

01/03/17

Berta - UN, Murder; DESA, Investigation, Mobilization; FPIC; Mano Dura; Military Police; National Police; Judicial Power; FoE; IMF; Organized Crime; Mayors; Femicide; Mining; Unemployment; Amazon; and Democracy or Tyranny

Today at the UN in Geneva a side-event will take place looking at the

situation of human rights defender in Honduras one year after Berta's murder.

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The Guardian published a new article on Berta's murder, writing that it "bears the hallmarks of a 'well-planned operation designed by military intelligence'".

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/28/bertha-caceres-honduras-military-intelligence-us-trained-special-forces#img-1>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/28/asesinos-de-caceres-pertenecian-a-la-inteligencia-de-honduras/>

According to Pasos de Animal Grande, DESA filed a lawsuit against human rights defender and director of CEM-H, Suyapa Martínez, for defamation...is this already the first use of the reforms to the Penal Code?

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/1666-hidroelectrica-desa-entablo-demanda-civil-por-un-millon-de-lempiras-contra-suyapa-martinez-directora-del-cem-h-por-denunciar-crimen-contra-bertha-caceres>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1665-un-dialogo-mentiroso-en-vigencia-desde-anoche-las-reformas-al-codigo-penal-que-violentaran-gravemente-los-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

Amnesty International met with Honduran authorities yesterday to discuss the investigation into Berta's murder.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/amnistia-internacional-conoce-avances-en-investigacion-del-asesinato-de-bertha-caceres.html>

A further mobilization to demand justice for Berta was announced by CInPH for this Saturday.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/28/la-coordinadora-indigena-del-poder-popular-de-honduras-convoca-a-movilizacion-el-proximo-sabado/>

Yesterday, a forum on ILO 169 and Free, Prior and Informed Consultation (FPIC) organized by different indigenous communities of Honduras took place.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/28/honduras-pueblos-indigenas-por-un-proyecto-originario-de-consulta-previa-libre-e-informada/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/02/28/persecucion-y-criminalizacion-de-los-pueblos-indigenas-y-el-derecho-a-la-consulta-previa-en-america-latina/>

ConfidencialHN republished a new analysis by the scholar Sonja Wolf on the Mano Dura politics and populism in the Northern Triangle.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/28/mano-dura-el-populismo-ante-el-crimen-y-las-pandillas/>

Two members of the Military Police were found guilty of murdering the two brothers Zenia Maritza and Ramón Eduardo Díaz Rodríguez. ConfidencialHN sees this conviction as proof that there are extrajudicial killings taking place in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/declaran-culpables-a-dos-de-cuatro-militares-por-asesinato-y-abuso-de-autoridad.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/02/28/declaran-culpables-a-dos-policias-militares-por-el-asesinato-de-dos-hermanos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/28/confirmado-fuerzas-de-seguridad-de-honduras-cometen-ejecuciones-extrajudiciales/>

Leopoldo Cruz, a plumber from San Lorenzo, Valle, denounces that the police has murdered his son on Monday.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/02/28/padre-denuncia-acusa-policias-haberle-matado-hijo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/28/mi-nombre-es-leopoldo-cruz-le-tengo-miedo-a-la-policia-porque-ellos-mataron-a-mi-hijo/>

In 2015, José Armando Flores Jiménez, president of the labor union SITRASAOH, filed a complaint at the MP after having received threats. As a result he was accused of defamation and now he faces a trial instead of those that threatened him.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sindicalista-enfrentara-juicio-tras-denunciar-un-atentado-contrasu-vida/>

There is continuous criticism of the behavior of the Honduran College of Journalists (CPH) due to their in-existing resistance against the attack on freedom of expression via the reforms to the Penal Code. El Libertador published the complete text of the reforms.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/28/cuestionan-parsimonia-del-gremio-de-periodistas-ante-ley-mordaza/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/02/28/presidente-de-periodistas-pide-a-colegas-andar-pianito-por-ley-bozal/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2119-gobierno-hondureno-aprobo-ley-mordaza>

Javier Suazo analyzes the IMF's push to have Honduras liberalize completely its foreign exchange market.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/183799>

InSight Crime reports on the recently announced seizures of properties belonging to the drug trafficking clan Montes Bobadilla.

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/in-targeting-powerful-drug-clans-honduras-follows-familiar-script>

The mayor of Yoro, Arnaldo Urbina, was found guilty of money laundering. He now faces 15 to 20 years in prison.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2117-hasta-20-anos-de-carcel-afrontara-exalcalde-hondureno>

The UN held a workshop on femicide for Honduran functionaries. The need is obvious, as already this year 31 women were murdered in Honduras.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/onu-capacita-funcionarios-de-honduras-en-protocolo-que-investiga-feminicidios>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/02/honduras-registra-siete-feminicidios-en.html>

Proceso Digital (!) reports on a protests by inhabitants of Ojo de Agua, Comayagua against a mining project.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-más-noticias/pobladores-de-ojo-de-agua-protestan-para-evitar-proyecto-de-mineria-en-la-zona.html>

Cohep's president denounces that Honduras has the highest unemployment numbers in Central America. But he then goes on to use these numbers demanding less fiscal pressure.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/honduras-número-uno-en-desempleo-nivel-de-centroamérica-según-cohep>

Honduras signed a cooperation agreement with Amazon.

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-firma-convenio-de-cooperacion-con-amazon/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3491-reformas-penales-democracia-y-tiranía-28-febrero-2017>

02/03/17

Berta - UN, Commemoration, DESA, Protests, US; National Police; Penal Code; Journalists; Deportation; IHSS; Public Health; and Honduras Is Changing

CORRECTION: The side event at the UN in Geneva will take place tomorrow, it did not take place yesterday, as I mistakenly had written.

See Attachment

Greenpeace awarded Berta posthumously with its Artemio Precioso prize for her role in defending human rights and the environment.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/01/greenpeace-otorga-premio-postumo-artemio-precioso-berta-caceres/>

Pasos de Animal Grande continues to report on the criminalization by DESA of the human rights defender Suyapa Martínez.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1667-segun-lideres-y-lideresas-sociales-la-emblematica-feminista-suyapa-martinez-es-victima-de-un-estado-criminal>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/desa-demanda-defensora-y-exige-un-millón-de-lempiras>

COPINH held a protest march in Tegucigalpa, demanding justice for Berta. They ended the march at the Supreme Court where it deposited a request to have the Agua Zarca project cancelled. The protest was accompanied by activities around the world in memory of Berta.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/03/arranca-la-movilizacion-alertaaaa-aqui.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/copines-exigen-justicia-en-asesinato-de-ambientalista-berta-caceres-en-la-capital-hondurena.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1048795-466/a-un-año-del-crimen-de-berta-cáceres-hondureños-piden-justicia>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/01/copinh-interpone-recurso-proyecto-hidroelectrico-agua-zarca-ante-csj/>

<http://tiempo.hn/copinh-interpone-recurso-agua-zarca/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/03/01/vigilia-en-canada-en-homenaje-a-berta-caceres/>

Berta's daughter, Bertita, talks about the importance of reintroducing the Berta Cáceres Law in the US Congress.

<https://vimeo.com/206184044>

Some 800 more members of the National Police Force were purged. A former police agent was captured yesterday suspected of committing various crimes.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/01/continua-depuracion-policial-800-policias-mas-son-dados-de-baja/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/policí-nacional-captura-ex-policí-por-diferentes-delitos>

The political analyst Olban Valladares explains why harsher punishment doesn't work in Honduras. The president of the Supreme Court Rolando Argueta, meanwhile, wants the reforms of the Penal Code being followed by a strengthening of the investigative capacities.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/en-honduras-no-funciona-el-endurecimiento-de-penas>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/magistrado-argueta-dice-que-reformas-penales-deben-acompanarse-con-investigacion-propositiva-e-ingeniosa.html>

Journalist Esdras López denounces the existence of a plan to murder him. According to him, the MP is aware about this plan, but instead of acting, they just invited him to come to their offices for a declaration.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/01/piden-declarar-a-periodista-por-amenazas-de-muerte/>

Over 8000 Hondurans haven been deported by air and land from the US and Mexico in the first two months of 2017.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hondurenos-deportados-en-2017-superan-los-8-mil-pero-activistas-dicen-flujos-son-normales.html>

According to ConfidencialHN, sentences in the IHSS case are expected to be known for Mario Zelaya, Carlos Montes and Javier Pastor by tomorrow.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/01/exdirectivos-del-ihss-a-punto-de-ser-condenados-por-recibir-sobornos-de-los-tetos/>

The University Hospital (HEU) in Tegucigalpa announced price rises for its services.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/01/privatizacion-hospital-escuela-universitario-encarece-costo-de-servicios-medicos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/01/honduras-esta-cambiando-2/>

03/03/17

Berta - Investigation, Analysis, Impunity, US Bill, EU; Protests, Hydroelectricity, Poem; HRDs; Penal Code; Coalianza; Reelection; Liberal Party; MP; Drug Trafficking; and Defending Journalists

With the anniversary of Berta's murder yesterday, there were various

reactions in form of articles, protests, and more. What follows is a small fraction of the reaction her unpunished assassination still causes.

Giorgio Trucchi interviews Víctor Fernández, coordinator of MADJ and legal representative of Berta's family. GAIPE demanded from the MP to extend the investigation into her murder and look for common patterns in the murder of other human rights defenders.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/183872>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/02/gaipe-exige-profundizar-las-investigaciones-del-asesinato-berta-caceres-desmantelar-la-red-criminal-le-dio-muerte/>

<https://gaipenhonduras.org/>

Juan Almeyda analyzes her murder taking a violent, militarized state as its starting point.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/183869>

CEJIL denounces the deficiencies of the investigation into Berta's murder, one of which being the total lack of transparency by the MP. This even violates Honduran law, which guarantees the participation of the victims.

The Espacio ACI, containing 28 international NGOs working in Honduras, published a press release going in a similar direction.

The UN representatives in Honduras also emitted a joint press release.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/02/cejil-presiona-al-estado-de-honduras-para-aclarar-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/al-cumplirse-un-ano-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/1669-a-un-ano-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-sistema-de-las-naciones-unidas-en-honduras-llama-a-una-investigacion-eficaz-rapida-completa-e-imparcial-del-crimen>

US congressman Hank Johnson reintroduced together with 24 other democrats the Berta Cáceres Bill into Congress. It calls for the suspension of security aid to Honduras.

US ambassador James D. Nealon didn't comment on the bill, but he reiterated the US's support of the investigation in Berta's murder.

There is also a press release by US Senator Patrick Leahy, calling among other things for the cancellation of the Agua Zarca project.

<https://hankjohnson.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/el-congresista-johnson-reintroduce-el-proyecto-de-ley-berta-c-ceres>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/rep-johnson-para-reintroducir-proyecto-de-ley-berta-caceres-sobre-los-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/democratas-presentan-ley-para-retirar-fondos-a-honduras-tras-caso-de-caceres.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/02/embajador-estadounidense-reitera-apoyo-esclarecimiento-asesinato-berta-caceres/>

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/statement-of-senator-patrick-leahy-on-berta-caceres>

In the European Union, meanwhile, one parliamentarian, Miguel Urbán Crespo, demands an end to the Association Agreement between the EU and Honduras as the murder of Berta is still not resolved.

