

01/12/12

(Re)Elections - Protests, Armed Forces, Results, TSE, Fraud, OAS, Journalists, US, Opposition Alliance, Liberal Party; and Honduras Burns, Literally

Just before midnight on Wednesday anti-fraud protesters in Honduras - including numerous young children - were tear-gassed repeatedly by a military police tank and riot police outside of the INFOP, where the ballots and tallies are stored and counted. ContraCorriente calls this surge of repression the turning point of the current political crisis. This was the beginning of a day of protest and fierce repression throughout Honduras.

According to Pasos de Animal Grande, protests took place in 16 departments and the police violently repressed them in at least 10 locations.

Criterio reports that police and Military Police repression led to the death of one protester as well as three wounded in Comayagüela. Defensores en Línea reports on three wounded protesters, all of them through police violence.

C-Libre reports on police repression in Tegucigalpa, but also in San Pedro Sula.

Heather Gies reports for the Real News directly from Honduras and published a 14min video.

Aqui Abajo offers an overview of yesterday's events.

MASSVIDA, a coalition of some 22 human rights organization in the south of Honduras, denounce the use of force against the protesters.

Reporteros de Investigación published a photo essay of the protests and its repression.

The UN bodies with representation in Honduras demand from state security forces that they respect, protect and guarantee the rights of the protesters.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/30/la-crisis-politica-honduras-llega-punto-inflexion/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/fuerte-represion-contra-manifestantes-de-la-alianza>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/11/30/honduras-las-urnas-la-calle/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/protestas-a-nivel-nacional-por-falta-de-transparencia-en-el-manejo-de-las-actas-electorales-fotos/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1965-16-departamentos-con-protestas-contra-el-fraude-electoral-gobierno-responde-con-desalojos-violentos-en-10-lugares>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/30/crisis-politica-en-honduras-reporta-un-muerto-y-tres-heridos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/30/se-agudiza-crisis-se-reporta-el-primer-muerto/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tres-defensores-de-la-democracia-heridos-por-elementos-policiales/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/polic%C3%ADa-nacional-reprime-manifestantes-y-periodistas-en-tegucigalpa-y-sps>

<http://therealnews.com/t2/story:20611:Protests-Erupt-as-Honduras-Presidential-Election-Results-Reversed>

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2017/11/30/day-4-update-honduran-election-crisis>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/mass-vida-inadmisible-que-joh-use-fuerzas-de-seguridad-para-aterorizar-poblacion-en-exigencia-del>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/11/30/insurreccion-y-llamado-a-la-calma/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/30/sistema-naciones-unidas-honduras-pide-al-derecho-manifestarse-pueblo/>

Albany Flores ponders the question why the armed forces violate their constitutional duty and seem to allow the illegal reelection bid of JOH.

She finds among other things that no other government since 1982 has invested some much money and PR in the industrial-military complex of Honduras, e.g. buying two war ships for 320 million Lempiras just weeks before the elections.

<http://elpulso.hn/porque-las-fuerzas-armadas-apoyaran-el-continuismo/>

At the time of writing, the TSE counted 94.31% of the votes and JOH leads by 46'000 votes. After the 5% lead of Nasralla with 57% of the votes counted, many observers question the possibility that the trend in the new votes added could shift that dramatically without fraud being involved. Javier Suazo writes in his analysis about a "technical coup". This analysis is by the fact that the results changed significantly after the five-hour system breakdown on Tuesday (see yesterday's e-mail). The TSE magistrate magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo also demands an investigation of this.

Due to this, he was threatened by the Nationalist congressman Antonio "Toño" Rivera.

Honduras Culture and Politics tries to shine some light about the controversy of the withhold votes by the TSE for "monitoring". They find that "[s]o far, though, in the Departments of Atlantida, Colon, Santa Barbara, Valle and Yoro, the total of votes on these uncounted tallies for the Alianza is higher than the total for the National Party." Later on they added Santa Barbara to list of departments where votes held for "monitoring" favored the Opposition Alliance.

In a second article, they tried to highlight a significant development easily lost during this troubled times: "[E]ven if the incumbent president somehow holds on for a second term, against the popular rejection of presidential re-election seen in pre-election opinion surveys, the opposition campaign mobilized a far larger group of voters than international observers expected."

El Libertador published a link to the withhold tallies.

The Economist published more excerpts from the leaked tape which instructs National Party activist to conduct the fraud.

OFRNAEH denounces "a coup d'état in the Banana Republic of Honduras".

The electoral observation mission of the EU, meanwhile, urges the TSE not to announce any results before all the votes are counted.

And so does the OAS.

According to the TSE, results will be announced on Saturday.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189553>

<https://twitter.com/TN5Telenoticias/status/936297303891152897>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2552-partido-nacional-amenaza-a-magistrado-electoral>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/controversy-about-votes-being-monitored.html>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/11/yesterday-tribunal-supremo-electoral.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2550-las-actas-que-el-tribunal-electoral-se-niega-a-registrar>

<https://www.economist.com/news/americas/21731791-excerpts-tape-what-appears-be-training-session-poll-workers-suspicious>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/11/30/golpe-electoral-en-la-republica-bananera-de-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-mision-de-observacion-electoral-de-la-oea-insta-al-tse-a-procesar-todas-las-actas-antes-de-proclamar-los-resultados/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/30/oea-pide-al-tribunal-electoral-que-no-declare-ganadores-si-no-concluye-conteo-de-votos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2553-hondurenos-conoceran-hasta-el-sabado-resultado-de-elecciones>

TSE president David Matamoros tries to blame the protest for the dismal role played by the TSE...

US Senator Ben Cardin expressed worries about the ongoing delays as well as the reported irregularities in the electoral process.

The Alignment against Continuity proposes a way out of the political crisis: i) a physical count of the tallies under international supervision, ii) a comparison and resulting purge of the tallies at the TSE with the ones from the political parties as a precondition for the count, and iii) no official declaration of results by the TSE before the physical count is finished.

The International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) expresses its great preoccupation in an open letter. They question the behavior of the TSE and they demand a new count of the physical tallies in presence of international observers. In the meantime, they further demand that the results won't be recognized. Lastly, the FIDH urges the Honduran state to respect the right to peaceful protests.

CEJIL believes the political rights of Hondurans to be threatened by the behavior of the TSE. Furthermore, they demand an accompaniment of the protests by the UN Human Rights Office and CONADEH.

Further statements were published by international organizations addressing the TSE, such as a group of US organizations and Diakonia, and national organizations such as a group of Maya Chorti organizations and Caritas.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/30/ayer-estuvimos-a-punto-de-perder-las-elecciones-david-matamoros/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/30/senador-ben-cardin-exige-proceso-respeto-la-voluntad-del-pueblo-hondureno/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/propuesta-para-una-salida-a-la-crisis/>

<https://www.fidh.org/es/region/americas/honduras/fidh-recuento-acta-por-acta-en-honduras-es-la-unica-garantia-para>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-derechos-politicos-estan-en-riesgo-en-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/organizaciones-de-la-sociedad-civil-piden-transparencia-en-el-conteo-de-votos-en-las-elecciones-de-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/pronunciamiento-de-diakonia-por-los-derechos-democraticos-del-pueblo-hondureno-en-relacion-a-que-aun-no-se-oficializa-el-ganador-de-las-elecciones-presidenciales-del-26-de-noviembre/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/30/poblacion-maya-chorti-rechaza-fraudulento-proceso-electoral/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/30/caritas-pide-a-los-politicos-que-eviten-la-confrontacion-y-division/>

Demands for recounts due to fraud are also heard in some municipalities.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/voto-x-voto-en-el-municipio-de-sensenti-ocotepeque/>

MADJ denounces the role of the OAS in trying to supersede the will of Hondurans with a failed agreement between Nasralla and JOH to accept the results coming out of the TSE.

