old boy.<sup>128</sup> The community denounced that soldiers were flown in by helicopters and that they shot live bullets at protesters.<sup>129</sup> This month, the IACHR also published a press release expressing concern about the injuries inflicted on protesters by tear gas and live bullets reiterating that fire arms should not be used to repress protests.<sup>130</sup> Journalist covering the protests also suffered repression. C-Libre denounced that infiltrators at the protests had destroyed the equipment of Hispan TV journalist Dassaev Aguilar.<sup>131</sup>

116 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/06/12/sicarios-de-la-mara-del-poder-2/>

117 [https://www.carnegiecouncil.org/publications/ethics\\_online/the-dea-in-honduras-targeting-corruption-in-high-places](https://www.carnegiecouncil.org/publications/ethics_online/the-dea-in-honduras-targeting-corruption-in-high-places)

118 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/01/trabajadores-del-ihss-se-unen-este-lunes-al-paro-nacional/amp/>

119 <https://tiempo.hn/ccic-perdidas-corrupcion-manifestaciones-1/>

120 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/05/honduras-protests-teachers-doctors-president>

121 <https://www.democracynow.org/es/2019/5/31/titulares/hondurans-continue-massive-protests-against-privatization-plans>

122 <https://peoplesdispatch.org/2019/06/01/struggle-against-privatization-in-honduras-renews-rebellion-against-government/>

123 <https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/los-pcm-son-solo-la-punta-de-lanza/>

124 <https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1135280726214041600>

125 <https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1135287556105334784>

126 <https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1135283163071012864>

127 <https://www.amnesty.org/es/latest/news/2019/06/autoridades-de-honduras-deben-dejar-de-reprimir-protestas/>

128 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/01/colombianos-e-israelies-estarian-participando-en-desalajos-en-bajo-aguan/>

129 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/mas-heridos-en-protesta-registra-el-bajo-aguan/>

130 <https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2019/143.asp>

131 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1019-infiltrados-en-movilizacion-de-plataforma-destruyen-equipo-a-corresponsal-de-hispan-tv>

As in the previous month, repression took also the form of defamatory attacks. In a press release, OACNUDH expressed its concern regarding such defamatory attacks against the Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare.<sup>132</sup> Radio Progreso dissected the smear campaign against the protesters. "It is true that both crime and social protest are nourished by poverty, unemployment, rising prices, corruption, abandonment of the countryside by the State, and ultimately, the unfair distribution of wealth. But in comparison to crime which is clearly associated with powerful groups in the country connected to organized crime and corrupt public institutions and officials, social protest has no organizational relationship with crime. Social protest has a direct relationship with the just complaints and discomforts of the poor. And these claims have been increasing to the extent that public policies enlarge inequalities and respond more to the interests of mafias than to the realities of the country. As inequality continues to grow, it is an ethical responsibility to participate in social protests, and it is an obligation to decontaminate them from leaders or political groups interested in manipulating them. Social protests are good news when they express the will of the population to channel their discontent in an organized way and demand answers to their clamor."<sup>133</sup>

Another tactic continuously used by the regime was to pretend to make concessions. On June 2, the JOH regime announced the derogation of the two controversial decrees in what it presented as a dialogue, but which was not accepted by most protesters, especially the Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare. They denounced it as a demobilization strategy by the regime.<sup>134 135</sup> They also immediately announced that the protests would continue for the time being.<sup>136</sup> The next day, the president of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, participated and warned the public education and health sector of falling into the trap of a false dialogue with the JOH regime.<sup>137</sup> By that time, the Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare had already presented seven conditions that needed to be fulfilled to start a dialogue.<sup>138</sup>

It is important to highlight that the protests took place all over the country. While the focus of the press is mainly on the capital, it is crucial to look at the country as a whole. On June 3, four young Hondurans, including a 12-year old, were detained in La Lima, south of San Pedro Sula.<sup>139</sup> In El Progreso, the situation was especially bad. "At least 4 young people have been badly beaten & are being held in police station in city of El Progreso. Military & police are chasing protesters into large sugar cane fields causing panic & uncertainty about the well-being & whereabouts of those being chased"<sup>140</sup>. There was also violent repression in La Paz.<sup>141</sup> Taking this in, Radio Progreso rhetorically asked how one cannot call the state security forces criminals. "The actions of the National Police and the Military Police in the face of the recent demonstrations against the

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132 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1083-oacnudh-preocupada-por-campanas-de-desprestigio-contra-plataforma-por-la-salud-y-educacion>

133 <https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/protesta-social/>

134 <https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/9674-2/>

135 <https://madj.org/index.php/2019/06/04/en-salud-y-educacion-no-hay-dialogo-sin-derogacion/>