The official representatives of the EU in Honduras also released a statement on the murder of Berta.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/02/parlamentario-europeo-pide-fin-del-acuerdo-asociacion-union-europea-honduras/>

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Representatives of Honduras' indigenous peoples (Garífunas, Tolupanes, Lencas, Misquitos, Pech and Maya Chortí) filed a complaint of unconstitutionality against the law that makes concessions such as the one for Agua Zarca possible.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/1668-pueblos-originarios-piden-justicia-para-berta-y-derogacion-de-ley-de-aprovechamiento-de-aguas>

Students at the UNAH held a protest in memory of Berta, which was then repressed by state security forces.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2126-policia-reprime-a-universitarios-que-exigieron-justicia-por-berta>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/02/ano-asesinato-universitarios-tambien-exigen-justicia-berta-caceres-video/>

Poem

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/02/in-memorian-poema-a-berta-caceres/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3495-nos-haces-falta-berta-02-marzo-2017>

As if to make even more obvious the lack of respect some sectors of the Honduran state have for human rights, the coordinator of ACI-Participa, Hedme Castro, was temporarily detained at the airport on Wednesday on the way to the UN in Geneva.

At the same time, Nora Urbina Pineda, the director of the protection mechanism for human rights defenders, declared in Geneva Honduras's commitment to human rights.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/retienen-a-directora-de-aci-participa-en-aeropuerto/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/03/defensora-de-derechos-humanos-denuncia.html>

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In an interview with Defensores en Línea, the former Justice and Human Rights Minister Ana Pineda stated her wish that the Supreme Court declares the Penal Code reforms unconstitutional.

After PAC, Libre and PINU, the Liberal Party also presented a complaint of unconstitutionality against the reforms.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ex-ministra-de-ddhh-espera-que-la-csj-declare-inconstitucionales-reformas-al-codigo-penal/>

<http://tiempo.hn/pl-presenta-recurso-inconstitucionalidad-reformas-penales/>

El Pulso published two articles regarding substantial problems with the public money invested by Coalianza.

<http://elpulso.hn/coalianza-120-mil-millones-sin-plan-nacional-de-inversion/>

<http://elpulso.hn/concesion-de-proyectos-de-coalianza-es-poco-transparente-afirma-el-fosdeh/>

TSE president Erick Rodríguez says that JOH has a moral obligation to step down as president six months before the general elections should he really run for the reelection.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/02/obligacion-moral-joh-deberia-renunciar-seis-meses-las-elecciones-generales-presidente-del-tse/>

Javier Suazo analyzes the first debate of the aspiring presidential candidates of the Liberal Party.

The debate about joining or not of the opposition alliance was central stage at the debate.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/183867>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-opositora-debate-liberales/>

InSight Crime published an article on Honduras' Attorney General Oscar

Chinchilla, writing that "[He] was elected by congress in September 2013, in a controversial process driven largely by the interests of the ruling National Party. But Chinchilla has altered the agenda and found himself between competing powers, leaving him on a political island."

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/unbearable-solitude-honduras-attorney-general>

Criterio cites a US State Department Report which revealed that some 80% of planes suspected to carry drugs from South America first land in Honduras.

Honduras also appears in the State Department's list of countries where money is laundered.

A UN report creates a link between drug trafficking in Central America and the revelations of the Panama Papers.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/02/honduras-trafica-tres-cuatro-toneladas-metricas-cocaina-mes-departamento-estado/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/02/honduras-esta-la-lista-negra-blanqueo-dinero-los-ee-uu/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/02/cpj-presenta-informe-recomendaciones-periodistas-medios-mejorar-seguridad/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/02/la-onu-senala-vinculos-narcotrafico-centroamerica-los-panama-papers/>

04/03/17

Berta - Int. Reaction, DESA, UK; HRDs; Hydroelectricity; (Re)Elections; Libre; IHSS; Poverty; Campesinx; Homicide Rate; Extortion; and Drinking for Public Health

The anniversary of Berta's murder has also led to a wave of

international news coverage. I leave you here with a small collection.

<http://www.dw.com/es/agua-zarca-y-la-muerte-de-berta-caceres/a-37797323>

http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2017/03/02/america/1488478328_257627.html

http://www.liberation.fr/planete/2017/03/02/honduras-l-ecologiste-berta-caceres-icone-post-mortem_1552899

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2017/03/03/john-perry/murder-in-honduras/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3500-berta-asesinada-berta-sembrada-berta-renacida>

In the UK, a motion was presented in parliament in Honor of Berta calling for the provision of "international recognition and protection to environmental, land and human rights defenders and to work to resolve the underlying causes of violence against such defenders by tackling the corruption and illegalities that blight the natural resource sectors."

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/1012>

The Women's Health Network of Latin America and the Caribbean denounces the criminalization by DESA of the human rights defender Suyapa Martínez.

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Global Witness highlights in its press release the sad truth that since Berta's murder, "at least seven more land and environmental defenders have been killed in Honduras as the government ramps up its crackdown on activism".

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/7-more-activists-killed-year-berta-caceres-murder-honduran-government-ramps-crackdown/>

Radio Progreso has an update on the struggle against the Hidrocep hydroelectric project in Tela, Atlántida.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3502-instituciones-del-estado-constatan-daños-provocados-por-represa-hidrocep-en-tela-atlantida>

In a bit more than a week, the primary elections in Honduras will take place. Here are some considerations by Radio Progreso. The Military Police was made responsible for the security during the electoral process.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3496-reflexiones-ante-el-proceso-electoral-03-marzo-2017>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3504-se-viene-el-silencio-electoral-sin-nada-que-meditar>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/pmpop-garantiza-seguridad-para-elecciones-internas-el-proximo-12-de-marzo.html>

The Libre candidate for vice-mayor, Alba Azucena Lopez, denounces receiving death threats.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/03/precandidata-vicealcaldesa-libre-denuncia-amenazas-muerte/>

The Honduran justice system found Mario Roberto Zelaya Rojas, Javier Rodolfo Pastor Vásquez and Carlos Montes Rodríguez guilty of money laundering. MACCIH celebrates this as "a clear message against corruption."

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/03/emiten-nuevo-fallo-condenatorio-coimas-desfalco-al-ihss/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/03/maccih-crea-tercera-condena-mario-zelaya-claro-mensaje-la-corrupcion/>

Radio Progreso highlights the lack of housing as another manifestation of Honduran poverty.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3498-crisis-habitacional-otra-cara-de-la-pobreza-en-honduras>

Campeñinos in Salado Lis denounce threats of evictions against them.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/campesinos-denuncian-amenazas-de-desalojo-en-salado-lis-lis/>

According to SEPOL, the police statistics system, there was a reduction in homicides and kidnappings in Honduras since 2014.

<http://tiempo.hn/pesar-multiples-muertes-tasa-homicidios-ha-disminuido-segun-sepol/>

At the same time, there are some 40 million Lempiras extorted in Honduras every year, according to the former judge Ramón Barrios.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/02/en-honduras-se-lavan-hasta-40-millones-de-lempiras-por-cobro-de-extorsion/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/03/piden-un-lempira-por-cada-cerveza-consumida-para-financiar-sistema-hospitalario/>

05/03/17

Berta - Int. Reaction, COPINH; Maras; Public Health; Reelection;

Sandra Cuffe reports directly from La Esperanza, Honduras on the

commemoration of Berta, allowing us to take part via through her words and photos.

Different German organizations held a vigil for Berta below the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.

The Environmental Network for Central America (ENCA) dedicated its newsletter to Berta, reporting on the "ongoing struggle for justice and the month of action called for by solidarity organisations around the world. We also report on worker's rights across the region and the effect of Trump on remittances."

<http://upsidedownworld.org/archives/honduras/honduras-to-honor-bertha-caceres-memory-carry-on-her-struggle/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/1671-manifestacion-en-berlin-cuando-el-desarrollo-se-vuelve-mortal-solidaridad-con-las-luchas-por-la-tierra-y-la-autodeterminacion-en-latinoamerica>

<https://enca.org.uk/blog/2017/03/04/enca-69-bertha-vive/>

Criterio publishes an interview by Fernando Vicente Prieto with Olivia Zuniga, one of Berta's daughters.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/04/estado-honduras-controlado-una-elite-criminal-olivia-zuniga/>

La Prensa reports how the two Maras MS-13 and Mara 18 prepare their members for the opening of a new prison in Naco, Santa Bárbara.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1049680-410/ms-y-18-ya-tienen-clicas-en-los-alrededores-de-cárcel-de>

CONADEH reacts to the announcement of prices rises, by calling to the University Hospital not to limit access to the most vulnerable.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/conadeh-pide-no-limitar-acceso-de-personas-y-sectores-vulnerables-los-servicios-de-salud>

Nelson Ávila, whose running for the presidential candidate ticket for Libre, wrote an open letter to the US, EU and Canada, asking them not to accept the results coming from the current electoral process.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/04/nelson-avila-pide-ee-uu-canada-union-europea-no-avalar-elecciones-honduras/>

06/03/17

(Re)Elections; Arms Race; and Breaking with Fear

The Armed Forces are responsible in Honduras to distribute the material

for the primary elections next Sunday to 5600 voting stations throughout Honduras.

Tomorrow will be the last day before the primary elections were the candidates are allowed to present themselves to the public. On Tuesday the electoral silence sets in.

The TSE warns of "severe fines" if it isn't respected.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/05/mas-de-25-mil-maletas-repartira-para-comicios-primarios-autoridad-electoral/>

<http://tiempo.hn/lunes-silencio-electoral-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-advierte-que-aplicara-severas-multas-a-aspirantes-que-no-respeten-el-silencio-electoral.html>

Carlos Roberto Zelaya warns of a new arms race in the Northern Triangle.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/05/armamentismo-triangulo-norte-centro-america/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3506-romper-con-los-miedos-04-marzo-2017>

07/03/17

HRDs; (Re)Elections; Drug Trafficking; MACCIH; Judicial Power; IHSS; Violence; Insecurity; CARSI; Students; and an Unfavorable Historic Comparison

Front Line Defenders expressed its grave concern about the

criminalization by DESA of the human rights defender Suyapa Martínez.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1673-honduras-demanda-contra-el-centro-de-estudios-de-la-mujer-honduras>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1674-en-una-carta-contradictoria-la-hidroelectrica-desa-responde-a-business-human-rights-resource-centre-sobre-demanda-contra-suyapa-martinez-de-cem-h>

El Pulso spoke with a representative of the TSE about the preparations for the coming primary elections, but mostly about how they intend to use the scanners during the election day.

Roberto Castillo, who is running for the presidential ticket of the National Party against JOH, continues to denounce vote buying by the latter's campaign team.

The former presidential assessor Marvin Ponce also has his doubts about the origin of some campaign money.

<http://elpulso.hn/traslado-de-material-electoral/>

<http://elpulso.hn/rectafinalep2017/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/06/aqui-hay-alguien-que-le-ofrece-a-los-lencas-una-pacha-de-guaro-y-50-pesos-presidenciable-nacionalista/>

<http://tiempo.hn/marvin-ponce-siembradudas-sobre-campana-de-david-chavez/>

ConfidencialHN reveals that a supposed drug trafficker in El Paraíso supports the reelection campaign of JOH.

At the same time, another "little-known, but powerful Honduran underworld figure was arrested in Guatemala on March 4."

And in front of a court in New York, a former head of the Los Cachiros cartel claims that he paid money to the former president of Honduras Pepe Lobo and his family.