Jaime A Flores doesn't mince words when he speaks of a fraud with permission of the international community.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/11/30/MADJ-Ante-el-fraude-electoral-llamamos-a-la-defensa-de-la-voluntad-del-pueblo>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/30/fraude-permiso-la-comunidad-internacional/>

Journalist at UNE TV denounce that CONATEL is trying to take them off the air for reporting on the protests and possible electoral fraud. This brings back dark memories from 2009 when Globo was occupied by the Armed Forces.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/11/30/39594/>

Global Witness launched a campaign in the US demanding members of Congress to immediately withhold security assistance to Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1964-witness-for-peace-municiones-estadounidenses-se-han-usado-contra-manifestantes-hondurenos>

The Opposition Alliance continues to explain how the TSE controlled by the National Party holds back tallies in which Nasralla has won. According to their parallel computer center, Nasralla wins the election with 43.1% over 42.5% for JOH. They published another press release yesterday announcing that they won't recognize the results by the TSE due to a series of irregularities. Manuel Zelaya, therefore, demands a public count of the physical tallies.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189540>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/30/alianza-afirma-que-no-reconocera-resultados-emitidos-por-el-tse/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/11/30/mel-pide-un-escrutinio-publico-para-validar-votos-de-elecciones-generales/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1963-se-profundiza-la-crisis-ante-la-amenaza-de-un-nuevo-fraude-electoral>

El Pulso takes a closer look at the Liberal Party, who for the first time in history lost three consecutive elections.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-desilusion-del-partido-liberal/>

<http://elpulso.hn/incendio-consume-museo-del-hombre-hondureno/>

02/12/17

(Re)Elections - Protests, Journalists, Results, TSE, Liberal Party, OAS, Looting, Int. Coverage; Electoral Reforms, US; Human Rights; Poverty; Corrigendum; and Honduras Resists

"Honduras is under siege" - the title used by ContraCorriente to describe the situation in Honduras, became even more true some hours later as on 11pm the Honduran government announced a curfew. It is supposed to last for 10 days between 6pm and 6am every day. Criterio published the executive decree, which suspends constitutional rights. One example is that journalists not accredited by the TSE will be detained if the report from their facilities after 6pm.

Ebal Diaz, secretary of the Council of Ministers, blames activists of the Opposition Alliance for the need to establish a curfew and JOH claims that he only did what churches, social organizations and the armed forces asked from him...

COFADEH launched an urgent action "to the national and international community on behalf of members of the political and social movement of Honduras who are at high risk due to the militarization of the capital of the republic and declarations made by functionaries of the state of Honduras inciting their supporters into the streets to attack the political opposition that is actively responding to the irresponsibility of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal that has denied the population the right to information about the tabulation of votes from the election on November 26th, 2017."

A long article by ConexiHon offers a grim overview of the current situation in Honduras.

Univision published some photographic illustrations of the protests. And Sam Vinal published a short, high-quality, video of the protests in Tegucigalpa.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/01/honduras-bajo-sitio/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1969-al-estilo-micheletti-el-gobierno-de-joh-decreta-suspension-de-garantian-constitucionales-en-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2557-gobierno-suspende-garantias-constitucionales-a-hondurenos>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/01/conozca-texto-del-decreto-toque-queda-honduras/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1131413-410/toque_de_queda-saqueos-elecciones-honduras-disturbios-nasralla-juan_orlando_hernandez

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/01/joh-culpa-a-iglesias-y-otros-actores-por-estado-de-sitio/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1131415-466/gobierno-suspende-garant%C3%ADas-constitucionales-esta-noche>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/urgent-action-members-of-the-political-and-social-movement-in-honduras-are-at-risk/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/accion-urgente-en-riesgo-la-integridad-de-las-y-los-miembros-del-movimiento-politico-y-social-de-honduras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/honduras-desesperacion-popular-estalla-tras-cinco-dias-de-silencio-del-tribunal>

<http://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/in-photos-police-clash-with-the-opposition-protesters-over-disputed-election-in-honduras-fotos#717e0a6b0000>

<https://vimeo.com/245479929>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/continuan-las-protestas-exigiendo-se-respete-la-voluntad-del-pueblo-y-transparencia-en-resultados-foto/>

<http://avispa.org/honduras-miles-protestan-contra-fraude-electoral/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on police violence against journalists and human rights defenders.

C-Libre denounces a series of attacks against journalists at UNE TV.

They also denounce the harassment of a teleSUR cameraman by employees at the National Migration Institute.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/elecciones-en-honduras-2017/item/1966-como-no-hay-castigo-altos-jefes-policiales-siguen-violentando-la-labor-de-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-en-el-contexto-de-las-elecciones>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/periodistas-denuncian-persecuci%C3%B3n-y-robo-de-informaci%C3%B3n>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/empleados-de-migraci%C3%B3n-hostigan-camar%C3%B3grafo-de-telesur>

Yesterday, the special count of the remaining 1031 tallies, which have been flagged, should have taken place in the presence of the two parties. The Opposition Alliance presented some prerequisite for its participation. Here are three of their eleven demands: i) a complete list of the 1031 tallies; ii) a complete list of the 5174 tallies which weren't sent from polling stations but rather scanned at the TSE; iv) a recount of the votes in Lempira, La Paz and Intibucá, where the participation was unusually high with 70% and more while in the rest of the departments it was between 50-55%. It goes without saying that JOH won these three departments with a high margin (85'000 votes). Because the TSE didn't fulfill these requisites, the Alliance abstained from the special count.

The TSE then suspended it, announcing that they would meet later that day with the Alliance to discuss their demands.

At the same time, El Heraldo published a statement by the TSE claiming that it fulfilled the demands by the Alliance, but it only addresses

seven out of the eleven demands.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2556-alianza-opositora-exige-recontar-votos-de-tres-departamentos>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/01/alianza-oposicion-exige-listado-5174-escaneadas-desde-bodegas-del-tse-punto-partida-escrutinio-definitivo/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/01/alianza-oposicion-no-llega-al-escrutinio-tse-no-acepta-los-11-puntos-planteados/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/01/se-suspende-escrutinio-tse/>

<http://tiempo.hn/suspenden-inicio-escrutinio-especial-lo-reprograman-este-sabado/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1131359-508/tribunal-supremo-electoral-satisface-a-mel-con-informaci%C3%B3n-solicitada>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/01/zelaya-desmiente-al-tse-de-la-entrega-total-de-bases-de-datos-sobre-comicios/>

The International Cooperation Association (Espacio ACI) consisting of 28 international NGOs already release its second public statement supporting the EU's observation mission to hold a public count of the votes. Furthermore, they demand that the TSE tallies are compared with the one from the political parties.

Several Swiss civil society organizations published a joint letter expressing their great preoccupation about the situation in Honduras. They urge the international community to demand from the Honduran government the respect of human rights. Furthermore, they demand a recount of the votes under international supervision.

The vice-president of the party DIE LINKE (The Left) in the German parliament demands a reaction by the German government to the events in Honduras. She urges the German government to demand an independent vote by cote recount of the electoral results.

The same demand comes from the Co-Director of CEPR, Mark Weisbrot: "Given the closeness of the official election results, the lack of a reasonable explanation for the delays, and the problematic vote counting process, it is imperative that the electoral authorities allow for a full recount before declaring official results," Weisbrot said. "This recount should include a comparison between the tally sheets the electoral authority scanned into its system with the tally sheets in the possession of political parties, in order to ensure compliance."

The Central American District of the Society of Jesus denounces state repression and criticizes the lack of professionalism of the TSE.