136 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/03/medicos-y-docentes-rechazan-acuerdo-con-gobierno-y-anuncian-protetas/amp/>

137 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/04/luis-zelaya-persuade-a-medicos-y-docentes-que-no-caigan-en-su-error-de-aceptar-dialogo-con-joh/>

138 <https://tiempo.hn/condiciones-plataforma-de-salud-y-educacion-dialogo/>

139 <https://twitter.com/hondurasol/status/1136023408943259655>

140 <https://twitter.com/hondurasol/status/1136028075207122950>

141 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/sin-dialogo-policias-y-militares-atacan-a-docentes-de-la-paz/>

privatization of health and public education reflect a systematic pattern that has not changed with the new curriculum or with the much publicized purification process. (...) When police and military agents repress violently, use their firearms against the disarmed people and use brute force indiscriminately, they violate the Constitution, international treaties and other laws of the republic. Therefore, what is the name of those who violate laws and commit crimes? Criminals. And criminals are those who let the crime pass and do not conduct an investigation promptly, impartially, independently and effectively."<sup>142</sup>

After seven consecutive days of protest, the Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare announced a partial return to work which included assemblies to discuss the propose dialogue.<sup>143</sup> But as public dismay is beyond the education and healthcare sectors, protests and road blocks continued.<sup>144</sup> The same day, the JOH regime held a first day of dialogue yesterday without the presence of the platform.<sup>145</sup> Already a day later, the platform announced that they would return to the streets the next week if there were no satisfying answers by the JOH regime.<sup>146</sup> During these days, the platform received additional support. The Episcopal Conference of Honduras emitted a press release on the protests expressing understanding for why the people take to the streets.<sup>147 148</sup>

The JOH regime did not listen. In Guapinol, nationally known for its resistance to a mining project, inhabitants blocked a road in solidarity with the nationwide protests and to reiterate their demand for the derogation of the mining concession in their area. They were repressed by the national police and the Military Police, but they stood their ground. The police then went to the community itself to raid various houses and arrested and arrested at least four people.<sup>149 150</sup> The repression also affected community radios, for example in the case of the campesino community Guadalupe Carney, where two community radio stations are located. The Latin American section of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) expressed its concern regarding the militarization of the community and they denounced that the radio stations had to stop their transmission for fear of repression.<sup>151</sup>

On Sunday June 9, the platform gave the JOH regime an ultimatum until Monday at 12pm to respond to the nine points presented by the platform as a precondition for a real dialogue.<sup>152</sup> As expected, the JOH regime did not comply and the platform called for an alternative and more inclusive citizen dialogue.<sup>153</sup> Even worse, JOH returned to publicly denigrated the platform and he

142 <https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/como-no-llamarles-criminales/>

143 <http://elpulso.hn/previo-a-comenzar-el-dialogo-se-normalizan-actividades-en-colegios-y-hospitales/>

144 <https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1136317955371819008>

145 <https://tiempo.hn/gobierno-acuerdo-no-plataforma-de-salud-y-educacion/>

146 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3387-plataforma-impone-nueve-requisitos-para-dialogo-con-gobierno-hondureno>

147 <https://fidesdiariodigital.com/2019/06/06/conferencia-episcopal-de-honduras-emite-nuevo-comunicado/>

148 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3386-basta-ya-iglesia-catolica-hondurena-reclama-ineptitud-del-gobierno-ante-crisis>

149 <http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/medicos-a-reunion-este-domingo-para-definir-estrategias-a-seguir.html>

150 <https://tiempo.hn/video-toma-en-guapinol-militares-casas-1/>

151 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1020-asociacion-latinoamericana-exige-respeto-a-trabajo-de-radios-comunitarias-en-colon>

152 <https://tiempo.hn/plataforma-ultimatum-gobierno-manifestaciones-lunes-1/>

153 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/10/plataforma-llama-a-un-dialogo-ciudadano-alternativo-e-incluyente/amp/>

threatened with more violence, i.e. sending the Armed Forces.<sup>154</sup> His announcement was accompanied by further threats by Security Minister Julián Pacheco Tinoco.<sup>155</sup>

Neither the platform nor Hondurans in general did back down and protests continued on June 10.<sup>156</sup> Students joined in occupying of the main schools and universities of the country.<sup>157</sup> As the repression continued, the platform started to speak of "state terrorism".<sup>158</sup> Once more, journalists were among the targets.<sup>159</sup> In an especially shocking case, state security forces went on a "salvage hunt" of protesting students.<sup>160</sup> Three of them were illegally arrested, but HRDs succeeded in having them liberated two hours later.<sup>161</sup> In the midst of this, the JOH regime launched for the second time its official disputed and widely rejected, dialogue.<sup>162</sup> Criterio wrote: "The real dialogue is in the streets and demands the departure of Hernández".<sup>163</sup>