He also named the current Security Minister Julián Pacheco as part of a network that gave protection to drug traffickers.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/06/dios-nos-llevara-por-el-mejor-camino-jefe-del-cartel-aa-hace-campana-a-favor-del-regimen/>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/top-honduras-drug-trafficker-captured-guatemala>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inicio/1050410-465/honduras-exjefe-narco-dice-que-pagó-sobornos-al-expresidente-lobo>

<http://tiempo.hn/narco-asegura-ante-tribunal-nueva-york-pago-sobornos-pepe-lobo-familia/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1050453-466/exjefe-narco-también-vincula-a-ministro-de-seguridad-julián-pacheco>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/03/06/pepe-lobo-falsa-declaraciones-asesinos-beneficios/>

MACCIH welcomed the Venezuelan lawyer Virginia Contreras as its new head of the Public Security Division.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/06/no-basta-depurar-la-policia-construir-carceles-bonitas-directora-seguridad-publica-la-maccih/>

According to ConfidencialHN, representative of the Honduran Judicial Power met with the IACtHR last week because they failed so far to comply with a sentence by the latter. It demands the reintegration of four judges fired in 2009 because they opposed the coup d'état. In another case, the Judicial Power ignored possible conflicts of interests and allowed the judge Edgar Crosby Lanza to head the case against the former head of the Judiciary Council.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/06/emplazan-al-poder-judicial-de-honduras-restituir-en-un-mes-a-jueces-antigolpistas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/06/conflicto-de-intereses-poder-judicial-autoriza-a-controvertido-juez-conocer-caso-de-teodoro-bonilla/>

Former president Pepe Lobo gets haunted by his past. Back in 2014 he told reporters that they had already detected problems at the IHSS a year before, but they hadn't started an investigation not wanting to cause uproar in an election year. In the present, the IHSS trial continues with another hearing against Mario Zelaya Rojas and José Ramón Bertetty Osorio.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/06/los-politicos-decimos-tonteras-pepe-lobo-se-retracta-lo-dijo-del-ihss/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/06/hoy-manana-se-desarrolla-cuarto-juicio-mario-zelaya-jose-bertetty-retencion-impuesto-la-renta-no-enterado-al-fisco/>

In the last six years, the University Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS) counted 624 murders of secondary students.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1050434-466/cada-semana-mueren-dos-colegiales-en-honduras-según-informe-del-iudpas>

Radio Globo reported that the offices of the National Bureau for Investigation and Intelligence were broken into on the weekend.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/06/inaudito-asaltan-oficina-de-inteligencia-del-estado-de-honduras/>

InSight Crime takes up the debate about the in/effectiveness of the US funded Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI).

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/are-us-anti-crime-programs-central-america-working>

The University Student Movement (MEU) announced assemblies in various parts of the country to inform about UNAH's failure to comply with the agreement signed last year.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2134-universitarios-anuncian-asambleas-por-incumplimiento-de-autoridades>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2135-honduras-perfil-vidas-paralelas-maria-y-joh>

08/03/17

Copinh; Global Witness; HRDs; Drug Trafficking; EU; Women's Rights; (Re)Elections; and the Call for a New Constitution

Tomás Gómez, the interim coordinator of Copinh, denounces a new violent

media campaign as well as possible new attacks against them. In a press release, Copinh cited the recent statements by US senator Patrick Leahy calling for the cancellation of Agua Zarca and an independent investigation into Berta's murder.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/183960>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/03/el-senador-leahy-de-los-eeuu-pide-la.html>

Criterio published a statement by Global Witness on their experience in Honduras after the release of their report. The Energy, Natural Resources and Mining Secretariat immediately reacts with its proper statement calling Global Witness liars.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/06/asegurate-carro-este-blindado-relato-reciente-viaje-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/07/la-secretaria-energia-recursos-naturales-ambiente-minas-desmiente-global-witness/>

In a joint press conference, human rights organizations denounced the criminalization of Suyapa Martínez by DESA.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/07/denuncia-suyapa-martinez-persecucion-criminalizacion-denuncian-las-mujeres-defensoras-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1677-el-estado-patriarcal-hondureno-es-complice-de-pretender-callar-la-voz-de-suyapa-martinez>

As expected, the statement by one of the leaders of the Cachiro cartel, Devis Leonel Rivera, involving the former Honduran president Pepe Lobo made the round. Honduras Culture and Politics offers a good overview. InSight Crime also took up the story and offers its analysis.

In the statement, not just Pepe Lobo, but also the current Security Minister Julián Pacheco was involved. He denied the allegations in a press conference yesterday.

Pepe Lobo did the same thing.

Of course, one can also spin something like this in his favor and so it isn't surprising that the National Party claims that drug traffickers just want to stop the presidency of JOH.

The criminal lawyer Marcos Zelaya, meanwhile, recommends Lobo to present himself in front of a court on his own account.

The Attorney General ordered an official investigation into the statements by Rivera.

MACCIH offered the MP its collaboration.

El Libertador reports on another statement by Rivera regarding the murder of the anti-drug czar Julián Arístides González in December 2009.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/03/los-cachiros-name-honduran-ex-president.html>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/honduras-narco-testifies-ex-president-took-bribes-from-traffickers>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/07/secretario-de-seguridad-rechaza-senalamientos-de-exjefe-narco/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/07/expresidente-de-honduras-no-se-olviden-que-un-delincuente-para-tratar-de-salvarse-miente/>

[http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/"los-narcos-no-quieren-que-hernández-continúe-en-el-poder"-anduray](http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/)

<http://tiempo.hn/abogado-penalista-recomienda-pepe-lobo-presentarse-voluntariamente-tribunales/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1050822-466/fiscalía-de-honduras-abre-investigación-en-contras-de-los-acusados-por-exjefe>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-y-fiscal-general-evaluan-acusacion-de-cachiro-que-involucran-a-pepe-lobo.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2140-diputado-y-policias-ordenaron-asesinato-de-zar-antidrogas>

Radio Progreso makes us aware of a recent report by the European Court of Auditors: "The effectiveness of EU support to priority sectors in Honduras".

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3508-un-informe-que-invita-a-un-cambio-en-la-lógica-de-la-cooperación-07-marzo-2017>

http://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR16_30/SR_HONDURAS_EN.pdf

According to Conadeh, on average 4400 women in Honduras officially file complaints of having their rights violated every year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cada-ano-alrededor-de-4-mil-400-mujeres-denuncian-violaciones-a-los-ddhh.html>

The OAS announced that it won't send an exhaustive electoral observation mission to Honduras because they weren't able to collect enough funding. At the same time, the TSE promises "more inclusion and transparency" for the elections thanks to international observers.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/07/oea-solo-enviara-cinco-expertos-elecciones-internas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/07/organo-electoral-promete-mayor-inclusion-y-seguridad-para-los-comicios-internos/>

<http://tiempo.hn/analistas-y-academicos-urge-aprobar-una-nueva-constitucion-de-la-republica/>

09/03/17

Int. Women's Day; Drug Trafficking; Dinant; MACCIH; Public Health; Energy Prices; and Investment Advice by Adolfo Facussé

On the International Women's Day, Honduran organization went to the

streets to protest among other against the violence which led to the assassination of 66 women only in the first two months of this year. The commemoration of Berta was also central to the marches. The UN representatives in Honduras demanded the enactment of laws and policies which penalize all forms of harassment and violence against women.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/08/66-mujeres-fueron-asesinadas-enero-febrero-2017-ministerio-publico-aun-no-nada-video/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1679-tribuna-de-mujeres-contra-los-femicidios-8-de-marzo-nos-sumamos-al-paro-internacional-de-las-mujeres>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1678-mujeres-en-movilizacion-del-08-de-marzo-hay-que-resistir-a-esta-dictadura>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/08/crimen-berta-caceres-trasciende-condicion-mujer-luchadora/>

<http://tiempo.hn/onu-pide-penalizacion-acoso-violencia-mujeres-honduras/>

Rivera Maradiaga, a former head of the Cachirola cartel, involves more and more people with drug trafficking with his statements before a New York federal court.

The current Security Minister Julián Pacheco had already once before been accused of participating in drug trafficking.

The MP now officially opened an investigation yesterday.

<http://tiempo.hn/cachiro-implica-alcalde-y-diputados/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/08/cachiro-senala-hermano-pepe-lobo-dos-diputados-alcalde-facilitarle-actividades-narcotrafico/>

<http://tiempo.hn/julian-pacheco-narcosobrinos/>

<http://tiempo.hn/mp-investigara-pepe-lobo-julian-pacheco-fueron-sobornados-los-cachiros/>

EarthRights International (ERI) and residents of the Bajo Aguán region filed a lawsuit against the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC) for funding the Dinant Corporation. Dinant reacted with a press release.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/honduran-farmers-to-the-world-bank-group-see-you_us_58c0069ee4b070e55af9e9a8

See Attachment

A group of congresswomen presented yesterday the Efficient Collaboration Bill to the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) as well as Caritas Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/08/socializan-ley-colaboracion-eficaz-organizaciones-sociedad-civil/>

Consumer protection organizations filed a complaint against the rising fees at the University Hospital in Tegucigalpa.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/08/honduras-presentan-recurso-contra-abusivo-incremento-a-los-servicios-medicos-publicos/>

EL Heraldo reports on the rise in energy prices, which took force on March 1.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1051105-466/honduras-alza-a-tarifas-de-energía-generará-entre-l-110-y-l>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/08/solo-imbecil-puede-venir-invertir-honduras-adolfo-facusse/>

10/03/17

Berta - US Bill, Agua Zarca, Commemoration; COPINH; HRDs; Garífunas; Mining; (Re)Elections; Drug Trafficking; Corruption; Repression; TSE; and Multilingual Education

Good news come from the US - a rare sentence in these days - as the

AFL-CIO has again endorsed the Berta Cáceres Human Rights Bill.

See Attachment

"On March 1, COPINH and Berta's legal team, accompanied by representatives of Indigenous Peoples throughout Honduras presented to the Honduran Supreme Court a constitutional challenge to the Congressional Decrees that govern the Agua Zarca Project on the Gualcarque River."

<http://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/03/03/Por-Berta-Presentan-inconstitucionalidad-contra-Agua-Zarca>

<https://copinhenglish.blogspot.ch/2017/03/constitutional-challenge-presented.html>

A delegation by La Voz de los de Abajo spent four days in Honduras to attend the commemoration of Berta. They now published their reflections

online.

<https://hondurasresists.blogspot.ch/2017/03/planting-berta-year-of-impunity-life-of.html>

Two community radios of COPINH were attacked by unknown individuals throwing stones and intimidating the staff.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/03/alerta-atentan-contra-las-radios.html>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1681-personas-armadas-con-piedras-atentan-contra-la-voz-lenca-radio-comunitaria-del-copinh>

The Police Investigation Bureau (DPI) temporarily detained human rights defender Irma Lemus Amaya of the Permanent Human Rights Observatory in the Aguán (OPDHA) when she tried to file a complaint at the DPI offices.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/dpi-detiene-temporalmente-defensora-irma-lemus-amaya>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1680-detienen-a-defensora-de-derechos-humanos-del-bajo-aguan>

OFRANEH denounces that the company LOGIX SOURCE DIRECT, S.A. tries to sue the Garífuna community Cristales y Río Negro for \$51 million for not complying with a contract back from 2012.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/03/09/zede-en-trujillo-empresa-eolica-de-carton-demando-por-usd-51-millones-a-la-comunidad-garifuna-de-cristales-y-rio-negro/>

In a new report, HispanTV covers the fight over water between the mining industry and the Honduran public.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/03/empresas-mineras-agotan-las-fuentes-de.html>

Javier Suazo published an interesting analysis on the link drug trafficking and upcoming elections in Honduras.

El Pulso, meanwhile, produced a 12min video analyzing the discourse of the political opposition.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/184004>

<http://elpulso.hn/retorica/>

InSight Crime continues to cover the drug trafficking link of the former president Pepe Lobo, writing that "Government contracts awarded to businesses run by a powerful drug clan during the administration of former Honduras President Porfirio Lobo, allegedly in exchange for large sums in bribe money, illustrate how public funds can be used to create a feedback loop of corruption."

In a second article, InSight Crime highlights the fact that "An important development in the 2017 INSCR [The State Department's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report] -- which refers to trends and statistics from the previous year -- is that El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua have re-entered the list of "major money laundering countries."

The MP received the official testimony by Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga from the US.

MACCIH calls the investigation into the statements Honduras' "litmus test".