There are also new public statements by Honduran organizations with the same demands, e.g. from the Plataforma Somos Muchas and the Platform of Social and Popular Movements of Honduras (PMSPH).

https://www.facebook.com/notes/oxfam-en-honduras/espacio-aci-respalda-recomendaciones-de-misi%C3%B3n-de-observ-electoral-para-transpar/1548982265196819/?_fb_noscript=1

https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/20171201_CartaAbierta_Honduras.pdf

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/elecciones-en-honduras-2017/item/1967-diputada-heike-haensel-parlamento-de-alemania-posible-fraude-electoral-en-honduras-el-gobierno-de-alemania-debe-reaccionar>

<https://www.linksfraktion.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/detail/moeglicher-wahlbetrug-in-honduras-bundesregierung-muss-reagieren/>
(in German)

<http://cepr.net/press-center/press-releases/ahead-of-final-honduran-election-results-cepr-co-director-calls-for-full-review-to-address-irregularities-lack-of-transparency>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/provincia-centroamericana-de-la-compania-de-jesus-denuncio-la-falta-de-profesionalismo-del-tse.html>

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/comunicado-plataforma-somos-muchas-expresa-su-preocupacion-frente-a-falta-de-democracia-en-honduras/>

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/comunicado-de-la-plataforma-del-movimiento-social-y-popular-de-honduras-pmsph/>

The Liberal Party announced that they will publish their tallies in an convenient moment.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/01/luis-promete-revelar-resultado-de-actas-cuando-sea-el-momento-oportuno/>

Radio Progreso unmasks the behavior by the OAS for demanding from Salvador Nasralla to stick with their agreement as hypocritical.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4032-acuerdos-incumplidos-01-diciembre-2017>

A common way to denigrate protesters is to present them as violent thugs, which is then further used to repress them. In Honduras, the government and the main media use this approach concentrating on looting taking place in some parts of Honduras. Pasos de Animal Grande highlights the absence of state security forces from looted places, raising fears that the chaos is orchestrated from above. Salvador Nasralla also denounces that the government is infiltrating the protests.

As an example on how the main media smears the protesters, I'll link to an article by Radio HRN presenting a group of men recently arrested for looting as Alliance activist, members of the student movement and Libre followers...

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1968-crisis-en-honduras-sospechosa-ausencia-de-cuerpos-de-seguridad-donde-hay-saqueos-de-negocios>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4036-nasralla-gobierno-infiltra-las-manifestaciones-pacificas>

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/38-politica-nacional/nasralla-asegura-que-protestas-de-la-alianza-opositora-son-pacificas.html>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/unas-50-personas-fueron-capturadas-en-saqueos-centros-comerciales-del-pa>

Al Jazeera, The Economist (even in its print edition), El Faro and Reuters published new articles on the situation in Honduras.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/honduras-election-tensions-high-final-count-delayed-171130130845936.html>

<https://www.economist.com/news/americas/21731881-loser-unlikely-accept-result-honduras-disputed-election-provokes-crisis>

<https://elfaro.net/es/201711/centroamerica/21222/La-crisis-sale-a-las-calles-de-Tegucigalpa.htm>

<https://es.reuters.com/article/topNews/idESKBN1DV41R-OESTP>

El Pulso writes about the need for electoral reforms to lower the likelihood of the current situation Honduras is in.

<http://elpulso.hn/reformas-electorales-en-honduras/>

The highest US representative in Honduras, Heide Fulton, also asks the TSE not to publish any results before all votes are counted. The president of the Miami-based Honduran organization Francisco Morazán, Francisco Portillo, proposes of all people the former coup-general Romeo Orlando Vásquez Velásquez to mediate between JOH and Nasralla...

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/encargada-de-negocios-de-embajada-de-eeuu-reitera-que-es-imperativo-que-tse-cuenta-todas-las-actas.html>

<http://www.departamento19.hn/index.php/portada/69-actualidad/50284-lideres-en-eeuu-piden-dialogo-entre-herandez-y-nasralla-tambien-proponen-nombrar-mediador.html>

Yesterday I mistakenly wrote that Global Witness launched a campaign in the US demanding members of Congress to immediately withhold security assistance to Honduras. It was not Global Witness, but rather Witness for Peace. The lack of sleep must have gotten to me.

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/organizational-sign-on-letter-demand-action-in-wake-of-november-26th-honduran-elections>

Yesterday, the yearly Central American Report on Human Rights and Social Conflict in Central America was presented to the public.

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/uncategorized/comunicado-de-prensa-situacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-centroamerica/>

A new report by the World Bank highlights how susceptible poverty reduction efforts in Latin America are to nature- or human-made shocks.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/01/millones-personas-latinoamerica-caribe-estan-desastre-regresar-la-pobreza/>

https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/28892/Final%20Report%20-%20Aggregate%20Shocks%20and%20Economic%20Progress_Spanish%28web%29.pdf

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/01/honduras-resiste/>

03/12/17

(Re)Elections - Protests, Curfew, Results, TSE, EU, Analysis, Journalist, JOH, and How to Build a Dictatorship

El Tiempo reports on the first murdered protester after the declared curfew - the 19-year old Kimberly Dayana Fonseca.

The Guardian also reports on the murder of Kimberly Dayana Fonseca. In total, eight murders around the protests have been reported so far, five of the took place in the López Arellano neighborhood in Choloma, Cortés. Three of them have been identified: José David Ramos Lambert (22), Roger Alberto Vásquez Reyes (35) and Víctor Evelio Martínez Álvarez. Defensores en Línea reports on a second murder the same night. According to them, the 16-year old José Fernando Melgar was shot by soldiers in La Ceiba. Already on Thursday night, José Abilio Soto was murdered by soldiers also in La Ceiba.

The Honduran Human Rights Roundtable held the second press conference yesterday in a week denouncing the curfew and blames “excessive force” by Honduran military and state security forces for the violence at protests. They further accuse the armed forces of creating a “terrorist state” against peaceful protesters, killing at least two people with rubber bullets and injuring dozens.

Under the tag Dark Night Honduras (Noche Negra Honduras), videos are being uploaded to Youtube portraying violence by state security forces against Hondurans.

Both the New York Times and Al Jazeera report on the curfew and the fast escalating situation.

Nasralla commented in a short video on the curfew and how the government has infiltrated the protests to present them as violent.

COFADEH denounces arbitrary arrests of protesters accusing them of looting and throwing them in jail as part of an intimidation strategy.

El Tiempo reports that at least 100 people have been arrested in the first night of the curfew.

The Opposition Alliance announced a new nation-wide mobilization for today at 11am.

The secretary of the Council of Ministers, Ebal Díaz, now claims that the protests are financed by "a country from South America" and that they are executing a long-planned strategy. I guess their supposed strategy included the dismal behavior of the TSE...

<http://tiempo.hn/asesinan-a-una-joven-en-las-protestas-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/02/honduras-troops-shoot-dead-teenage-girl-curfew-election-crisis-protests>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4038-honduras-se-hunde-entre-el-luto-y-la-represi%C3%B3n>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2560-honduras-caceria-militar-deja-7-muertos-y-20-heridos>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/al-menos-dos-muertos-en-primera-noche-con-toque-de-queda-en-honduras/>

<https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Honduras-Rights-Groups-Slam-Govt-Amid-Civilian-Crackdowns-20171202-0008.html>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrtGcd-pHRmSySW_EfucmAw

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/02/world/americas/honduras-vote-count.html>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/honduras-army-police-crackdown-election-unrest-171202085517700.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/SalvadorPresidente/videos/1940781576139119/>

<http://www.resumenlatinoamericano.org/2017/12/02/honduras-la-dictadura-de-joh-suspende-garantias-constitucionales-y-aplica-toque-de-queda-en-el-pais-el-pueblo-no-se-amilana-y-lucha-en-las-calles-todas-las-fotos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/envian-a-la-carcel-a-joven-capturado-en-protesta-contra-el-fraude-y-acusado-de-robo-agravado/>

<http://tiempo.hn/al-menos-100-detenidos-por-toque-de-queda-a-nivel-nacional/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/02/honduras-alianza-oposicion-convoca-movilizaciones-nivel-nacional-este-domingo/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/12/02/rostro-de-protestas-que-motivaron-estado-de-sitio-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/un-pais-de-suramerica-financia-las-protestas-en-honduras-ebal-diaz.html>

Various human rights organizations condemned the installation of a curfew. Juan Almendarez Bonilla, director of CPTRT, calls it a death penalty for the Honduran people and C-Libre's director Eddy Tábora announced that a group of human rights organization are about to appeal the decision at the Supreme Court.