On June 12, COFADEH published an important preliminary report on the state repression of the protests documenting four murders, three acts of torture, 48 illegal detentions and more.<sup>164</sup> And the grim statistics only continued to increase. The same day, the Honduras Solidarity Network reported on the use of live bullets against protesters in Danlí and La Esperanza and the attempted kidnapping of young protesters in Choluteca.<sup>165</sup> They also published a video of the violent arrest of three young protesters in Tegucigalpa.<sup>166</sup> The 28-year old teacher Bayron Rodríguez was heavily beaten by the police and then thrown into the river. He was saved by other protesters but remained in a critical state.<sup>167</sup> COFADEH afterwards filed an official complaint at the MP demanding the investigation into the attack by seven TIGRES agents against him.<sup>168</sup> Another teacher, José Ramón Salinas, was shot in Villanueva, Cortés, but fortunately he survived.<sup>169</sup> COPINH denounced repression in Siguatepeque as well as the illegal detention of buses full of COPINH members on their way back from protests in Siguatepeque.<sup>170</sup> OACNUDH reacted by publishing a series of Tweets expressing concern about state violence against protesters.<sup>171</sup> They announce that they are investigating the possible use of live bullets against protesters as denounced by human rights organizations.<sup>172</sup> But the

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154 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/10/hernandez-envia-a-sus-soldados-a-reprimir-al-pueblo/amp/>

155 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1021-amenaza-de-secretario-de-seguridad-no-importa-a-quien-tengamos-que-ir-a-arrestar-lo-vamos-a-hacer>

156 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/11/hondurenos-salen-nuevamente-a-la-calles-pese-a-amenazas-de-represion-del-regimen/amp/>

157 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3393-estudiantes-hondurenos-celebran-su-dia-en-rebelion>

158 <https://radiohmn.hn/2019/06/11/plataforma-hay-terrorismo-y-persecucion-gobierno-denuncia-vinculo-maras-protestantes/>

159 <https://twitter.com/hondurasol/status/1138345382130270208>

160 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/12/policias-y-militares-de-honduras-reprimen-y-capturan-ilegalmente-a-manifestantes/>

161 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/12/policia-hace-el-ridiculo-al-presentar-supuestas-evidencias-contra-manifestantes/amp/>

162 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1098-sin-propuesta-y-con-un-fuerte-proceso-de-intimidacion-arranca-el-dialogo-de-joh>

163 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/13/gobierno-de-honduras-instala-dialogo-sin-la-participacion-de-sectores-en-conflicto/>

164 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/INFORME201912junio.pdf>

165 <https://twitter.com/hondurasol/status/1139023323248058370>

166 <https://twitter.com/hondurasol/status/1139024760778633216>

167 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-maestro-permanece-en-estado-delicado-por-ataques-de-la-policia-santa-barbara/>

168 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/criminalizar-a-defensores-de-dhb-es-la-estrategia-del-regimen/>

169 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1293004-466/un-maestro-resulta-herido-de-bala-en-violento-desalojo-en-cort%C3%A9s>

170 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1139227009077448705>

171 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1139545593737596929>

172 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1099-brutalidad-policial-violenta-protocolo-de-actuacion-para-el-control-de-multitudes>

next day, state security forces once again shot live bullets at protesters in Choluteca<sup>173</sup> and C-Libre denounced the targeted repression against journalists.<sup>174 175 176</sup>

According to C-Libre, members of the armed forces also profiled journalists covering the protests and HRDs accompanying it.<sup>177</sup> Reporteros de Investigación reported on the infiltration of protests by state intelligence to denigrate them in the eye of international human rights organizations and foreign governments.<sup>178 179</sup>

The healthcare and education sectors met over the weekend of June 15/16 and decided that the protests will continue in expectation of the alternative citizen dialogue planned to start on June 18.<sup>180 181</sup> CONADEH announced that it will attend the alternative dialogue.<sup>182</sup> The next day, to some surprise, even two representatives of the JOH regime, the vice-minister of education and the vice-minister of governance, participated.<sup>183</sup> The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) also participated.<sup>184</sup> There were nine thematic discussions for each sector, e.g. the application of international conventions and national laws or on corruption in the national healthcare system.<sup>185</sup> Radio Progreso lauded the alternative dialogue. "Without a doubt, we are witnessing what could be a turning point in the recent history of Honduras, and this week could be a crucial moment for the movement that until now has led the Platform in Defense of Healthcare and Education and that should continue to do so. In all this time, and despite the campaigns against it, and the false call to dialogue by the JOH regime, this space that appeared by surprise and with great force in the Honduran context, has shown great clarity and coherence when making their decisions."<sup>186</sup>