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/contracts-awarded-honduran-drug-clan-illustrate-cyclical-corruption>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/us-report-shows-revitalized-central-america-cocaine-corridor>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1051522-466/honduras-ministerio-público-ya-tiene-en-su-poder-el-testimonio-de-cachiro>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/03/09/maccih-investigacion-sera-prueba-fuego-acusacion-los-cachiros/>

ATIC captured the board members of a cooperative in Siguatepeque claiming that they laundered over 50 million Lempiras for money laundering.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/09/directivos-de-cooperativa-lavaron-unos-52-millones-de-lempiras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/09/atic-captura-directivos-cooperativa-apropiarse-millonarias-cantidades/>

Consumer protection organization denounce the repression of their protest before the Casa Presidencial.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/09/asedian-y-retienen-ilegalmente-a-defensores-de-canasta-basica-en-casa-presidencial/>

A while back, the CNA announced some new lines of investigation, one of them being the TSE. Now they complain that the TSE is trying to frustrate their investigation.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-denuncia-que-el-tse-dilata-investigacion-sobre-supuestas-irregularidades-en-firma-de-contratos.html>

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/184009>

11/03/17

HRDs; Drug Trafficking; Dinant; Garífunas; Extradition; (Re)Elections; and the Church Has Cast Its Votes

There continues to be widespread support for the human rights defender

Suyapa Martínez, who faces criminalizing charges by DESA. Juan Almeyda wrote an open letter to her, where he begins with a citation by José Saramago which I reproduce here in full:

“Se está preparando un mundo para los ricos... ¿Qué podemos oponerle? No tenemos poder, no estamos en el gobierno, no tenemos multinacionales, no dominamos la finanza especulativa mundial. ¿Qué es lo que tenemos para oponer? Nada más que la conciencia. La conciencia sobre los hechos, la conciencia de mi propio derecho, de que soy un ser humano y que no quiero ser más que eso; la conciencia de que lo que está en el mundo me pertenece –no en el sentido de propiedad –, me pertenece como responsabilidad, como derecho a saber, derecho a intervenir, derecho a cambiar. Eso se llama la conciencia”

While Honduras continues to allow the criminalization of their human rights defenders, they request support from the UN to strengthen its protection mechanism for HRDs.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/184038>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1682-a-pocos-dias-de-la-audiencia-por-demanda-de-hidroelectrica-desa-consejo-de-proteccion-destaca-labor-del-suyapa-martinez-como-defensora-de-derechos-humanos>

<http://elpulso.hn/suyapa-martinez-desa-y-una-persecucion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/10/honduras-solicita-apoyo-financiero-tecnico-la-oficina-del-relator-mecanismo-proteccion-dd-hh/>

El Heraldo has published a transcript of Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga's testimony. Honduras Culture and Politics just published the first of three articles offering a welcome overview and analysis.

To make matters worse for the involved politicians, functionaries and individuals, El Heraldo also published photos of their meetings with the Los Cachiros cartel.

JOH, meanwhile, reiterated that no one is above the law.

I also added a link to the complete testimony.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/03/devis-rivera-maradiaga-testimony-part-1.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1051787-466/salen-a-luz-fotos-que-proporcionó-cabecilla-de-los-cachiros-con-fabio>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1051808-466/fotos-muestran-a-julián-pacheco-en-una-supuesta-reunión-con-los-cachiros>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1051777-466/presidente-de-honduras-advierte-que-perseguirá-a-narcotraficantes>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1051593-410/testimonio-completo-de-cachiro-en-corte-de-eua>

The newest revelations by Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga now also involve the Facussé family that owns Dinant. And this just two days after a new lawsuit by EarthRights International (ERI) against the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC) that directly links to Dinant.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2017/3/10/world-bank-funded-dinant-corporation-implicated-in-drug-trafficking-again>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/10/los-cachiros-usaron-la-pista-miguel-facusse-descargar-droga/>

OFRANEH commemorates the massacre of Durugubuti (San Juan Tela), which took place under the regime of Tiburcio Carías 80 years ago.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/03/10/a-los-80-anos-de-la-masacre-en-la-comunidad-garifuna-de-durugubuti-san-juan-tela/>

The Association of Judges for Democracy (AJD) calls for the creation of a national law that regulates extradition for Hondurans to other states.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/10/reclaman-al-parlamento-de-honduras-crear-ley-de-extradicion/>

Radio Progreso offers their analyzes of this year's electoral process which begins with tomorrow primary elections.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3523-proceso-electoral-¿solución-o-abono-a-conflictividad-hondureña?>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1683-apocas-horas-de-elecciones-primarias-apoyar-la-reeleccion-y-no-votar-por-partido-libre-piden-lideres-religiosos>

12/03/17

Drug Trafficking; Extradition; (Re)Elections; US; and How to Not Use an Anti-Drug Radar

Another day, another revelation by the former Los Cachiros leader Devis

Leonel Rivera Maradiaga. He now involves also Carlos Zelaya Rosales, the brother of Manuel Zelaya. The former announced a press conference for Monday and he declared that an investigation will proof his innocence. Honduras Culture and Politics published its second part of the translation and analysis of Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga's testimony. Criterio published an article on the use of public contracts to companies in the hand of drug traffickers to create "a circle of corruption."

CNN also reported on the case.

In the complete transcript of the testimony, there are is also a reference to JOH.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/11/no-narco-asesino-carlos-zelaya-rosales/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/11/exjefe-cachiro-revela-que-hermano-de-zelaya-uso-pista-el-aguacate-para-bajar-narcoavionetas/>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/03/devis-rivera-maradiaga-testimony-part-2.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/11/concesion-contratos-narcotraficantes-honduras-una-muestra-la-corrupcion-ciclica/>

<http://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2017/03/10/remezon-en-honduras-por-declaraciones-de-narcotraficante-que-senalan-al-expresidente-lobo/>

<http://notibomba.com/hay-referencias-a-joh-en-las-declaraciones-del-cachiro/>

In Costa Rica, the justice system decided to have the suspected Honduran drug trafficker Wilter Neptaly Blanco Ruiz extradited to the US.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/11/costa-rica-ordena-extraditar-a-ee-uu-al-capo-hondureno-wilter-blanco/>

Not surprisingly, this weeks discussions about the drug trafficking nexus of politicians has a lot of people thinking about its influence on today's election and this year's electoral process in general.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-más-noticias/segun-sociologo-revelaciones-de-miembro-de-los-cachiros-pude-afectar-resultado-de-elecciones.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/10/declaraciones-de-cachiros-obligaran-a-nacionalistas-inflar-los-votos-en-las-urnas/>

US president Trump wants to get rid of 46 public prosecutors, who were assigned during the Obama presidency. One of them, Preet Bharara, is leading the case against Pepe Lobo.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/11/trump-pide-renuncia-fiscal-lleva-caso-hijo-pepe-lobo/>

<http://notibomba.com/hasta-el-radar-antidrogas-fue-usado-para-orientar-narcoavionetas/>

13/03/17

Primary Elections; Berta - DESA; Drug Trafficking; and the Forgotten Families of San Pedro Sula

The primary elections of the National Party, Liberal Party and Libre

took place yesterday. Radio Progreso describes the circumstances in which they took place.

JOH won for the National Party, Luis Zelaya for the Liberal Party and Xiomara Castro for Libre.

Luis Zelaya expressed his disposition to talk about an alliance of the political opposition.

The political analyst Raúl Pineda comments on the feasibility of an alliance.

And for the first time in Honduran history, a president voted for himself.

Libre denounced that a "double census" allowed some people to vote twice.

The TSE delegates the blame to the Supreme Court and to the RNP.

Both the Liberal Party and Libre also denounce how the National Party activists took over some of the voting centers. Apparently they had keys to them and set up camp early.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3525-en-medio-de-cuestionamientos-se-desarrollaron-elecciones-internas-en-honduras>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1052347-508/juan-orlando-hernández-xiomara-castro-y-luis-zelaya-ganan-elecciones-primarias-de>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/12/virtual-candidato-liberal-luis-zelaya-dispuesto-alianza-proposito-pais/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/12/resultados-de-elecciones-internas-deben-servir-de-ejemplo-para-unificar-a-la-oposicion/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/12/joh-rompe-la-historia-al-convertirse-primer-presidente-honduras-votar/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/12/denuncian-doble-censo-para-inflar-votos-a-favor-del-orlandismo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/12/autoridad-electoral-culpa-al-poder-judicial-y-registro-de-las-personas-por-relajo-en-censo/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/12/liberales-libre-denuncian-partido-nacional-se-apropio-las-mesas-los-centros-electorales-ver-videos/>

DESA got the (unjustified) possibility to try to greenwash its doings in Honduras in El País.

An Op-Ed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, denounces infrastructure project that ignore human rights problems, taking Agua Zarca as an example.

http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2017/03/09/mexico/1489087969_158912.html

<http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/op-ed/article136884218.html>

Honduras Culture and Politics published the third and last part of the translation and analysis of Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga's testimony.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/03/devis-rivera-maradiaga-testimony-part-3.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3521-14-mil-familias-viven-olvidadas-en-los-bordos-de-san-pedro-sula>

14/03/17

(Re)Elections; Irregularities; Political Opposition; IACTHR; and A Story of Violence

The legal limbo JOH reelection bid left Honduras in can also be seen in

the fact that he doesn't step down as president for the electoral period and no one seems to know what to do about it.

Criterio published a list of the top runners for Congress of the PN, PL and Libre.

An alert has been emitted because the 21 year old electoral custodian Rainherth Manuel Valladares Barahona has not returned home since Saturday.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/13/cinismo-jefe-del-regimen-hondureno-no-renunciara-mientras-haga-campana/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/13/conozca-quienes-lideran-las-proyecciones-diputados-francisco-morazan-los-tres-partidos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-desaparece-custodio-electoral/>

Criterio reports on some further irregularities taking place during the primary elections.

The MP announced to investigate them.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/13/salvador-nasralla-denuncia-irregularidades-proceso-eleccionario-video/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/13/mas-videos-fraude-nacionalista/>

<http://tiempo.hn/elecciones-primarias-investigacion-denuncias-violacion-los-derechos-fraude-coaccion/>

The political analyst Miguel Cálix recommends the opposition parties to build their alliance around a joint road map for change. Libre, meanwhile, invited the presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, to join the opposition alliance.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/13/luis-zelaya-tiene-las-opciones-de-participar-en-la-alianza-liderarla-o-convertirse-en-tercera-miguel-calix/>

<http://tiempo.hn/xiomara-libre-dejan-las-puertas-abiertas-formar-la-alianza-oposicion/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2147-partido-liberal-debe-volver-a-su-doctrina-social>

The Honduran state has to appear once more before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on March 23, 2017 in an extraordinary session taking place in Guatemala.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-respondera-ante-la-corte-idh-por-asesinato-de-uno-de-sus-politicos/>

<http://elpulso.hn/cronicas-de-la-ciudad-los-anonimos-que-mueren/>

15/03/17

(Re)Elections; Penitentiary System; Bajo Aguán; Corruption; IHSS, Drug Trafficking; and Utopia Is on the Horizon

ConfidencialHN reports on fraud accusations from inside the National

Party against their own party.

There are also voices that denounce a fraud inside Libre.

Libre reacted with a press release, saying that they will hand over all the accusations of fraud to the TSE.

The TSE, meanwhile, announced a "special counting" to check for irregularities.

The presentation of the final results by the TSE will be at the end of March.

The former Attorney General, Edmundo Orellana, published his reading of the elections and its circumstances in an OpEp.