The Honduran government, meanwhile, announced that the curfew is suspended...in three tourism areas.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4040-condena-total-a-decisi%C3%B3n-de-gobierno-hondure%C3%B1o-por-decretar-%E2%80%9Cestado-de-sitio%E2%80%9D>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/02/estado-de-sitio-en-honduras-es-ilegal-porque-no-fue-firmado-por-joh-c-libre/>

<http://tiempo.hn/suspenden-toque-queda-tres-departamentos-turisticos/>

The TSE postponed, as the day before, the special count of the remaining tallies. And again they blame the Opposition Alliance for not showing up, while it is the TSE that hasn't complied with its prerequisite to guarantee a transparent process. Furthermore, its president David Matamoros Batson claims that the audit of the 5000+ tallies requested by the Opposition Alliance would take up to 15 days - the Electoral Law gives the TSE 30 days to announce its results after an election. Nevertheless, Criterio reported later that day that the TSE now accepts ten out of the eleven demands by the Opposition Alliance. But the still deny the recount in the three departments with an unusually high voter participation (and which JOH won with a big margin). The special count is now planned for today at 9:30am.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/02/autoridad-electoral-sigue-esperando-a-la-alianza-opositora-para-iniciar-escrutinio/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1131546-508/tribunal-supremo-electoral-tse-pospone-escrutinio-de-actas-a-falta-de-la>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/02/tse-amplia-puntos-solicitados-la-alianza-oposicion-realizar-escrutinio-las-actas/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-suspende-conteo-de-actas-por-incumplimiento-de-la-alianza/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/02/tse-suspende-jornada-esperan-manana-la-alianza-se-sume-escrutinio/>

The Canadian government demanded a recount of the votes "without any interference".

Expressions of preoccupation also come from Ecuador and Costa Rica. Transparency International now also demands a recount of all tallies under the supervision of international observers.

Criterio reports on new irregularities at the TSE.

And Luis Zelaya accuses the TSE of having defrauded an entire nation.

A group of 269 academics wrote an open letter to the TSE declaring their behavior "unorthodox, inexcusable and worrisome".

Criticism also comes from the Honduran business sector.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/canada-solicita-un-recuento-de-votos-en-honduras-sin-interferencias.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/canciller-de-ecuador-expresa-su-preocupacion-por-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/anticorruption/status/936921050767491072>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/02/39673/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/02/actuacion-deficiente-tse-defraudo-pueblo-luis-zelaya/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/02/269-intelectuales-del-mundo-piden-transparencia-elecciones-al-tse/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/barquero%E2%80%99Cla-percep%C3%B3n-de-la-falta-de-transparencia-del-tse-nos-tiene-en-est%C3%A1-situaci%C3%B3n%E2%80%9D>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2562-honduras-empresarios-claman-ayuda-internacional-para-superar-crisis>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/sindicatos-de-la-maquila-piden-al-tse-que-se-apresure-a-dar-resultado-electoral.html>

CIFCA and Grupo Sur call out to the EU and its member state to guarantee the presence of its observation mission in Honduras and have them publish a second preliminary report based on the post-elections event. They further demand that the results are only recognized once they comply with national and international legal frameworks. Lastly, they demand that the EU and its member states demand from Honduras to allow its citizens to protest and that CONADEH and international institutions accompany them.

PODEMOS published an open letter condemning the imposition of a curfew and calling on the Spanish government not to accept the results without a recount under international supervision.

http://www.pbi-honduras.org/fileadmin/user_files/projects/honduras/files/Comunicados/171102CIFCA-GrupoSur_CartaJEHonduras.pdf

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/02/podemos-rechaza-la-represion-la-imposicion-del-toque-queda-honduras/>

Joaquín Mejía explains what has happened since last Sunday's elections in ten steps.

El Pulso spoke with the Wilfredo Méndez, the director of CIPRODEH, about the political significance of the elections, for example for the bipartisan system.

The Grass is Greener interviewed Maria Robinson, board member of the Marin Task Force on the Americas, whose delegation watched last week's presidential election in Honduras.

<https://joaquinmejia.rivera.blogspot.co.uk/2017/12/radiografia-de-la-crisis-del-26n-en-10.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/wilfredo-mendez-si-el-fraude-se-impone-existe-la-posibilidad-de-que-el-bipartidismo-tenga-una-oportunidad-de-oxigeno/>

<https://soundcloud.com/user-240416425/the-grass-is-greener-2017-12>

The Honduran state claims that the curfew doesn't violate freedom of expression because media companies can request from department heads of the police and exception for their staff...

As expected, journalist and human rights organization condemn this police-regulated work scheme for journalists.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/empresas-deben-de-acreditar-a-periodistas-y-empleados-para-que-circulen-en-toque-de-queda.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/02/insolito-policia-quien-regulara-trabajo-los-periodistas/>

teleSUR reports that JOH left Honduras for the US. The information comes from Nasralla who claims JOH had fled to the United States ahead of a plan to announce a state of emergency.

Radio Progreso explains how JOH became the most detested politicians and state officials in Honduras since last Sunday and a possible second turn would lead to even more conflict, polarization, confrontation and violence. Edmundo Orellana wrote an open letter to JOH.

<https://www.telesurtv.net/english/amp/english/news/Honduras-Suspends-Constitution-as-President-Flees-Violence-20171201-0020.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4041-protestas-callejeras-en-un-polvor%C3%ADn-de-malestares-e-indignaci%C3%B3n>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/02/senor-presidente/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/02/imperio-la-estupidez-la-ilegalidad/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/02/lo-explicarle-juan-orlando/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/audiovisual/item/4034-as%C3%AD-se-construye-una-dictadura>

04/12/17

(Re)Elections - Protests, HRDs, Results, TSE, EU, US, National Party, Liberal Party, Int. Solidarity; and Why After 35 Years, COFADEH Is Needed More Than Ever

Hondurans react with creativity to the curfew banging pans in so-called 'cacerolazos' throughout the night and re-establishing their presence. Or as ContraCorriente writes: "Flowers and pots - joy returned to the streets."

Nevertheless, the Alignment against Continuity warns of a human rights catastrophe in the making if the repression continues.

Or as Pasos de Animal Grande writes: "Honduras is under fire."

Defensores en Línea published a video on its homepage documenting the repression.

El Tiempo reports that over 500 people have so far been detained during the two nights of curfew.

During the day, Hondurans took to the streets again in massive protests.

One theme of the protests was: "JOH, you messed with the wrong generation".

The Liberal Party joined in the protest.

In a joint press release, the IACHR and the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras "express their profound preoccupation about the serious acts of violence registered in post-electoral Honduras" and they demand from the Honduran state to comply with its international obligations.

The Urgent Action Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean denounces the restriction of fundamental rights in Honduras and the criminalization of the right to protest. They demand a immediate end to the state of exception and an independent investigation into the human rights violations committed by state security forces.

Further statements come from CIPRODEH, the Human Rights Roundtable and the Guatemalan Human Rights Convergence.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189597>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/03/flores-cacerolas-la-alegria-volvio-las-calles/>

<http://tiempo.hn/cacerolazos-rompen-toque-de-queda/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-a-las-puertas-de-una-catastrofe-en-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1970-contexto-elecciones-generales-honduras-bajo-fuego-del-gobierno>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/represion-en-honduras-por-golpe-electoral-videos/>

<http://tiempo.hn/501-hondurenos-detenido-por-no-acatar-el-toque-de-queda/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/03/joh-te-metiste-la-generacion-equivocada-jovenes-movilizacion-tegucigalpa/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2563-hondurenos-se-movilizan-en-todo-el-pais-reclamando-triunfo-electoral>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/03/luis-autoriza-a-liberales-movilizarse-con-alianza-opositora-para-defender-triunfo-de-nasralla/>

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2017/197.asp>

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/b81245_d1818c9bc03e44779b9372ce9334add.pdf

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/comunicados/el-ciprodeh-expresa-preocupacion-ante-la-declaracion-toque-de-queda/>

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/comunicados/comunicado-de-prensa-mesa-nacional-de-derechos-humanos/>

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Comunicado.pdf>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on harassment by the Armed Forces of human rights defenders and journalists.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1971-registros-militares-a-periodistas-y-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-violentan-estandares-internacionales>

Yesterday around noon, the TSE announced that they would start with the special count without complying with all the prerequisites of the Opposition Alliance and, therefore, without their presence.