The next day, TIGRES special forces announced their own strike fed up with being used as a force of repression.<sup>187</sup> But once more a proposed dialogue by the JOH regime failed when after talks between the director of the National Police and the striking agents ended in the launching of tear gas.<sup>188</sup> Criterio reported of a stand-off between the TIGRES and other members of the National Police.<sup>189</sup> The next day, a meeting by the National Defense and Security Council took place in which JOH announced a "mass deployment" of members of the army, police and state

173 <https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1140734061113225222>

174 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1102-denuncian-intimidacion-en-la-huelga-de-hambre-en-el-copemh>

175 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1024-periodistas-continuan-siendo-victimas-de-agresiones-policiales-en-choluteca>

176 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1025-policia-municipal-destruye-equipo-de-periodista-en-choloma>

177 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1023-militares-y-policias-agreden-y-levantan-perfiles-a-la-prensa-y-a-defensores-de-ddhh>

178 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/06/17/infiltrados/>

179 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/06/18/al-otro-lado-de-la-infiltracion/>

180 <http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maestros-y-medicos-de-honduras-mantienen-protestas-previo-a-instalar-dialogo.html>

181 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/16/honduras-un-dialogo-ciudadano-alternativo-por-la-defensa-de-la-salud-y-la-educacion/amp/>

182 <https://tiempo.hn/conadeh-dialogo-plataforma-salud-educacion/>

183 <http://elpulso.hn/plataforma-en-defensa-de-la-salud-y-educacion-inaugura-dialogo-alternativo/>

184 <https://tiempo.hn/cna-se-suma-dialogo-alternativo-plataforma/>

185 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1109-conozca-las-mesas-tematicas-del-primer-dialogo-ciudadano-alternativo>

186 <https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/plataforma-para-la-defensa-de-la-salud-y-educacion/>

187 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1111-fusiles-caidos-por-represion-contra-de-la-represion-al-pueblo>

188 <https://tiempo.hn/excabras-gasean-director-pn-balacera-celebrar/>

189 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/19/honduras-en-medio-de-crisis-policia-hondurena-se-enfrentan-entre-si/>

intelligence.<sup>190</sup> OACNUDH expressed concerns.<sup>191</sup> 48 hours later, it became clear that this concern had been more than granted.

Protests took place all over Honduras and the security forces did not hold back. At least two protesters were killed, one was shot by the Military Police in the head.<sup>192</sup> In Tegucigalpa alone, at least 21 protesters were treated in the University Hospital for injuries due to repression, 17 inflicted by fire arms.<sup>193</sup> OACNUDH documented 19 injured protesters, 16 by fire arms.<sup>194</sup> They also confirmed the two deaths and demanded an investigation<sup>195</sup> and reminded the JOH regime that the Armed Forces should not participate in matters of law enforcement.<sup>196</sup> Reporteros de Investigación published photographic and video graphic material of the protests and the repression.<sup>197</sup>

At the time of this newest apex of repression, the TIGRES special forces accompanied by municipal and departmental police forces continued their strike.<sup>198</sup> <sup>199</sup> According to Radio HRN DIDADPOL profiled the protesters inside the police.<sup>200</sup> The situation eerily resembled the post-electoral repression at the end of 2017 and beginning of 2018. Another commonality was the restriction of the freedom of press. Two TeleSur journalists were held at the airport in Tegucigalpa.<sup>201</sup> The authorities claimed that they would have needed an invitation to cover events in Honduras, something which according to journalist Gilda Silvestrucci was completely false.<sup>202</sup> While all of the above happened, the US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton felt the urge to praise the work of the Honduran human rights secretary.<sup>203</sup>

The next day, on June 20, the situation turned even worse when the Military Police shot and killed the 17-year old protester Eblin Noel Maradiaga.<sup>204</sup> The OACNUDH "profoundly regrets" his death, sending out a message of solidarity to his family. They also demanded an investigation.<sup>205</sup> According to COFADEH, five people died between June 19 and June 20 due to military repression.<sup>206</sup> <sup>207</sup> Amnesty International wrote an open letter to JOH demanding to stop the violence. "The Honduran authorities must not continue on the path of violence and repression. We urge the administration of Juan Orlando Hernández to guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, and limit the use of force to a proportional minimum to avoid further

190 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1116-poder-ejecutivo-declara-persecucion-militar-contr-la-poblacion-hondurena>