And some good news, the disappeared electoral custodian Rainherth Manuel Valladares Barahona reappeared.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/14/no-me-mire-cara-de-imbecil-aspirantes-a-diputados-nacionalistas-protagonizan-zafarrancho-virtual/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/14/libre-tambien-hubo-fraude/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/14/comision-electoral-libre-acompanara-denuncias-fraude-ante-tse/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/14/tribunal-electoral-realizara-escrutinio-especial-para-verificar-irregularidades-en-elecciones-primarias/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-hara-la-declaratoria-oficial-finales-marzo-no-detectan-anomalias/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/14/parto-una-dictadura/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/redes-sociales-fueron-clave-para-encontrar-a-custodio-electoral-reportado-como-desaparecido/>

Five years after the prison fire that led to the death of 300 human beings, the Honduran state found one prison guard guilty for the crime

of breach of the duties of public servants.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/declaran-culpable-a-custodio-por-incendio-en-carcel-de-comayagua.html>

Some 50 campesino families belonging to MARCA started a recuperation process of their land in Trujillo, Colón.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/03/honduras-familias-campesinas-del-marca.html>

The Supreme Court decided that the trial against the former director of Hondutel, Marcelo Chimirri, has to be repeated. Chimirri is accused of corruption.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/14/iden-repetir-juicio-marcelo-chimirri-caso-latinode/>

The former IHSS director Mario Zelaya was sentenced to 10 years more in prison for illegal arms possession.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/14/le-dan-otros-10-anos-prision-mario-zelaya/>

The businessman José Miguel "Chepito" Handal was sentenced to 10 years in prison for drug trafficking.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/03/14/chepito-handal-fue-condenado-10-anos-carcel/>

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/noticias/items/la-utopia-esta-en-el-horizonte.html>

16/03/17

IACHR; HRDs; Forced Displacements; MACCIH; (Re)Elections; Drug Trafficking; Children's Rights; Penitentiary System;

On February 6, 2017, the Lenca human rights defender Víctor Vásquez was

granted special protection measures by the IACHR. He was shot at by the police during a violent eviction in Tutule, La Paz. He is currently in Tegucigalpa to have the bullet removed and hoping that the Honduran state complies with the measures ordered by the IACHR.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/lider-lenca-espera-que-el-estado-cumpla-las-medidas-cautelares-a-su-favor/>

Pasos de Animal Grande raises the alarm about the situation of female human rights defenders in the rural areas of the Francisco Morazán department.

"Global Witness is calling on the Honduran state to crack down on an online smear campaign against groups working to protect land and environmental defenders in Honduras, the world's most dangerous country for this type of activism. The government must guarantee the protection of defenders and investigate fresh attempts to intimidate communities who have taken a stand against the theft and destruction of their land, says the campaign group."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1685-mujeres-defensoras-bajo-ataque-de-alcaldes-policias-militares-y-activistas-del-partido-nacional>

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en-gb/press-releases/honduran-government-must-counter-smear-campaign-against-land-and-environmental-defenders-and-protect-those-under-threat/>

Honduras and the UNHCR signed an agreement to tackle together the problem of forced displacement by violence.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/15/honduras-recurre-la-onu-frente-los-desplazamientos-forzados-la-violencia/>

Cespad calls for first results by MACCIH by July this year, otherwise it would lose all credibility to them.
This call was part of a press conference, in which Cespad presented its report on the first six months of MACCIH.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-más-noticias/si-la-maccih-no-ofrece-primeros-resultados-en-julio-se-convierte-en-elefante-blanco-cespad.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/15/independencia-e-investigar-concesiones-demandan-la-maccih/>

Yesterday, new accounts of electoral inconsistencies appeared. One regarding the Libre candidacy for mayor in Tegucigalpa. El Pulso spoke with Wilfredo Méndez, who claims to have lost due to irregularities, about it.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/15/fraude-silencioso-en-el-nacionalismo-mantiene-con-altos-votos-a-candidatos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/15/liberales-callan-baja-asistencia-a-urnas-y-fraude-siguen-contando-marcas-actualizacion/>

<http://elpulso.hn/impugnaciones-y-elecciones/>

<http://elpulso.hn/elecciones-internas-cronica-de-un-colorido-fraude/>

InSight comments on the links to Honduran business and political elites by the recently sentenced drug trafficker José Miguel "Chepe" Handal. El Libertador reports that Fabio Lobo worked for Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán's Sinaloa Cartel. Costa Rica extradited the presumed Honduran drug trafficker Wilter Blanco to the US.

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/elites-backed-drug-trafficker-sentenced-10-years>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2153-ee-uu-liga-a-fabio-lobo-con-el-cartel-de-sinaloa>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2151-extraditan-a-narco-hondureno-wilter-blanco-desde-costa-rica>

COIPRODEN, a network of 24 organizations working to improve the situation of Honduras' children, denounce in a press release the violation of the rights of children by the Honduran state.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/15/red-coiproden-denuncia-vulneracion-los-derechos-la-ninez/>

Honduras moved 755 gang members from a prison in San Pedro Sula to El Pozo. JOH also announced the construction of more prisons. He spoke of a need for a new prison system given the "luxurious lives" inmates have enjoyed in Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/15/joh-se-autocongratula-por-masivo-traslado-de-mareros/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1053345-410/video-muestra-a-reos-con-armas-dentro-del-penal-de-san-pedro>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1053285-410/la-insólita-forma-de-cómo-sacaron-a-unos-reos-del-penal-sampedrano>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2152-presidente-hondureno-anuncia-construccion-de-mas-carceles>

17/03/17

HRDs; Garífunas; Drug Trafficking; Extraditions; (Re)Elections; National Police; Penitentiary System; PAC; IACHR; Public Finances; MACCIH; and a Real Witch Hunt ?

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders called out

to the Honduran government yesterday, demanding that it stops the harassment of the human rights defender Irma Lemus Amaya.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/16/organismos-internacionales-exigen-al-estado-hondureno-cese-hostigamientos-irma-lemus-amaya/>

OFRANEH denounces an invasion of their territory in Vallecito, Colón.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/03/16/alerta-nueva-invasion-al-territorio-garifuna-de-vallecito-colo/>

"Devis Rivera Maradiaga testified in Federal Court in New York today that he met with Antonio "Tony" Hernandez, brother of President Juan Orlando Hernandez, and was promised that he would get government contracts for one of his cartel's companies if he paid Tony Hernandez a bribe." In the same article, Honduras Culture and Politics list further links of Tony Hernández with drug traffickers.

And as before, he claims to be innocent.

The former police commissioner and PAC member Henry Osorto denounces the massive transfer of gang members from a prison in San Pedro Sula to El Pozo (see yesterday) as a smokescreen to divert attention from the drug trafficking accusations against members of the Honduran government. The testimony Rivera Maradiaga of also caused some international media attention.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/03/los-cachiros-testify-to-bribes-paid-to.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/16/otra-vez-tony-hernandez-se-declara-inocente-de-narcoactividad/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/16/exagente-de-inteligencia-reafirma-denuncias-contra-criminalidad-organizada/>

<https://www.plazapublica.com.gt/content/los-narcos-cantan-y-honduras-se-agita-pero-no-se-tambalea>

<http://www.elnuevoherald.com/noticias/estados-unidos/article138974688.html>

Criminologist Arabeska Sánchez expects a new wave of extraditions to the US due to the testimony of Devis Rivera Maradiaga.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/16/auguran-mas-extradiciones-de-narcotraficantes-a-ee-uu-por-confesiones-de-exjefe-narco/>

Tomas Andino Mencía presents a pessimistic hypothesis regarding the coming general elections.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/16/la-hipotesis-del-nuevo-escenario-politico-hondureno/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3531-bitacora-de-las-elecciones-primarias-16-marzo-2017>

JOH asked Congress to approve two new laws for the continuous purge of the National Police Force.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/16/regimen-exigen-mas-leyes-para-seguir-purgando-policias/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hernandez-urge-otra-vez-al-cn-aprobar-leyes-de-policia-para-trazar-hoja-de-ruta-en-seguridad.html>

Defensores en Línea criticizes that 5 years after the prison fire in Comayagua the Honduran state still hasn't fulfilled its obligations towards the victims and their family members.

The UN human rights office in Honduras emitted a press release on the subject yesterday.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/siguen-sin-garantia-los-derechos-de-las-victimas-del-incendio-de-la-granja-penal-de-comayagua-y-la-sociedad-hondurena-a-la-verdad-la-justicia-la-reparacion-y-la-garantia-de-no-repeticion/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1688-sobre-incendio-del-centro-penal-de-comayagua-cinco-anos-de-impunidad-torpedean-la-verdad-y-la-justicia>

PAC presented its plan for government yesterday.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/16/pac-presenta-su-propuesta-de-gobierno/>

The Inter-American Commission for Human Rights elected its new leadership and redistributed some of its Special Rapporteur positions.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cidh-elige-directiva-y-redistribuye-relatorias/>

Public employees in Tela laid down their work after not receiving their pay checks for five months.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3532-crisis-financiera-ahoga-la-municipalidad-de-tela-atlantida>

In this article you find the link to CESPAD's report about the MACCIH (see yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1686-estudio-de-cespaed-es-un-desafio-impostergable-que-la-maccih-abra-un-dialogo-franco-con-sociedad-civil>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/concierto-del-grupo-musical-brujeria-no-esta-autorizado-dice-gobernacion.html>

18/03/17

Berta - US; HRDs; IACHR; Drug Trafficking; (Re)Elections; PAC; Energy Prices; Coalianza; and "On Parle Français"

"Beverly Bell on Berta Cáceres: 'There Will Not Be Change as Long as the

US Sends Military Aid to Honduras'"

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/39793-there-will-not-be-change-as-long-as-us-sends-military-aid-to-honduras>

Defensores en Línea reports on an attack against the human rights defender Ronnie Hareth Portillo of the REDEHSUR. The attack took place last Saturday, when he was shot at by men in military uniforms.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/hombres-vestidos-de-militares-dispararon-a-miembro-de-redehsur/>

The Coalition against Impunity presented last week the problems with the reforms of the Penal Code to the IACHR. According to Defensores en Línea, the IACHR shared their concerns.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/decepciona-a-la-cidh-posicion-de-honduras-en-materia-de-seguridad-y-reformas-penales/>

The MP announced that together with MACCIH they are analyzing and investigating the testimony of Devis Rivera Maradiaga.

New accusations regarding the nexus drug trafficking and politicians comes from captain Santos Orellana.

El Heraldo published the transcript of Rivera Maradiaga's second audience from last Thursday.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/17/analizan-confesion-de-exjefe-narco-y-discurso-del-hermano-del-mandatario-de-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/17/cuando-hablen-los-valle-wilter-blanco-don-h-saldran-mas-sorpresas-capitan-rodriguez-orellana/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1054078-466/declaración-completa-de-cachiro-en-segunda-audiencia-en-corte-de-eeuu>

So far, the TSE has received 11 challenges regarding the primary elections. Its magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo announced that they will look into this before announcing the final results.

What is already clear, is that the National Party hit a new record with almost 200'000 null and blank votes.

Some more analytical thoughts regarding the primary elections, can be found in a new article by Radio Progreso.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/11-impugnaciones-de-votos-se-han-presentado-ante-el-tse>

<http://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-tambien-arrasa-votos-nulos-blanco/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/17/nacionalistas-tambien-ganan-votos-nulos-blancos/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3536-elecciones-primarias-agudizan-crisis-política-y-social-en-honduras>

The TSE cited PAC regarding an internal dispute inside the party.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/17/advierten-decisiones-legales-si-no-se-solventa-crisis-dentro-del-partido-anticorrupcion/>

Radio Progreso reports on the price rises for electric energy in Honduras - three in the last nine months.