One key demand of the Alliance is the revision of the 5000+ tallies that were scanned in at the TSE and not at the polling stations. There is a great fear that they were manipulated.

At the time of writing, 97.11% of the votes have been counted and JOH leads by 1.61%.

<http://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/361421/elecciones-tribunal-electoral-escrutinio-matamoros>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-opositora-presenta-documento-ante-tse/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/03/si-pueden-revisar-mil-pueden-revisar-las-cinco-mil-actas-manuel-zelaya/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mel-zelaya-insiste-en-pedir-el-escrutinio-de-mas-de-cinco-mil-actas.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/02/nasralla-denuncia-un-golpe-de-estado-electoral-en-su-contra/>

A new press release by the Opposition Alliance raises further doubts about the TSE. According to the Alliance, the TSE informed them verbally of the crash of their system earlier this week, saying that their data had been formatted in the process.

The press release also replies to the reaction of the TSE to the initial request by the Alliance.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2564-tribunal-electoral-admite-fraude-en-honduras>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/03/alianza-tribunal-electoral-no-cumple/>

The EU electoral observation mission announced a press conference for 9.30am today.

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/937485550860361730>

There are interesting statements coming from the OAS electoral observation mission. They said that the special count won't be the end of the electoral process, further mentioning that the revision of the 5200 tallies demanded by the Opposition Alliance are 'meritorious' (atendibles).

<http://elpulso.hn/comunicado-de-la-comision-de-observadores-de-la-oea/>

While international organizations and other countries denounce the violence in Honduras and question the transparency of the electoral process, the US congratulates the TSE for starting the special count... It is statements such as this that has some observer believe that the events in Honduras are aligned with US interests. Atilio A. Boron writes of a 'preventive soft coup'.

Some 50 US rights group urge in an open letter the US Congress and US State Department to press Honduras for electoral transparency.

The Intercept reports on how the JOH regime is using US-trained security forces (TIGRES and Cobras) to repress protesters. "he crackdown by security forces only further impresses the need to reconsider their U.S. funding, experts say. "U.S.-funded police and military are engaged in violent repression of Honduran protesters, using munitions marked as made in the USA," said Dana Frank, Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Cruz."

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/embajada-de-eeuu-felicita-al-tse-por-iniciar-escrutinio-especial-de-actas.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/03/eeuu-ve-buenos-ojos-la-observancia-escrutinio-especial/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189600>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189596>

<https://www.comondreams.org/news/2017/12/02/us-outrage-grows-risk-honduran-election-theft-50-groups-join-call>

<https://theintercept.com/2017/12/03/the-president-of-honduras-is-deploying-u-s-trained-forces-against-election-protesters/>

The National Party continues to blame Venezuela for everything.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/partidonacional/1131751-508/ricardo-%C3%A1lvarez-pide-a-presidentes-que-se-pronuncien-sobre-injerencia-de-venezuela>

Javier Suazo contemplates the role of Luis Zelaya and the Liberal Party in today's Honduras.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189593>

Solidarity protests with Honduras and against the JOH regime have taken place in many parts of the world.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/03/hondurenos-gritan-joh-frente-la-casa-blanca/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-cumple-anos-luchando-tal-como-nacio/>

05/12/17

(Re)Elections - Police, Results, Fraud, OAS, Protests, Journalists, Curfew, Analysis, US, EU; US; EU; Penitentiary System; and Kimberly Dayana Fonseca

Yesterday evening, a surprising announcement made the rounds: "Honduran police have announced they will refuse to obey orders from the government of the incumbent president, Juan Orlando Hernandez, and will remain in their barracks until a political crisis triggered by last Sunday's contested presidential election has been resolved."

El Tiempo reports that some of the Cobras special forces who decided to stay on the side of the people were attacked by another group of Cobras trying to stop them with tear gas to when they read their press release.

While in the beginning it was the special forces, such as the Cobras, and the preventive police who refused orders, later on agents from the National Police Force also announced to join in the protests: "We are the people and we cannot kill us amongst ourselves."

Security Minister Julián Pacheco isn't too happy about the events and speaks of a conspiracy.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/04/honduras-election-board-refrains-from-declaring-winner-as-violence-continues>

<http://tiempo.hn/agentes-cobras-se-reusan-salir-reprimir/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/04/policias-rebelion-manifiestan-no-reprimiran-derecho-del-pueblo-la-protesta/>

https://www.facebook.com/unetvhn/videos/1407757169352993/?fref=mentions&_fb_noscript=1

<https://www.facebook.com/unetvhn/videos/1408141432647900/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2570-somos-pueblo-y-no-podemos-matarnos-con-el-pueblo-policia-hondurena>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2569-ultima-hora-joh-reprime-policia-agentes-advierten-paro-manana>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-se-van-a-paro-porque-no-esta-dispuesta-a-reprimir-al-pueblo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/04/secretario-de-seguridad-justifica-subelevacion-de-agentes-cobras/>

The TSE announced yesterday at 5:15am that they ended the special count. In what has by then already become a highly questionable result, JOH was in the lead by 1.60%.

The EU observation mission found clear words when its spokesperson said that the electoral "process is a long way from being over."

She went on to say that the TSE should consider the demands by the Opposition Alliance and revise the 5000+ tallies as well as the votes from the three departments with an unusually high voter-turnout over-proportionally favoring JOH.

The TSE announced that they are open to revise the 5000+ tallies as one of the initial requested by the Alliance and supported by both the EU and OAS electoral observation mission.

Honduras Culture and Politics adds something more to the debate:

"[E]lection law actually demands a recount of some votes already. This isn't because of the uncertainties about counting the poll tallies that are already being debated. It's because the margin between candidates is less than the number of null votes. Null votes are those marked as invalid at the polling place, and thus not included in the totals on the poll tallies from which the central electoral authorities work."

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1131652-508/resultado-final-del-tribunal-supremo-electoral-da-como-ganador-a-joh-sobre>

<http://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-42229235>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-proceso-electoral-no-ha-terminado-moe-ue/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1131875-508/uni%C3%B3n-europea-sobre-elecciones-en-honduras-el-proceso-est%C3%A1-lejos-de-ser>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEkx962oall&feature=youtu.be>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2017/1131830-410/tse-david_matamoros_joh-salvador_nasralla-elecciones_honduras

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/12/analyses-support-doubts-about-vote-and.html>

The Economist analyzed the elections results and writes about worrisome findings: "If the results released by the TSE at each stage of the count were a representative sample of the country, the chance of such a shift from Mr Nasralla in early results to Mr Hernández in later ones would be close to zero."

The Spanish newspaper El País spoke with human rights specialist Joaquín Mejía about the Honduran elections. Mejía explains how electoral fraud is inherent in the current Honduran electoral system with a party - the National Party - in total control of all relevant institutions. For the current situation, he stresses that the only way out is the total recount of all tallies in presence of international observers.

El Faro interviewed TSE magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo. When asked about electoral fraud, he said that "there are questions, a lot of questions."

Even though not outright calling it fraud, he goes on to say that he doubts that the crashing of the TSE's system was an accident and he renews his calls for an independent investigation.

Speaking with El Libertador, Marco Ramiro Lobo says that there are sufficient grounds to mistrust the electoral process.

Salvador Nasralla announced in a press conference that the TSE hired a company, Suministros Técnicos (Sumitec), to duplicate original tallies of the places which weren't transferred digitally to the TSE and they scanned those fraudulent ones into the system between Monday and Wednesday. And according to ConfidencialHN, Nasralla also asked for a meeting of the permanent council of the OAS to present them with proof of electoral fraud.

<https://www.economist.com/news/americas/21731972-questions-about-integrity-vote-count-will-not-go-away-analysing-juan-orlando>

https://elpais.com/internacional/2017/12/04/actualidad/1512348174_552317.html?id_externo_rsoc=TW_AM_CM

<https://elfaro.net/es/201712/centroamerica/21240/Magistrado-del-TSE-hondure%C3%B1o--%E2%80%9CLa-tendencia-se-revirti%C3%B3-cuando-se-cay%C3%B3-el-sistema%E2%80%9D.htm>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2566-dudas-de-la-alianza-son-razonables-asegura-funcionario-electoral>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/04/nasralla-denuncia-tse-mando-imprimir-duplicado-actas-fraguar-fraude/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/04/salvador-nasralla-pide-reunion-de-consejo-permanente-de-la-oea-para-denunciar-fraude/>

The electoral observation mission of the OAS wrote in its preliminary report that "the close margin of the results as well as the irregularities, errors and systemic problems which surrounded these elections, don't allow the Mission to have certainty about the results."