191 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1141879245481881600>

192 <https://twitter.com/hondurasol/status/1141653265332834305>

193 <https://twitter.com/GildateleSUR/status/1141693795790196736>

194 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1141877366370820096>

195 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1141860564177698816>

196 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1141879246866059265>

197 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/06/20/opinionri-imagenes-de-rebeldia-ciudadana-y-policial-contr-regimen-de-honduras/>

198 <https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/policias-mantienen-paro-de-labores-y-se-niegan-a-desalojar-protestas/>

199 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/20/no-queremos-apoyar-un-gobierno-que-no-vale-la-pena-policia-de-honduras/amp/>

200 <https://radiohm.hn/didadpol-recoge-evidencias-para-identificar-a-agentes-policiales-levantados-en-rebeldia/>

201 <http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2493-gobierno-de-joh-retuvo-a-periodistas-de-telesur-que-llegaron-a-cubrir-las-protestas-en-honduras>

202 <https://twitter.com/GildateleSUR/status/1141748972249387008>

203 <http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/heide-fulton-destaca-trabajo-de-secretaria-de-ddhh-pero-dice-retos-persisten.html>

204 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/polifacetico-joven-es-asesinado-en-una-represion-policial-militar/>

205 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1142155570687959040>

206 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/represion-militar-en-honduras-deja-5-muertos-y-mas-de-treinta-heridos/>

207 <http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2494-crece-la-cifra-de-personas-asesinadas-en-las-manifestaciones>

injuries and deaths.”<sup>208</sup> In a press release, CEJIL also demanded a stop of state repression.<sup>209</sup> The only reaction by the JOH regime was through its Security Secretariat which called the militarization fake news and criminalized alternative media outlets for inciting violence.<sup>210</sup> C-Libre denounced this and cited one example of the threat. "We reserve the right to make an exhaustive analysis of the malicious contents that are inciting the population to disorder, anarchy and that promote conditions of instability and social decomposition at all levels".<sup>211</sup>

On June 21, there the JOH regime came to an agreement with the TIGRES special forces.<sup>212</sup> The Washington Post reported: "Riot police ended a three-day work stoppage Friday but warned Honduras' government they will not crack down on thousands who continue to protest in the streets demanding President Juan Orlando Hernández resign. "We will not repress our people anymore and we will respect their human rights," an officer with his face covered told journalists outside a station, accompanied by fellow officers."<sup>213</sup> A few days later, JOH announced to replace the head of the National Bureau of the Special Forces, Javier Díaz Herrera.<sup>214</sup>

For lack of negative superlatives, let's just say that the situation in Honduras remained very worrisome for the remainder of the month. On June 24, UNAH was suddenly stormed by the Military Police who opened fire on students. At least five students were injured by bullets and dozens suffered from the tear gas attacks.<sup>215</sup> <sup>216</sup> Once more, the autonomy of UNAH guaranteed in the constitution was violated. OACNUDH published several Tweets denouncing the attacks and sending a message of solidarity to the injured students. Once more, they felt compelled to remind the JOH regime that "[e]xceptional circumstances such as internal political instability or any other public emergency situation can not be invoked to justify breaching the Basic Principles on the use of force".<sup>217</sup> <sup>218</sup> Again, the JOH regime ignored it and the next day, Proceso Digital reported that the Military Police had taken over "strategic places" all over Honduras to suffocate protests.<sup>219</sup> Even worse, the Military Police continued to go after students.<sup>220</sup> But civil society did not stand down. The Human Rights Board presented an official complaint against the Security Secretary and against the head of the Military Police.<sup>221</sup> And in a stand against the militarization, the municipal corporation of La Paz decided to expel Fusina from the municipal building - a first in Honduras.<sup>222</sup>

208 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/06/honduras-amnistia-advierte-herandez-sobre-despliegue-fuerzas-armadas/>

209 <https://www.cejil.org/es/estado-honduras-debe-cesar-represion-y-garantizar-derecho-protesta-social>

210 <https://radiohm.hn/secretaria-de-seguridad-desmiente-militarizacion-del-pais/>

211 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1029-con-analizar-contenidos-amenaza-secretaria-de-seguridad-a-la-prensa-que-denuncia-represion-a-protestas>

212 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/21/en-otro-madrugon-fuerzas-especiales-de-la-policia-firman-acuerdo-con-el-gobierno/>

213 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/honduran-police-end-strike-as-protests-demand-president-quit/2019/06/21/556e1388-9462-11e9-956a-88c291ab5c38\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.55ad46f8fa83](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/honduran-police-end-strike-as-protests-demand-president-quit/2019/06/21/556e1388-9462-11e9-956a-88c291ab5c38_story.html?utm_term=.55ad46f8fa83)