ENEE, meanwhile, announced that with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank it will invest \$99 million in the national energy grid.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3538-población-nuevamente-afectada-con-incremento-a-la-energía-eléctrica>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/enee-con-el-apoyo-del-bid-invierte-más-de-99-millones-en-fortalecimiento-de-la-red>

El Heraldo criticizes Coalianza of spreading wrong information about the amount the government spends on rent to boost the image of the planned Civic Center.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inspectoreh/1046535-504/coalianza-sobre-ahorro-por-centro-cívico-gobierno-gasta-l-1000-millones-en>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-más-noticias/frances-se-ensenara-como-segunda-lengua-en-escuelas-de-honduras.html>

19/03/17

Berta - Cinema; Drug Trafficking; (Re)Elections; LGBTI; Extradition; and Honduran Alliances

An an international film festival in Guadalajara, the short film "Berta

vive" by Katia Lara was awarded a prize .

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/18/festival-internacional-cine-guadalajara-premia-cortometraje-bertha-caceres/>

The dug trafficking nexus of former president grows stronger, with new accusations by the MP in New York.

In a press release, CONADEH demanded from the government to investigate the alleged links between politicians and drug traffickers.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/18/fiscalia-ee-uu-vincula-pepe-lobo-narcotrafico/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2163-cachiros-dieron-500-mil-dolares-a-pepe-segun-justicia-de-ee-uu>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1054265-466/el-silencio-de-porfirio-lobo-tras-acusación-directa-de-eeuu-en-su>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/18/conadeh-insta-se-investigue-supuestos-implicados-narcotrafico/>

Pastoral Social Caritas strongly criticizes last week's internal election process.

<http://tiempo.hn/caritas-honduras-lanza-fuerte-critica-contra-grupos-politicos/>

Proceso Digital dedicates a long article to the LGBTI movement after the publication of a study on the political participation of its members.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/comunidad-lgtbi-inicia-lucha-por-espacios-politicos.html>

The US requested the extradition of the Mexican citizen Víctor Lorenzo Flores who was arrested in April 2015 in Honduras for allegedly planning to murder JOH.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/eeuu-solicita-la-extradición-de-mexicano-vinculado-plan-para-matar-al-presidente-hernández>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/03/honduras-la-alianza-que-va-y-la-otra.html>

20/03/17

HRDs; (Re)Elections; Drug Trafficking; Human Trafficking; and Ciudad Mujer

Various international human rights organizations published a joint press

release in support of the Honduran human rights defender Suyapa Martínez, who faces criminalizing charges by DESA.

See Attachment

Honduras Culture and Politics comments on the amount of spoiled and blank ballots and what it may mean.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/03/spoiled-ballots-say-something.html>

Miguel Pastor, the former Soptravi-Minister, is the newest one to find himself in the testimony of Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga. The lawyer Raúl Pineda Alvarado thinks that Honduras mishandled the accusations against the former president Porfirio Lobo.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/19/miguel-pastor-mencionado-ee-uu-lider-los-cachiros/>

<http://tiempo.hn/miguel-pastor-mencionado-juicio-fabio-lobo-los-estados-unidos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/acusacion-de-cachiro-al-expresidente-lobo-no-se-ha-manejado-bien-en-honduras-pineda-alvarado.html>

HispanTV reports on a possible human trafficking network in Honduras after the disappearance of two children.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/03/honduras-denuncian-red-internacional-de.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ciudad-mujer-honduras-el-programa-que-busca-lograr-la-igualdad-de-genero.html>

21/03/17

HRDs; Drug Trafficking; Lawyers; National Police; US; Transparency; Happiness; and Now What?

Just moments before the criminalizing trial against human rights

defender Suyapa Martínez, the judge Sonia Marlene Barahona declared null the complaint by DESA. It is not clear yet, if DESA still wants to pursue its campaign against Suyapa Martínez.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/20/ultima-hora-declaran-nula-la-demanda-desa-suyapa-martinez/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/por-improcedente-se-anula-demanda-millonaria-contradefensora-de-ddhh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/20/se-ha-hecho-justicia-suyapa-martinez/>

It seems that the next person on the list of Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga was he himself, as he confessed to have "caused" 78 murders. El Heraldo has a new article on how the DEA were able to arrest Fabio Lobo in Haiti.

La Tribuna spoke with the lawyer the former president Porfirio Lobo, Julio César Ramírez Mejía, who claims that the US is not linking his client to drug trafficking activities.

ConfidencialHN, meanwhile, spoke with the former president himself about the accusations.

The MP and ATIC seized various documents related to government contracts with companies allegedly belonging to the Cachiros cartel.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1054746-466/declaración-textual-donde-excabecilla-de-los-cachiros-confiesa-el-asesinato-de-78>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1054548-466/fabio-lobo-cayó-en-la-trampa-de-los-cachiros-y-la-dea>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/03/20/abogado-del-expresidente-fiscalia-ee-uu-no-vincula-porfirio-lobo-narco trafico/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/20/que-me-investiguen-expresidente-hondureno-rechaza-vinculos-con-los-cachiros/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/20/atic-secuestra-documentos-relacionados-contratos-gubernamentales-hermanos-rivera-maradiaga/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/20/testimonio-de-cachiro-provoca-sorpresivo-apropiamiento-de-documentacion-publica/>

The lawyer Patricia Villamil was murdered yesterday in Honduras. She also run as a deputy congresswomen inside the National Party for the Monarca movement.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/20/encuentran-muerta-apoderada-legal-la-enee/>

<http://tiempo.hn/asesinan-patricia-villamil-abogada-la-enee/>

The JOH administration presented the next tool which promises to clean up the police force: The Bureau on Disciplinary Police Matters (Didapol). Apparently, Alberto Solórzano, who currently is a member of the purging committee, denied to head the new institution.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/diecp-no-fue-lo-que-esperabamos-urge-sepultarla-y-darle-paso-a-la-didadpol-hernandez.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/20/sera-cierto-pastor-protestante-rechaza-dirigir-nueva-unidad-de-asuntos-internos-policiales/>

JOH traveled to the US yesterday to meet with the Trump administration.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/20/hernandez-viaja-a-ee-uu-para-buscar-acercamiento-con-el-gobierno-de-donald-trump/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1054703-410/joh-se-reunirá-en-eua-con-miembros-del-gobierno-trump>

The Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) is investigating several municipalities for failing to disclose certain information to the public.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/bajo-la-lupa-del-iaip-varias-municipalidades-por-no-compartir-su-información>

Honduras ranks last of all Latin American countries in the newest World Happiness Report.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/20/honduras-pais-mas-infeliz-america-latina/>

<http://worldhappiness.report/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3540-y-ahora-¿qué-hacemos?-20-marzo-2017>

22/03/17

IACHR; Drug Trafficking; National Police; (Re)Elections; JOH; PAC; Fire Arms; Deportations; and The Experience of CICIG, MACCIH, and GIEI

José Isabel "Chabelo" Morales filed a complaint at the IACHR. He accuses

the Honduran state of having him imprisoned illegally for several years. The Trump administration, meanwhile, didn't attend a hearing at the IACHR this week.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/campesino-del-aguan-denuncia-al-estado-hondureno-ante-cidh/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3544-campesino-del-aguán-denuncia-al-estado-hondureño-ante-cidh>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/21/ee-uu-deja-plantada-la-comision-interamericana-derechos-humanos/>

El Heraldo published the transcript of a conversation of Fabio Lobo with Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga. Ismael Moreno, director of Radio Progreso, sees the testimony of Rivera Maradiaga as further proof that Honduras is a criminal state. He calls for the national and international community to "Romper y desmontar esta lógica criminal del Estado".

One possible first step, would be the resignation of Security Minister Julián Pacheco Tinoco, who was directly named by Rivera Maradiaga. And as a side-note, El Tiempo has created a section online for all the things related to Los Cachiros.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1055240-466/fabio-lobo-consideró-poder-hablar-con-cachiro-como-una-bendición-de-dios>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inicio/1055242-465/parte-ii-fabio-lobo-consideró-poder-hablar-con-cachiro-como-una-bendición>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1055252-466/parte-iii-fabio-lobo-consideró-poder-hablar-con-cachiro-como-una-bendición>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/21/confesiones-de-los-cachiros-demuestran-faceta-criminal-del-estado-hondureno-afirma-el-padre-melo/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/por-ética-deberí-de-renunciar-julián-pacheco-su-cargo-sugiere-el-codeh>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/21/seguimos-esperando-renuncia-destitucion/>

<http://tiempo.hn/category/cachiro/>

IN the US, a seventh Honduran police agent was accused of drug trafficking.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1055174-410/eua-acusa-a-séptimo-policía-de-honduras-de-narcotráfico>

The TSE has so far received over 30 written objections to the primary election results.

Javier Suazo carves out some explanations why the primary election turned out as it did.

El Puslo, meanwhile, calls for a better selection of candidates; to check for possible drug trafficking links before nominating someone.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/21/impugnaciones-superan-las-30-dice-presidente-del-tse/>

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/184262>

<http://elpulso.hn/verificar-el-candidato/>

As reported yesterday, JOH is currently in the US, where he met Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

But he was also greeted by protesters confronting him over the murder of Berta.

The political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado believes that JOH was called to the US to discuss the testimony of Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga.

http://www.eldiario.es/politica/presidente-Honduras-Tillerson-congresistas-Washington_0_624688680.html

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/21/berta-caceres-murder-honduras-juan-orlando-herandez-dc>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/21/joh-seria-llamado-ee-uu-hablar-implicados-narcotrafico-raul-pineda-alvarado/>

Carlos Hernández, the coordinator of the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ), strangely warns PAC not to take in purged members of the police force.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/carlos-hernandez-advierde-a-nasralla-que-no-permita-a-policias-depurados-en-el-pac.html>

Proceso Digital reports that the Honduran state seized almost 9000 weapons in the last two years.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/unas-nueve-mil-armas-de-fuego-incauto-la-policia-nacional-en-ultimos-dos-anos.html>

The US has deported 1255 Honduran minors so far this year.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2168-eeuu-ha-deportado-1-255-menores-hondurenos-en-2017>

See Attachment

23/03/17

HRDs; UN; Drug Trafficking; IACTHR; Dinant; Hydroelectricity; Journalists; (Re)Elections; Extortion; Basic Goods; and Foreign Aid

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the situation of MILPAH leader Víctor

Vásquez, returned to Tegucigalpa to attend his trial who recently was shot by a police agent, but still now faces charges for usurpation.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1692-victor-vasquez-milpah-si-nos-queda-mos-en-la-casa-perdemos-los-bienes-ancestrales>

The UN human rights bureau in Honduras held a press conference yesterday, presenting its annual report on the human rights situation in Honduras. It proposes to the Honduran government, among other things, to demilitarize public security.

She also critically comments on the purge of the National Police Force. When asked about the reelection bid of JOH, its representative, María Soledad Pazo, dodged the question.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/22/comisionada-oacnudh-pide-desmilitarizar-la-seguridad-honduras/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1055576-466/honduras-la-depuración-no-solo-debe-ser-por-fines-administrativos>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-onu-desaconseja-la-expansion-del-rol-de-las-fuerzas-armadas-en-honduras.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/22/dan-mas-recomendaciones-al-estado-hondureno-para-promover-respeto-de-ddhh/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/22/representante-oacnud-rehuye-le-asusta-hablar-la-reeleccion/>

According to the head of the Honduran Industry and Construction Chamber (Chico), 28 projects were granted to a company owned by Los Cachiros by the Lobo administration.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/alrededor-de-una-treintena-de-proyectos-otorgo-gestion-lobo-a-empresa-de-los-cachiros.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3545-¿qué-estado-han-desnudado-los-cachiros?-22-marzo-2017>

Defensores en Línea reports on today's audience at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACTHR). The Honduran state is accused of having failed to investigate the murder of Ángel Pacheco León in 2001.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/estado-de-honduras-al-banquillo-de-los-acusados/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-la-mirada-puesta-en-la-justicia-internacional/>

InSight Crime took up the possible drug trafficking link to Miguel Facussé established by the testimony of Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga.