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/04/oea-responsabiliza-la-alianza-oposicion-atrasar-escrutinio-especial-e-insta-acuerdo-candidatos/>

While there is a faint hope that the repression will decrease after the announcements by state security forces (see first item), this certainly wasn't the case yesterday. Radio Progreso reports on the death of the 15-year old Yareth Gonzales, who died at the hand of police agents during a violent eviction of protesters.

COFADEH already counts with 12 murdered protesters by state security forces. The number of arrests rose to over 1300.

The international coverage of the protests in Honduras continues. The New York Time reports on "[h]uge demonstrations in the capital, Tegucigalpa, and the country's industrial hub, San Pedro Sula, snaked through the streets with an almost festive air as marchers waved the red flags of the main opposition party, which has denounced what it calls fraud in the vote tally."

Lisa Haugaard, the Executive Director of the Latin America Working Group, wrote in the Huffington Post about the protest and its brutal repression leading to the death of eight people so far. She also covers the controversial aspects that accompanied JOH's reelection bid from the beginning.

The Washington Post also writes about "substantial evidence of voter irregularities and fraud".

John Perry has a good summary in English on the London Review of Book blog. NPR also published a long article on the situation in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4050-un-muerto-y-dos-heridos-dej%C3%B3-desalojo-ejecutado-por-polic%C3%ADas-en-el-progreso-yoro>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/12-muertos-en-protestas-antifraude-en-honduras/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/toque-de-queda-deja-m%C3%A1s-de-mil-300-detenidos-en-tres-d%C3%AD>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/03/world/americas/honduras-election-hernandez-nasralla.html>

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/repression-in-honduras-as-citizens-protest-disputed_us_5a257806e4b04dacbc9bd947#

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/12/04/the-crisis-in-honduras-should-matter-to-the-u-s/?utm_term=.7422f67771c9&tid=sm_tw

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2017/12/04/john-perry/hard-times-in-honduras/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/12/03/568055171/honduras-on-the-brink-curfew-enforced-by-military-opposition-calls-for-new-elect?>

[utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_content=202903](https://twitter.com?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_content=202903)

C-Libre denounces various occasion of repression by the armed forces and the Military Police of journalists.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/represi%C3%B3n-militar-la-prensa-durante-cobertura-de-protestas-sociales>

The National Human Rights Roundtable presented yesterday a complaint at the Constitutional Chamber a the Supreme Court against the decree implementing the curfew. They highlight various aspects of it which violate basic rights and there is also a formalistic problem: it was signed by the vice-president and not the president, which, according to them, nullifies it.

The business lobby isn't too happy about the curfew either.

The hours of the curfew have now been changed. It starts at 8pm and lasts until 5am.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/organizaciones-demandan-poder-judicial-suspender-decreto-que-restringe-ddhh>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/04/denunciaran-criminalmente-al-vicepresidente-de-honduras-por-aprobar-estado-de-sitio/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/04/director-de-iniciativa-privada-se-queja-por-estado-de-sitio-y-millonarias-perdidas/>

<http://tiempo.hn/toque-de-queda-ahora-de-8-pm-a-5-am/>

A group of Honduran intellectuals published a joint statement on the current situation.

Democracy Now! has a great interview with Zenaida Velasquez, a Honduran human rights activist, and Matt Ginsberg-Jaeckle who has been in Honduras for over a week leading a human rights observation delegation.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4048-una-condici%C3%B3n-insurreccional>

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/12/4/honduras_protesters_defy_military_crackdown_and

US Senator Patrick Leahy published a long statement on Honduras, speaking of a "national crisis of confidence in the integrity of Honduras' democracy" and describing the electoral process the following way: "The process has been so lacking in transparency, so fraught with irregularities and inexplicable delays, and coupled with reports of excessive force by the Honduran police and military against peaceful protesters, it is increasingly obvious that the TSE's announcement only made a bad situation worse. There is too much suspicion of fraud, and too much distrust."

Another statement comes from US Senator Tim Kaine.

Democracy Now! held a further interview, this time with the Democratic Congressman Keith Ellison: "I think that we need a full examination of the U.S. relationship with Honduras relative to the years of security aid we've been sending down there and just the dramatic violence that is suffered by women, activists and people who are struggling for a more fair and democratic Honduras."

The US embassy, meanwhile, continues to congratulate the TSE for the completion of its special vote count. Nevertheless, they now also write of unacceptable and unjustified violence.

Criterion criticizes that they didn't demand the re-count of the 5000+ tallies.

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/leahy-statement-on-the-election-in-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/senador-de-eeuu-pide-proceso-transparente-y-creible-en-comicios-de-honduras.html>

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/12/4/rep_ellison_condemns_apparent_election_tampering

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/embassy-statement-honduran-electoral-process/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/04/embajada-ee-uu-deja-lado-peticion-la-alianza-oposicion/>

A group of EU parliamentarians wrote to the EU Commission demanding from them to remember the Honduran government to respect the rights of its people, to invoke a meeting with the Honduran ambassador to the EU and if the repression continues, to temporarily suspend the Association Agreement with Honduras.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/04/parlamento-europeo-exige-respeto-al-voto-popular-los-hondurenos/>

Proceso Digital reports on a prison riot in El Progreso which resulted in four dead inmates.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/balacera-en-central-penal-progreseno.html>

While Honduras lives through its worst moments since 2009, the US in the form of the State Department and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson certified Honduras to receive millions of dollars in U.S. aid.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-honduras-election-usa-exclusive/exclusive-u-s-document-certifies-honduras-as-supporting-rights-amid-vote-crisis-idUSKBN1DY2K7>

The EU announced a new 20 million Euros regional program in Central America to combat organized crime and drug trafficking.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/la-ue-aporta-20-millones-de-euros-para-combatir-el-crimen-en-centroamerica.html>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/quien-era-la-estudiante-que-murio-en-los-disturbios-de-honduras>

06/12/17

(Re)Elections - Police, Journalists, Protests, Curfew, TSE, Fraud, JOH, Opposition Alliance, US, EU, Analysis, OAS; Bajo Aguán; and a Country Rising Up

Heather Gies reports for Upside Down World on the surprising decision by the Cobras special unit on Monday evening to refuse to repress protesters. "Within hours, scores of police from other units joined the rebellion, streaming into headquarters by the truckload and vowing to stay off the streets until Honduras officially has a new president." Radio Progreso has a great analysis of the deeper roots of the protest by the police.

According to an audio file identified to be JOH's voice, the police returned to the streets after a call by JOH offering them perks. Nevertheless, at the same time they promised not to repress the people any longer.

The purging commissioner Alberto Solórzano, meanwhile, tries to deflect responsibility by speaking about "external factors" trying to destabilize the police...

I list two articles by the main media on the promises made by JOH to the police.

<http://upsidedownworld.org/archives/honduras/honduran-police-refuse-repress-protesters-doubt-cast-election-results/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4057-rebeli%C3%B3n-policial-es-producto-de-acumulaci%C3%B3n-de-conflictos-no-resueltos-en-honduras>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1972-rebelion-policial-en-prueba-de-fuego-es-reivindicacion-economica-o-realmente-ya-no-quieren-reprimir-al-pueblo-de-honduras>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/05/policias-consiguen-jugosas-prebendas-tras-acuerdo-hernandez/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/05/joh-asume-de-forma-personal-negociaciones-con-policias-sublevados/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/05/la-policia-vuelve-la-calle-condicion-no-reprimir/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/factores-externos-buscan-meter-mano-para-desestabilizar-la-policia-pastor-solorzano.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/05/presidente-hernandez-vienen-salarios-dignos-viviendas-bienestar-social-los-policias/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/este-dia-se-pagara-salario-y-aguinaldo-a-policias-reafirma-comisionado-diaz-herrera.html>

Three journalists from the US, the UK and New Zealand were held at the airport for almost a day and then expelled. They wanted to cover the post-electoral crisis, but the Migration officials didn't even let them leave the airport.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/05/migracion-honduras-expulsa-tres-periodistas-extranjeros-venian-cubrir-crisis-politica/>

Hondurans continue to go to the streets rejecting the results presented by the TSE.