214 <https://tiempo.hn/tras-rebelion-cambio-mandos-fuerzas-especiales/>

215 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1030-policia-militar-abre-fuego-en-la-unah-deja-varios-estudiantes-heridos>

216 <http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/2497-video-represion-militar-en-la-unah-deja-al-menos-cinco-heridos-de-bala>

217 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1143335820667097088>

218 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/114333464214839301>

219 <http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/policia-militar-no-permitira-tomas-de-vias-en-el-litoral-atlantico.html>

220 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-militar-vigila-y-reprime-a-estudiantes-de-colegios-capitalinos/>

221 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/25/denuncian-a-secretario-de-seguridad-y-director-de-la-pmpop/amp/>

222 <https://confidencialhn.com/alcaldia-de-la-paz-expulsa-a-fusina-de-edificio-municipal/>

Again, protests did not only take place in Tegucigalpa, but all over Honduras. In Choluteca, people fled from state security forces repression into a mall, but they were followed and shot at. A man handing out leaflets inside the mall was shot in the leg.<sup>223</sup> In Nacaome, a police agent shot a rubber bullet from a motorcycle at the chest of the human rights defender Marlon García.<sup>224</sup> The human rights network REDEHSUR filed a complaint at the regional CONADEH office and the MP in Nacaome against the police sub-commissioner Wilmer Jurandir Pineda Ordóñez for human rights violations in the context of the protests.<sup>225</sup>

Instead of outright condemning the state violence, the US embassy insinuated in a press release that protesters were violent.<sup>226</sup> At the same time, some pressure was coming from US lawmakers. US congressman and chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Eliot Engels, urged the Honduran government "to allow peaceful demonstrations and to ensure that security forces refrain from repressing protesters."<sup>227</sup> US representative Jan Schakowsky wrote in the Hill: "The United States has continued to support successive administrations in Honduras, even though elections have been biased by vote buying, fraud, and assassinations. The United States sends the Honduran military and police aid even though these security forces have been ordered to beat and shoot non-violent protesters and there are credible allegations of death squads formed to assassinate journalists and citizens working for social change. One of these citizens was the well-known environmental activist Berta Cáceres. No one is held accountable for these crimes. (...) Under the circumstances, it is shameful that our government continues to send aid to this corrupt and illegally-elected government in Honduras. The security aid in particular is being used to lift up a dictatorial president who abuses power and implicates our country in the human rights abuses of his regime. It is high time for my colleagues in the House to co-sponsor H.R. 1945, the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, which would cut off U.S. aid to the Honduran military and police until such time as their human rights violations cease and impunity ends for the crimes they have committed."<sup>228</sup> Similar calls came from US representative Hank Johnson<sup>229</sup> and Ilhan Omar<sup>230</sup>.

In a joint press release, US civil society organizations called on the Honduran government to "order all security forces to end immediately excessive use of force against protesters; withdraw military and Military Police from responding to any protests; disband the Military Police; ensure government agents end any threats and abuse against human rights defenders and journalists; and ensure cases against state agents for these abuses are promptly investigated and prosecuted"; and on the US State Department to "call on the Honduran government to end excessive use of force, respect the rights of Hondurans to protest, defend rights and report on the news, disband the Military Police, and ensure justice for human rights crimes. We call on the U.S. Embassy in Honduras to end its all-too-often deafening silence and publicly, regularly denounce the abuses

223 <http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presuntamente-por-policias-joven-resulta-herido-en-tiroteo-en-interior-de-mall-en-choluteca.html>

224 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-dispara-bala-de-goma-contra-defensor-de-la-redehsur/>

225 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/redehsur-denuncia-abusos-de-la-policia-y-militares-en-nacaome/>

226 <https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1143682855689736194>

227 <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign/status/1143944496532611074>

228 <https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/450462-10-years-after-the-coup-in-honduras-the-us-must-reevaluate>

229 <https://twitter.com/RepHankJohnson/status/1144365791938265088>

230 <https://twitter.com/Ilhan/status/1144285544479952896>

taking place."<sup>231</sup> US actor Dany Glover called for the approval by US Congress of the Berta Cáceres Act to stop security assistance to Honduras.<sup>232</sup>