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/cachiros-leader-links-late-honduras-tycoon-drug-trafficking>

A protest erupted in Reitoca, Francisco Morazán against a hydroelectric project.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2171-hondurenos-de-reitoca-protestan-contra-hidroelectrica>

<http://tiempo.hn/protestan-pobladores-reitoca-proyectos-hidroelectricos/>

The trial against a police agent accused of hitting the journalist Dunia Montoya in September 2015 was postponed.

El Pulso spoke with Thelma Mejía about Honduran journalism, with a special focus on the need of investigative journalism.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1693-defensa-de-policia-propone-conciliar-paliza-contra-periodista-dunia-montoya>

<http://elpulso.hn/thelma-mejiael-periodismo-de-investigacion-en-el-pais-es-necesario/>

In an interview with El Pulso, Wilfredo Méndez speaks about his quest to show that the internal Libre election for mayor of Tegucigalpa was fraudulent and that he should be declared the winner.

<http://elpulso.hn/wilfredo-mendez-ep2017/>

Due to extortion, bus companies stop for the time being the connection Tegucigalpa - Santa Ana / Ojojona.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/22/transportistas-paralizan-de-manera-indefinida-sus-labores-en-santa-ana-y-ojojona/>

After the assassination of an administrator of a local Banasupro office in Comayagüela, the government decided to close down the site, which was responsible to supply basic goods to the people living there.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/22/y-la-ley-antiterrorista-gobierno-de-honduras-cierra-tienda-popular-por-asesinato-de-administrador/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/22/naciones-amigas-cooperantes-se-cansaron-invertir-la-seguridad-justicia-honduras-olban-valladares/>

24/03/17

UN; Drug Trafficking; Judicial Power; IACtHR; TSC; Political Opposition; (Re)Elections; National Police; Palm Oil; Public Health; and the Parallel Universe of JOH

The five country reports of the Secretary-General and of the

High Commissioner for Human Rights were yesterday presented at the UN in Geneva. Please find attached the report on Honduras as well as the address by the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council.

Honduran human rights organizations also voiced some criticism. Wilmer Vásquez laments the missing focus on the situation of children in Honduras. And Edy Tábora wanted more attention on the crimes against the freedom of expression.

See Attachment

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/23/defensor-de-la-ninez-molesto-con-la-onu-por-obviar-las-agresiones-contra-menores-en-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/23/por-que-alta-comisionada-de-la-onu-no-hablo-sobre-cierre-de-medios-y-asesinato-de-periodistas/>

Radio Progreso criticizes the lack of an adequate response to the testimony by Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga in New York.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3550-funcionarios-hondureños-acusados-por-narcotráfico-siguen-en-sus-cargos-sin-ser-investigados>

MP and MACCIH started a joint investigation of alleged irregularities in the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-corte-suprema-de-justicia-admite-investigacion-de-maccih.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/23/presidente-del-poder-judicial-declina-hablar-sobre-juicio-contrapolemico-exconcejal/>

COFADEH published a press release on the start of the trial against Honduras at the IACtHR.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/comienza-un-nuevo-juicio-historico-contrael-estado/>

A report by the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) found that the TSC lacks funding, transparency and access to information to do its job properly.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2174-presupuesto-insuficiente-y-bajacobertura-socavan-accionar-del-tribunal-de-cuentas>

ConfidencialHN reports on the internal disputes in PAC, writing that it lowers the chances of an alliance of the political opposition for the general elections.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/23/profundas-contradicciones-en-el-pac-son-casi-irreconciliables-incierto-futuro-de-alianza/>

The TSE has so far received over 60 written objections to the primary election results.

Further instances of fraud continue to come to light. National party activists of the “Unidos por la nueva Honduras” movement found that 300 diseased people apparently voted for another National Party movement, “Juntos por más cambios”.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/a-60-ascienden-las-impugnaciones-presentadas-ante-el-tse.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/23/entierran-a-300-muertos-que-votaron-por-corriente-de-alcalde-nacionalista/>

The Honduran police has the worst image in Latin America based on data from 2012.

Proceso Digital, meanwhile, launched a campaign against purged members of the police force who join political parties.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/23/policia-hondurena-la-peor-latinoamerica-segun-encuestas-percepcion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/38-politica-nacional/encendidas-alarmas-por-consorcio-de-policias-depurados-en-partidos-politicos.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/23/policias-depurados-quieren-unirse-al-pac-representarlo-las-mesas-electorales/>

Radio Progreso warns of the environmental and social consequences of the spread of oil palm cultivation in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3549-como-agua-y-aceite-23-marzo-2017>

Criterio reports on a denouncement by the Spanish Embassy regarding the bidding process to deliver medication to the Honduras public health system.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/23/embajada-espana-denuncia-irregular-proceso-licitacion-medicinas-honduras/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/03/23/presidente-hernandez-ee-uu-elogia-honduras-ejemplo-la-region/>

25/03/17

HRDs; COPINH; Witness Protection; Party Financing; (Re)Elections; Drug Trafficking; Hydroelectricity; Corruption; Judicial Power; Public Health; and Murderers with Uniforms

MADJ denounces new death threats against its human rights defenders. The

current object of the death threats are the social communicators at the Radio Dignity, a community radio supported by MADJ.

<http://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/03/24/te-vas-a-morir-Graves-amenazas-en-contra-de-comunicadores-del-Movimiento-Amplio>

Beverly Bell interviewed Pascuala Vásquez, the spiritual leader of COPINH.

<https://otherworldsarepossible.org/heaven-and-earth-dont-belong-companies-role-lenca-culture-defending-lands-waters-and-peoples>

Two protected witnesses denounce that the MP failed in protecting them after the trial.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2177-presupuesto-insuficiente-y-baja-cobertura-socavan-a-tribunal-de-cuentas>

The National Party had succeeded in stopping the MACCIH bill to regulate party finances to be applicable in the primary elections. Now it finally came into force. Nevertheless, there is still a possibility that the National Party continues to block its application for the general elections.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/24/fin-publican-fe-erratas-inconsistencias-ley-financiamiento-politico/>

The TSE held a special ballot counting, revising 2572 ballots.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/unas-dos-mil-572-actas-han-sido-revisadas-en-escrutinio-especial.html>

Carlos Hernández, the Honduran representative of Transparency International, laments that several candidates for public office have been singled out for possible links to drug trafficking.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/representante-de-ti-lamenta-que-senalados-por-narcotrafico-sean-candidatos-a-cargos-publicos.html>

MADJ reports on the resistance against the hydroelectric project on the river Mezapa by the company HIDROCEP. On March 22, people protested and blocked the road to the company.

<http://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/03/22/El-día-mundial-del-agua-se-defiende-el-agua-Atlántida-en-lucha>

https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/atlantidaenlucha?source=feed_text&story_id=1299428723484357&fb_noscript=1

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3554-estado-de-honduras-violenta-derecho-humano-al-agua>

As part of its fight of public corruption, the MP intervened SANAA, IP, TSC as well as five municipalities.

The raids were part of an investigation into corruption allegations against the former member of the Judiciary Council Teodoro Bonilla. Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo, the former first lady, filed a complaint against the head of the Anti-Corruption Council Gabriela Castellanos and the head of the investigation unit at the MP Odir Fernández, both for accusing here at the MP for irregularities in managing state money.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/24/ministerio-publico-interviene-sanaa-ip-tsc-cinco-municipalidades/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/24/buscan-informacion-sobre-actos-de-corrupcion-de-polemico-exconcejal-teodoro-bonilla/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/24/rosa-elena-lobo-demanda-autoridades-del-cna-pide-indemnizacion/>

UNAH started two new programs in constitutional law and electoral law.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/24/abogados-se-especializan-derecho-constitucional-electoral/>

A group of health professionals filed a complaint at the Supreme Court against the price rises for services at the University hospital.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2178-hondurenos-siguen-lucha-contra-aumentos-en-hospital-escuela>

<http://elpulso.hn/asesinos-con-uniforme-caso-hermanos-diaz-rodriguez/>

26/03/17

Militarization; National Police; and the Objections are in

Just days after the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras denounced the

militarization of public security in Honduras, UNAH dean Julieta Castellanos speaks out in favor of it.

One worrisome element of the militarization is the program "Guards of the Fatherland" which currently is under criticism again.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/25/rectora-universitaria-pide-al-estado-proseguir-con-militarizacion-temporal-de-la-seguridad/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1696-guardianes-de-la-patria-es-una-copia-del-uso-de-ninas-y-ninos-en-el-ejercito-hitleriano>

The MP decided to charge a police agent for hitting an already arrested suspect.

The human rights public prosecutor also presented an arrest warrant for a sub-commissioner of the police.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/25/ministerio-publico-libra-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-policia-pateador/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fiscalia-de-ddhh-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-subcomisionado-de-policia.html>

Yesterday, the deadline to submit objections to ballots in the primary election expired. The TSE received 147 objections in total.

<http://tiempo.hn/147-impugnaciones-recibio-tse-este-proceso-electoral-interno/>

27/03/17

Berta -Commemoration; Drug Trafficking; Transport Sector; PAC; Church; and the Priest who Confronts the Honduran President

Berta received posthumously the "Artemio Precioso" Prize from

Greenpeace. Berta's daughter Laura Zúniga Cáceres received the prize in Madrid.

COPINH celebrates its 24th anniversary.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/26/greenpeace-entrega-premio-postumo-bera-caceres/>

<http://tiempo.hn/entregan-reconocimiento-postumo-bera-caceres-espana/>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/03/24-aniversario-copinh-les-esperamos.html>

El Pulso concentrates on the judicial sovereignty aspect of Rivera Maradiaga' testimony in New York.
Former president Porfirio Lobo tries to distance himself from the accusations by Rivera Maradiaga by stressing his administrations role in the adoption of the extradition law. El Heraldito calls this statement false.

<http://elpulso.hn/sobre-justicia-y-soberania-en-honduras/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inspectoreh/1056811-504/pepe-lobo-ley-de-extradición-es-testimonio-de-las-leyes-y-acciones>

The president of the National Transport Council (CNT) criticizes that so far the measures by the JOH administration haven't led to more security in the transport sector.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/26/exigen-mas-militares-para-cuidar-autobuses/>

Due to internal disputes inside PAC, the TSE threatens to announce this week a date for a leadership election for PAC.

TSE's president went so far as to threatening Salvador Nasralla to keep him from running in November.

In a press conference, PAC denounces this as a plan by JOH to get rid of them.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/26/autoridad-electoral-fijara-fecha-de-elecciones-en-pac-si-prosiguen-las-pugnas-por-control-partidario/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-advierte-a-nasralla-que-si-sigue-intransigente-su-movimiento-queda-fuera-de-las-generales.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/26/desde-tse-quieren-eliminar-al-pac-salvador-nasralla/>

Cardenal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez blames the rich for poverty and misery by taking over power in countries like Honduras - unexpected words by a man who always has been close to the powerful in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/millonarios-honduras-naciones-pobreza-miseria-cardenal-rodriguez.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/es/2017/03/26/el-sacerdote-que-se-enfrenta-al-presidente-de-honduras/>

28/03/17

Berta - Investigation, Commemoration; HRDs; Church; Corruption; Drug Trafficking; Electoral Reforms; Journalists; Human Development; and Two Measures for Democracy

Berta's family members handed over a report to MACCIH on the murder of

Berta and its circumstances.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/27/familia-berta-caceres-presenta-estudio-ante-la-maccih-exigiendo-investigacion-red-corrupcion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asesinos-de-berta-caceres-estan-identificados-en-sus-denuncias-dice-su-madre.html>

On the occasion of the 24th anniversary of COPINH a solidarity declaration with Berta Cáceres' family, COPINH and Gustavo Castro can be signed as an individual or as an organization until this Friday.