Jessica Sánchez has a great article on the role of women in the protests.

Defensores en Línea continues to give faces to the victims of state repression in the post-electoral protests. One of them is the 15-year old Yareth Gonzales from Agua Blanca Sur, El Progreso, Yoro.

Raúl Antonio Triminio Cisnado (39) died at the hands of the Military Police after participating in a cacerolazo protest.

The World Organization against Torture (OMCT) and the International Platform against Impunity (Pi) condemn the excessive use of force and arms against the Honduran people, the arbitrary detention and the illegal privatization of liberty in military facilities.

Similar demands come from PBI, emphasizing the importance "for the Honduran government to comply with the established United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, to recognize and explicitly facilitate the tasks carried out by Human Rights Defenders of monitoring, standardization, and denunciations in the current context."

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4055-honduras-se-moviliza-al-ritmo-de-%C2%A1fuera-joh>

<http://elpulso.hn/de-procesos-electorales-mujeres-invisibles-y-una-lista-de-preguntas/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/un-menor-la-decimo-tercer-victima-mortal-de-la-represion-en-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/por-participar-en-cacerolazo-pmop-asesina-a-ciudadano/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/elecciones-en-honduras-2017/item/1973-comunicado-omct-y-la-plataforma-condenan-el-empleo-de-fuerza-y-armas-de-fuego-contralos-hondurenos>

http://www.pbi-honduras.org/fileadmin/user_files/projects/honduras/files/Comunicados/171205PBI__Comunicados_DefensaDDHHHonduras-eng.pdf

http://www.pbi-honduras.org/fileadmin/user_files/projects/honduras/files/Comunicados/171205PBI__Comunicados_DefensaDDHHHonduras-esp.pdf

The National Human Rights Roundtable presented a legal complaint against vice-president Ricardo Álvarez for abuse of authority and usurpation of

functions. According to them (and the constitution), Álvarez's signature of the decree imposing the curfew was illegal. ConexiHn reports about further irregularities around the curfew and the state of emergency. Apparently JOH, in his then function of Congress' president, derogated in 2011 the statute of a state of emergency. Back in the presence, more and more organizations and states demand an end to legally or illegally declared state of emergency.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/05/presentan-denuncia-ricardo-alvarez-abuso-autoridad-usurpacion-funciones-publicas/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/juan-orlando-hernandez-derogo-estado-de-sitio-en-2011>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/organizaciones-latinoamericanas-exigen-terminar-decreto-que-suspende-derechos-humanos>

It seems that there is more and more consensus about one demand of the Opposition Alliance, the re-counting of the 5000+ tallies. The business lobby COHEP now also spoke out in favor of it. It seems important to highlight here that this is just one demand and what is really necessary is a complete re-count as well as an investigation into the unbelievably high voter turn-out in three departments. Both the electoral mission of the EU and the OAS made clear in their statements that they expect the TSE to listen to these demands made by the Alliance. This is especially important now that the National Party also seems to agree pretending that this would solve everything. The TSE has a similar view as the National Party. Its strategy seems to be discursively open to all demands, but then fail to deliver on it.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/05/cohep-acuerdo-se-revisen-las-5174-actas-armando-urtecho/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/05/se-deben-recontar-todas-las-actas-saber-quienes-salieron-electos-doris-gutierrez/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/05/partido-nacional-invita-la-oposicion-recorra-las-impugnaciones/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2571-viernes-vence-plazo-para-impugnaciones-electorales-en-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/todo-lo-que-pidan-los-partidos-se-cumplira-si-esta-en-base-a-la-ley-matamoros-batson.html>

The Opposition Alliance reiterates that so far they weren't granted access to the computer system responsible for the transmission of the tallies.

El Tiempo reports from a press conference by the Alliance listing all their demands that haven't been fulfilled by the TSE yet. The National Catholic Reporter cites Padre Melo, the director of Radio Progreso, who calls the election reversal a "criminal fraud" and warned that it will be "catastrophic for the Honduran people" if the international community fails to drop the pretense of "impartiality and instead take an active role in demanding and observing a physical recount." Rick Sterling reports on the fraudulent behavior of the TSE.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/05/zelaya-y-nasralla-insiste-que-tribunal-supremo-electoral-les-monto-fraude1/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-oposicion-los-datos-del-tribunal-estan-contaminados/>

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/world/honduras-turmoil-after-disputed-presidential-election>

<http://www.mintpressnews.com/electoral-coup-attempt-underway-honduras/235119/>

Calls for the immediate resignation of JOH and installation of a provisional government led by social movements to rule until Nasralla assumes presidency in January grow louder.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/12/pueblo-lenca-exige-la-renuncia.html>

<https://hondurasresists.blogspot.ch/2017/12/copinh-calls-on-juan-orlando-hernandez.html?m=1>

<http://www.plataformamovimientosocial.org/comunicado-plataforma-del-movimiento-social-y-popular-de-honduras/>

<https://hondurasresists.blogspot.ch/2017/12/call-grows-for-immediation-resignation.html?m=1>

FRANCE 24 interviewed Salvador Nasralla about the fraudulent electoral process and what strategies have been used (the interview has been translated to English).

Nasralla proposes a second round election between him and JOH.

<http://www.cetusnews.com/news/%E2%80%98This-is-armed-robbery-%E2%80%99-Honduras-candidate-Nasralla-tells-FRANCE-24-.Sy3fnsXWG.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/05/nasralla-propone-segunda-vuelta-para-enfrentarse-al-candidato-presidente/>

"Progressive Caucus Leaders Condemn Post-Election Repression in Honduras, Urge Full Recount and Suspension of U.S. Military Aid"
Democracy Now! speaks with US Congressman Jan Schakowsky, as well as the two reporters Allan Nairn and Sarah Kinosian about the situation in Honduras and the role of the US. According to Schakowsky, the fact that the State Department still certified Honduras to receive security assistance under these circumstances led to a situation that "many of us in the Congress are saying we want to see a full recount, and we want to see the passage of our Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, that says, "No, no money is going to go, unless we make sure that human rights are acknowledged and not abused in Honduras.""

Kendra McSweeney and Sarah Chayes highlights the importance for the US to support democracy in Honduras.

<https://cpc-grijalva.house.gov/press-releases/progressive-caucus-leaders-condemn-postelection-repression-in-honduras-urge-full-recount-and-suspension-of-us-military-aid/>

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/12/5/honduran_riot_police_refuse_to_carry

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/democracy-post/wp/2017/12/05/want-to-limit-migration-we-can-start-by-supporting-democracy-in-honduras/?utm_term=.f661c8092e0b

63 solidarity and human rights organizations wrote an open letter to the EU and its member states calling among other things to urge the Honduran state to halt repression, to end of the curfew as well as to conduct a vote by vote recount under international supervision.

The EU released a statement from Brussels emphasizing that it is "essential that the electoral authorities remain open and responsive to possible appeals, including to a transparent re-counting process, if requested by candidates."