And then, it was June 28, the tenth anniversary of the coup d'état (see also the subsection below). In anticipation of the protests and fearing state violence, OACNUDH sent out various special missions to monitor the situation in Honduras.<sup>233</sup> <sup>234</sup> They also met among others with regional CONADEH offices and the Military Police.<sup>235</sup> <sup>236</sup> The UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, called out to the Honduran authorities to guarantee the right to freedom of opinion and expression in the wake of yesterday's protests.<sup>237</sup> UN Special Rapporteur for human rights defenders Michel Forst also called for the respect of human rights and a safe space for HRDs.<sup>238</sup> Nevertheless, protests were still repressed.<sup>239</sup> C-Libre denounced that the journalist Melissa Hernández and her cameraman were harassed by the police in Choluteca when covering the repression.<sup>240</sup>

The World Organization against Torture (OMCT) condemned the state violence against protesters in Honduras and demands a withdrawal of the armed forces.<sup>241</sup> The Human Rights Observatories of the Peoples published a press release in solidarity with the Honduran people.<sup>242</sup> And CEJIL sent an open letter to Honduras' HRDs.<sup>243</sup>

## Analysis

The ongoing protests in Honduras were accompanied by the publication of helpful pieces of analysis, e.g. by Eugenio Sosa on seven steps to interpret them: i) the context of illegitimate government politics; ii) the deterioration of the right to health and education; iii) emergency decrees creating interventionist bodies; iv) the reactivation of the labor unions in the health and education sector; v) leadership; vi) failed strategies by the JOH regime; and vii) open question on how far the protests will come.<sup>244</sup> Others focused on the dialogue<sup>245</sup> and the alternative citizen dialogue<sup>246</sup>. Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle highlighted the need to think of a post-JOH Honduras.<sup>247</sup>

231 <https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/al-gobierno-hondureno-basta-de-matar-y-herir-a-manifestantes/>

232 <https://twitter.com/mrdannyglover/status/1144597065390936065>

233 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1143980949216157696>

234 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1144342677284163585>

235 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1144343753517404161>

236 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1144351324521345039>

237 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24758&LangID=E>

238 <https://news.un.org/es/story/2019/06/1458571>

239 <https://tiempo.hn/manifestantes-toman-paso-la-ceiba-pm-gasea/>

240 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1031-policia-nacional-dispara-contra-periodista-y-camarografo-en-choluteca>

241 <http://www.omct.org/es/urgent-campaigns/urgent-interventions/honduras/2019/06/d25407/>

242 <http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Declaraci%C3%B3n-Observatorio-Derechos-Humanos-de-los-Pueblos.pdf>

243 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/28/defensores-de-honduras-estamos-con-ustedes-cejil/amp/>

244 <http://cespad.org.hn/2019/06/03/analisis-honduras-siete-claves-para-interpretar-la-ola-de-protestas-contra-las-privatizaciones-en-los-sectores-de-salud-y-educacion/>

245 <http://cespad.org.hn/2019/06/10/analisis-honduras-en-que-momento-estamos-en-la-lucha-contra-las-privatizaciones/>

246 <http://cespad.org.hn/2019/06/25/analisis-el-dialogo-ciudadano-alternativo-con-protestas-y-demandas-de-cambio/>

247 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/19/la-hora-despues-fantasia-en-clave-de-si-mayorcon-plan-b/amp/>

## Migration

At least seven Central American migrants died in US custody since October 2018. This month, a 33-year-old Salvadoran man died after suffering a seizure while in custody of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and a 40-year-old Honduran woman died in the hospital after having collapsed at a Border Patrol station.<sup>248</sup> Among the victims are also children and a new report by Physicians for Human Rights highlights their vulnerable situation: "There Is No One Here to Protect You: Trauma Among Children Fleeing Violence in Central America".<sup>249</sup> Women are also affected. A Honduran woman was deported from the US to Mexico where she then was kidnapped and sexually assaulted.<sup>250</sup>

Over 40'000 Hondurans have been deported so far in 2019.<sup>251</sup> The number rose by 45.9% between January and May this year.<sup>252</sup> AT the same time, the Trump administration prepares the groundwork to deport even more people. VOA reported this month: "The Trump administration hopes within days to conclude a deal with Guatemala that would block Central Americans from seeking asylum in the U.S. VOA has obtained an unsigned copy of a seven-page draft White House agreement which would establish a "safe third country" protocol between the U.S. and Guatemala. The draft is set to be presented to the government in Guatemala City this week. Under the terms of the agreement, migrants fleeing persecution in El Salvador and Honduras would be required to seek asylum in Guatemala".<sup>253</sup> Human Rights First denounced these plans. "It's simply ludicrous for the United States to assert that Guatemala is capable of protecting refugees turned away from the United States at a time when its own citizens are fleeing violence and other failures of state protection. This is just another shameful and illegal attempt to ban, bar, and block refugees from seeking asylum in the United States."<sup>254</sup>