<https://goo.gl/forms/nQ2xqoX4knvVvb783>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/03/inicia-la-ceremonia-de-conmemoracion-de.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports that CONADEH and the MP "lost" the files containing the death threats against the human rights defender Irma Lemus.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1697-conadeh-y-ministerio-publico-perdieron-denuncias-de-amenazas-a-muerte-contra-defensora-de-ddhh>

ConfidencialHN published documents showing that the Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras received one million Lempiras for "social projects". ConfidencialHN denounces that there is little accountability regarding this money.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/27/confraternidad-evangelica-de-honduras-recibe-fuertes-sumas-de-dinero-y-calla-sobre-su-uso/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) seems to stay firm with its accusation of irregularities against the former first lady Rosa de Lobo. Both the MP and MACCIH have been informed about the case. At the same time, the CNA's director Gabriela Castellanos calls on the MP as well as the Supreme Court to accelerate their work in the "emblematic cases". And lastly, the CNA signed an agreement of cooperation with MACCIH.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/27/consejo-anticorrupcion-reafirma-denuncia-contra-exprimera-dama/>

<http://tiempo.hn/gabriela-castellanos-demanda-de-ex-primera-dama-no-detendra-trabajo-del-cna/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/27/piden-a-corte-suprema-acelerar-juicios-por-casos-de-corrupcion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-y-cna-tras-corruptos.html>

In an interview with Radio Progreso, sociologist Víctor Meza speaks about drug trafficking and its impact on the Honduran state.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/~rprog/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3559-narcotrafico-puede-convertirse-en-una-red-que-envuelva-y-sustituya-al-estado-asegura-analista-victor-meza>

JOH is about to present various electoral reforms to Congress.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/27/presidente-hernandez-anuncia-enviara-paquete-reformas-electorales-al-congreso-nacional/>

Radio Progreso criticizes the role of the Honduran media in numbing the public to violence and murder.

The Honduran Press Association filed a complaint at CONADEH against the new Penal Code article which violates freedom of expression.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3558-lo-que-nos-hacen-los-medios-27-marzo-2017>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/03/honduras-aph-pide-al-congreso-derogar.html>

Honduras ranks on the second last place (with only Haiti behind it) in the UNDP's Human Development ranking for Latin American countries.

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-segundo-pais-peor-nivel-desarrollo-humano-latinoamerica/>

<http://tiempo.hn/luis-almagro-abandona-enfurecido-conferencia-al-cuestionarle-sonbre-ddhh-en-honduras/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/27/almagro-sale-molesto-ante-preguntas-parcialidad-ante-violaciones-derechos-humanos/>

29/03/17

Berta - Investigation; Corruption; MACCIH; Zacate Grande; (Re)Elections; Hydrocarbons; and a Lesson in How to Spin Judicial Incompetence in Your Favor

As mentioned yesterday, Oxfam and COPINH presented a report on the

murder of Berta and its circumstances. The report was now also made public in Honduras.

Berta's daughter Olivia Zúniga Cáceres told Criterio that they demanded from the MP to investigate the network of corruption that is behind the murder of her mother.

DESA reacted with a press release.

A bit more unexpected was that the private business council Cohep also emitted a press release attacking the report. This is worrisome, as until now, there was at least the pretense that Berta's murder should be thoroughly investigated.

In Spain, meanwhile, a senate committee approved a motion which demands an independent investigation into the murder of Berta and Nelson García as well as the protection of their family members.

<https://www.oxfam.org/es/informes/hechos-y-circunstancias-alrededor-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-flores>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/28/honduras-presentan-evidencias-de-presunta-corrupcion-sobre-proyecto-agua-zarca/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/28/ministerio-publico-investigar-red-corrupcion-torno-asesinato-madre-olivia-zuniga-video/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/28/desa-se-defiende-gato-panza-ante-informe-oxfam/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/28/cupula-empresarial-hondurena-arremete-oxfam-exige-justicia-crimen-berta-caceres/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/28/senado-espanol-aprueba-pedir-una-investigacion-al-gobierno-honduras-asesinato-berta-caceres/>

After the former first lady, Rosa Elea de Lobo, it is the turn of the former head of ENEE, Roberto Martínez Lozano, to denigrate Gabriela Castellanos, the director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). The latter started an investigation into possible contracts of ENEE with the Los Cachiros drug cartel.

Rosa Elea de Lobo also filed a complaint against the former presidential assessor Marvin Ponce.

The corruption in Honduras was also the topic during the festivities of the 20th anniversary of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (CIC).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/28/exgerente-de-enee-insiste-que-no-firmo-contratos-con-los-cachiros-y-denuncia-persecucion/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/28/vuelven-a-querellar-a-folclorico-exasesor-presidencial-marvin-ponce-por-bocon/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/lucha-contr-la-corrupcion-y-la-impunidad-es-la-bandera-mas-sentida-de-los-hondurenos/>

MACCIH announced that it started investigating supposed acts of corruption during the Zelaya administration. Former president Manuel Zelaya declared that he welcomes the investigations.

MACCIH is currently also working on changes to the Access to Public Information Law.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/28/maccih-investigara-al-gobierno-de-manuel-por-supuesta-corrupcion-mel-dispuesto-a-ser-investigado/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/maccih-realiza-ajustes-la-ley-de-acceso-la-información-pública>

The criminalizing trial against the campesinos Tomás Cruz, Abel Pérez and Santos Hernández from Playa Blanca, Zacate Grande, continues on April 19.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/continua-juicio-contra-campesinos-de-zacate-grande/>

Javier Calderón Castillo published a report on the Honduran primaries. Albany Flores wrote a portrait of the presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya.

<http://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/184401>

<http://elpulso.hn/luis-zelaya-no-es-un-outsider/>

Criterio reports on the missing transparency around the concession to find petrol in the coastal region of La Mosquitia.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/28/concesion-al-grupo-britanico-bgg-explorar-explotar-petroleo-honduras-se-manaja-mucho-hermetismo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/28/jefe-del-poder-judicial-hondureno-dice-que-la-corrupcion-no-se-quitara-en-unas-semanas-o-meses/>

30/03/17

Journalists; COPINH; Corruption; Drug Trafficking; Forced Displacement; Militarization; Harassment; PAC; Political Opposition; (Re)Elections; Extraditions; the Struggle for Land - Then and Now

MILPAH member Esteban Vásquez, who works as a correspondent for Radio

Progreso, received death threats, apparently by National Party activists.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/amenazan-corresponsal-indígena-de-radio-progreso>

Radio Progreso reports on COPINH's 24th anniversary.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/3563-con-el-espíritu-indomable-y-rebelde-de-berta-cáceres-copinh-celebra-sus-24-años-de-fundación>

A judge didn't allow into evidence the checks used to siphon of money from the IHSS.

MACCIH called this "not good news".

>From the US, meanwhile, comes a message of support for MACCIH and CICIG in Guatemala.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/29/prosigue-la-impunidad-rechazan-admitir-cheques-del-megafraude-al-ihss-como-prueba-de-corrupcion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cuentas-del-partido-nacional-liberadas-por-juez.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/comite-de-congreso-eeuu-aprueba-resolucion-a-favor-de-maccih-y-cicig.html>

There is new proof linking the former head of ENEE, Roberto Martínez Lozano, to Los Cachiros.

"A powerful drug trafficking group in Honduras allegedly used a natural disaster to launder money, showing how far organized crime groups are willing to go to maximize their revenues."

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/29/roma-invito-los-cachiros-participar-las-licitaciones-la-enee/>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/honduras-crime-group-used-disaster-launder-money>

El Pulso speaks with Carlos Sierra from CIPRODEH about forced displacement in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/desplazamiento-por-goteo-primera-parte/>

<http://elpulso.hn/desplazamiento-por-goteo-segunda-parte/>

COFADEH's Bertha Oliva explains Honduras' bad ranking in the human development index with the government's budgetary priority on further militarize society instead of investing in education and health.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/29/los-paises-militarizados-estan-orientados-al-sometimiento-salvaje/>

The Honduran state seized the house of the former president Manuel Zelaya. Zelaya speaks of expropriation and blames JOH for it. The background of the seizure is a legal dispute back from 2007.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/29/embargan-casa-a-expresidente-hondureno-manuel-zelaya/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/29/condenan-expresidente-manuel-zelaya-pagar-5-millones-le-embargan-casa-habitacion/>

PAC's internal dispute reaches a new level.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/29/nasralla-pide-fiscal-internacional-para-investigar-origen-del-dinero-de-marlene-alvarenga/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/29/marlene-alvarenga-inicia-proceso-judicial-contra-salvador-nasralla/>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez, meanwhile, still hasn't given up completely on a alliance of the political opposition.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/29/doris-gutierrez-donde-veo-que-se-ponen-los-monos-es-en-el-nivel-de-arriba/>

The TSE finished its special ballot count and will announce the official results on April 5.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/29/finaliza-escrutinio-especial-de-urnas-adulteradas-declaratoria-de-elecciones-sera-el-5-de-abril/>

<http://tiempo.hn/mayoria-impugnaciones-presentadas-politicos-rechazadas-tse/>

US ambassador James D. Nealon comments on future extraditions to the US.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/29/29525/>

<http://tiempo.hn/john-nealon-no-avisaremos-seguiran-las-extradiciones/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3562-mártires-del-bálsamo-y-la-vigencia-de-la-lucha-agraria-y-laboral-29-marzo-2017>

31/03/17

HRDs; Bajo Aguán; LGTBI; Corruption; Freedom of Expression; (Re)Elections; MP; Disabilities; and Don't Kill the Messenger

The National Red of Human Rights Defenders denounces a new defamation

campaign against COPINH and Radio Progreso's Ismael Moreno.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/30/la-red-nacional-defensoras-dd-hh-honduras-rechaza-campana-difamacion-copinh-padre-melo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/30/denuncian-persecucion-orlandista-contrasacerdote-ismael-moreno-y-el-dirigente-salvador-zuniga/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/aparece-campaña-de-odio-contradirector-de-radio-progreso>

The Agrarian Platform of the Aguán Valley meet with World Bank ombudsman Osvaldo Gratacós.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/ombudsman-del-banco-mundial-se-reune-con-campesinos-en-el-aguan>

http://www.cao-ombudsman.org/documents/CAOCommuniqueMonitoringofIFC_Honduras_Dinant_March2017_ENG.pdf

Indira Mendoza, coordinator of the Catrachas Lesbian Network denounces the high amount of assassinations of Lesbians in Honduras since 2010.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1702-honduras-militares-y-policias-generan-actos-de-terror-y-robo-de-informacion-contramujeres-lesbianas>

In an interview with Radio Globo, MACCIH revealed that the MP is investigating in the Latin American-wide Odebrecht corruption case.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/30/ministerio-publico-investigara-supuesta-corrupcion-de-odebrecht-en-honduras/>

The president of the Honduran Journalists' College (CPH), Dagoberto Rodríguez, laments that Congress' president Mauricio Oliva refused to discuss the derogation of the so-called Óscar Álvarez Bill which criminalizes freedom of expression in Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/30/parlamento-de-honduras-no-quiere-derogar-ley-oscar-alvarez-que-violenta-la-libre-expresion/>

<http://tiempo.hn/articulo-335-del-codigo-penal/>

US ambassador James D. Nealon asks the Honduran government to regulate the reelection, therefore, officially accepting JOH's reelection bid.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/03/30/ee-uu-bendice-de-manera-sutil-a-hernandez-al-pedir-que-se-reglamente-la-reeleccion/>

The Attorneys General of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala are currently on an official visit in the US.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/03/30/fiscales-generales-guatemala-honduras-salvador-se-reunen-washington/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/03/30/fiscal-general-la-republica-fortalece-relaciones-ee-uu/>

There has been an increase of denouncements of human rights violations by people with disabilities in Honduras.

<http://tiempo.hn/denuncias-de-personas-con-discapacidad/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/3565-matar-al-mensajero-30-marzo-2017>