## Poverty

CESPAD published an interesting analysis this month on the link between Honduras' debt and poverty.<sup>255</sup> FOSDEH challenged the inflation numbers by the Central Bank of Honduras resulting in more positive outlook on poverty.<sup>256</sup> And last but not least, the World Food Program published an updated country brief on Honduras with helpful statistics on poverty.<sup>257</sup>

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248 <https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/2019/06/04/us-border-two-more-migrants-die-federal-custody/1261131001/>

249 <https://phr.org/news/asylum-seeking-children-from-northern-triangle-suffer-multi-dimensional-recurrent-sustained-trauma/>

250 <https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/mexico-police-collude-criminals-kidnap-migrant/>

251 <http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-40-mil-hondurenos-han-sido-deportados-en-2019.html>

252 <http://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/deportacion-de-migrantes-hondurenos-aumento-45-9-en-2019.html>

253 <https://www.voanews.com/americas/us-guatemala-close-deal-block-central-american-asylum-seekers>

254 <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/press-release/safe-third-country-agreement-guatemala-would-endanger-not-protect-refugees>

255 <http://cespad.org.hn/2019/06/19/la-deuda-interna-un-gasto-sin-control-e-inefectivo-que-paga-la-poblacion-hondurena/>

256 <https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-advierte-que-cifras-de-inflacion-presentadas-por-el-banco-central-de-honduras-no-son-coherentes/>

257 [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Honduras%20Country%20Brief%20\\_May\\_2019%20.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Honduras%20Country%20Brief%20_May_2019%20.pdf)

## Electoral Reforms

ConexiHon reported on efforts by the unity for transparency and inspection of political party financing (UFTF) to keep party donors secret.<sup>258</sup>

## Labor Rights

Honduras failed for the fifth consecutive year to comply with ILO standards.<sup>259</sup>

## 10 Years Coup d'État

This month, Honduras commemorated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coup d'état. OACNUDH published a press release entitled "10 Years after the Coup d'état, Honduras still faces human rights challenges".<sup>260</sup> For the accompanying march, please see the section above on social unrest. The anniversary was accompanied with the publication of various pieces of analysis looking at the origin and aftermath of the coup.<sup>261 262 263 264</sup> The ousted president Manuel Zelaya published a book on the subject.<sup>265</sup> ConexiHon highlighted 22 steps (mostly executive decrees) from the coup to today's dictatorship.<sup>266</sup>

Radio Progreso succinctly summarized the situation in Honduras. "The same people, ten years later" or in more detail: "The beneficiaries of the coup d'état are those who at this time conclude contracts with multinationals and are launching the model cities [ZEDEs]. They are those who have used the State not only for their businesses, but to turn the State into their most formidable business. The beneficiaries of the coup d'état are those who receive ample praise from the high authorities of the United States, and are currently put as an example and model to follow, for that reason, some of them, among the most conspicuous representatives of the highest oligarchy, they are chosen as business leaders of Latin America. (...) Those same people are the ones that Honduran society has to face, as a condition to recover the country that remains deeply wounded, and which can only be healed by the dignified struggle of the people who are determined to turn this pain of homeland into a mobilizing force towards the construction of popular and national sovereignty."<sup>267</sup>

## And Light at the End of a Month

The Paid Domestic Workers Network of Francisco Morazán inspired a campaign in Spain to recognize the labor rights of domestic workers.<sup>268</sup>

258 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1106-unidad-de-transparencia-impone-un-secreto-complce-del-financiamiento-politico-en-honduras>

259 <https://tiempo.hn/honduras-por-quinto-ano-en-la-lista-de-paises-que-incumplen-normativas-laborales/>

260 <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1145025875450236928>

261 <http://elpulso.hn/10-anos-metastasis/>

262 <http://cespad.org.hn/2019/06/26/analisis-honduras-a-diez-anos-del-golpe-de-estado-donde-estamos/>

263 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/ten-years-coup-hondurans-fee-violence-repression-190628150952496.html>

264 <https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/06/28/honduras-at-ten-years-after-the-coup-a-critical-assessment>

265 <https://criterio.hn/2019/06/27/expresidente-zelaya-cuenta-la-historia-del-golpe-a-traves-de-un-libro/>

266 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1133-diez-anos-despues-del-golpe-en-honduras-un-estado-dictatorial>

267 <https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/los-mismos-diez-anos-despues/>

268 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1097-trabajadoras-domesticas-de-honduras-inspiran-campana-en-europa>



### **Another Month at the Honduras Forum Switzerland**

#### Past Activities:

- On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the coup d'état, the Honduras Forum Switzerland organized an art exhibit by Honduran artists.

#### Upcoming Activities:

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