See Attachment

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/36791/Statement%20by%20the%20Spokesperson%20on%20the%20situation%20in%20Honduras

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-ue-apoya-un-nuevo-recuento-de-votos-en-honduras-si-lo-piden-candidatos.html>

Radio Progreso explains how the current situation Honduras is in could have been avoided in three different instances in the recent past: i) by JOH not illegally running again, ii) by having a plebiscite on the topic of the presidential reelections and iii) by implementation real electoral reform such as the de-politicization of the TSE and RNP. All three steps were rejected by JOH.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4051-la-convulsi%C3%B3n-que-pudo-evitarse-05-diciembre-2017>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2017/12/05/honduras-golpe-4-0-y-los-padrinos-de-la-narcodemocracia/>

The campesino organization Gregorio Chávez denounces in a public statement that soldiers attacked them in the afternoon of December 2 on the Paso Aguán plantation.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/militares-atacan-y-persiguen-campesinos-del-bajo-aguan/>

Roberto Regalado critically inquires the role of OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189681>

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1OMcZrgN86sjThglmUADrZ5wbpm-eUFAB&ll=14.259433510551785%2C-86.38772959670405&z=8>

07/12/17

(Re)Elections - Journalists, HRDs, Military Police, Results, Liberal Party, National Party, Analysis, Congress, Int. Coverage; US; National Police; Public Health; and a Drunken Cop

The Columbia Journalism Review offers some more details on the most recent case of expelled journalists from Honduras: "Two freelancers from the US have been refused entry to Honduras, where they were planning to cover the tumultuous aftermath of the country's disputed recent presidential election. The reporters, Jihan Hafiz and Reed Lindsay, say they were turned away from the Central American country for dubious reasons, and that when they called the US Embassy for assistance they were told by a staffer, "It's not my problem. You're an adult, figure it out.""

The article by ConexiHon publishes the statement by the National Migration Institute which presents their reasoning for expelling the three journalists.

<https://www.cjr.org/analysis/honduras-us-embassy-journalists-election.php>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/gobierno-hondureno-bloquea-prensa-internacional>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/gobierno-hondure%C3%B1o-expulsa-tres-periodistas-que-pretend%C3%ADan-informar-sobre-la-crisis-pol%C3%ADtica>

COFADEH held a press conference yesterday, in which it presented its report "Honduras - a post-electoral political crisis and its human rights impact". According to the report, already 14 persons violently lost their lives (12 were directly related to protests and 2 linked to the curfew), 51 were hurt (7 seriously, 2 with permanent damage) and 844 were detained. Furthermore, there have been 4 reported raids of people's homes in Tegucigalpa.

Amnesty International launched an urgent action calling for an end to the violence by state security forces, that those detained for exercising their right to peaceful protest are released immediately and that a comprehensive, impartial and independent investigation by civilian authorities is immediately opened into all the cases of violent deaths.

A group of international human rights organization denounce the violence against human rights defender in Honduras in the post-electoral context. German and Swiss organizations similarly denounce the post-electoral violence in Honduras demanding an end to the violence as well as an independent recount of the votes.

The same demands come from the Regional Monitoring and Analysis Team for Human Rights in Central America.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/informe-de-cofadeh-destaca-el-asesinato-de-14-personas-durante-crisis-politica/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/BOLETINCRISISELECCIONES2017.pdf>

<https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr37/7550/2017/en/>

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/statement-report/organizaciones-internacionales-se-manifiestan-en-contra-de-la-violencia-contra>

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/comunicados/comunicado-conjunto-de-organizaciones-alemanas-no-gubernamentales-respecto-a-la-situacion-en-honduras-despues-de-la-jornada-electoral-del-26-de-noviembre-de-2017/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/defensores-ddhh-centroamericanos-responsabilizan-al-estado-violacion-derechos-marco-la-crisis/>

Radio Progreso highlights how the recent days are a clear manifestation of the dangers of a Military Police controlled by JOH.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4059-no-son-polic%C3%ADas-son-criminales-06-diciembre-2017>

Apparently the curfew has been suspended in eight departments. The reasons given have to do with tourism and commerce. CONADEH, meanwhile, tries to defend the Honduran government for implementing a curfew in the first place...

<http://tiempo.hn/suspenden-toque-queda-ocho-departamentos-del-pais/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/suspenden-toque-de-queda-en-ocho-departamentos-del-pais.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/06/defensor-del-pueblo-justifica-estado-de-sitio-impuesto-por-el-gobierno-hondureno/>

The Opposition Alliance demands an international tribunal for comparing all the tallies from the parties with the ones from the TSE and to recount all votes.

Freedom House also demands that "the Organization of American States and the European Union should oversee a recount and verification of all ballots by an independent committee of international experts."

The OAS announced yesterday afternoon that they may very well recommend new elections if a recount doesn't bring clarity.

This has been taken up by Reuters which reports that the OAS "may call for new Honduran elections if any "irregularities" undermine the credibility of results."

Proceso Digital reports that seven Latin American countries published a joint press release asking for a recount of all votes.

The TSE announced that they accept the recommendation by the TSE (which originally came from the Opposition Alliance) to revise the votes coming from the three departments with unusually high voter-turnout (La Paz, Intibucá and Lempira).

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/alianza-oposicion-pide-tribunal-internacional-cotejar-las-18128-actas/>

<http://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-pide-tribunal-internacional-revision-18-mil-actas/>

<http://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-solicita-caligrafo/>

<https://freedomhouse.org/article/honduras-international-experts-should-oversee-presidential-recount>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/expertos-internacionales-deberian-supervisar-recuento-presidencial-freedom-house/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2573-oea-no-descarta-repeticion-de-elecciones-en-honduras>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/oea-no-descarta-recomendar-nuevas-elecciones-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/oea-no-descarta-pedir-otros-comicios-hondurenos-si-no-hay-certeza-en-recuento.html>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-honduras-election/oas-may-request-new-honduras-election-to-correct-irregularities-idUSKBN1E02YT>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobiernos-de-7-paises-latinoamericanos-apoyan-recuento-de-actas-en-honduras.html>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2017/1132806-410/tse-aceptamos-las-recomendaciones-de-la-oea>

The Liberal Party held an emergency meeting to present their view on the electoral crisis. They coincide with the Opposition Alliance that there should be a vote by vote recount based on the original ballots. They highlight that this shouldn't even be a question as the Electoral Law clearly says that this should be done when the difference between the two candidates is smaller than the number of invalid votes. They also emphasize once more that Salvador Nasralla was the winner in the 82% of tallies in their possession.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/partido-liberal-reunion-emergencia-brindar-posicion-ante-la-crisis-electoral/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/82-las-actas-partido-liberal-ganador-salvador-nasralla-luis-zelaya/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/con-82-de-nuestras-actas-gana-nasralla-pero-tse-debe-declarar-un-ganador-y-atenerse-a-consecuencias-luis.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/partido-liberal-honduras-pide-al-tse-la-impugnacion-las-elecciones/>

<http://tiempo.hn/partido-liberal-presenta-nulidad-votos/>

JOH, meanwhile, pretends to be open to a recount, but at the same time he rallies against "international interference" and says one should stick to the highly disputed Honduran institutionalism - the same that brought about this crisis. According to a new agreement between JOH and the OAS, the latter seem to play along (while at the same time being open to new elections as mentioned above...)

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/nuevo-acuerdo-la-oea-esta-condicionado-hernandez/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/hernandez-dice-no-se-deben-permitir-injerencias-extranjeras-resolver-crisis-electoral-honduras/>

Defensores en Línea published an analysis by Juan Almeyda of the current situation in Honduras and how it came about. Criterio investigates the role of the main media outlets in the current crisis.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/democracia-estado-de-excepcion-y-derechos-humanos/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/papel-juegan-los-medios-comunicacion-honduras-la-actual-crisis-politica/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4060-una-crisis-vigente-y-dos-posturas-totalmente-opuestas-en-honduras>

The number of women in Honduras' Congress fell from 33 to 28 out of 128. El Pulso also reports that two thirds of Congresswomen seeking reelection succeeded. It is not clear yet, if these are the final results, as irregularities in congressional and municipal elections also make the round.

<http://elpulso.hn/menos-mujeres-integraran-el-proximo-congreso/>

<http://elpulso.hn/dos-tercios-de-actuales-diputados-que-se-postulaban-logran-reeleccion-mayoria-del-partido-nacional/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-de-oposicion-llega-al-tse-impugnaciones/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/06/libre-denuncia-que-les-estan-bajando-votos-para-meter-a-edwin-pavon-al-congreso/>

Two Spanish newspaper, La República and El País, continue to cover the events in Honduras.

The Nation also published a new article

<https://larepublica.es/2017/12/06/silencio-complice-e-hipocrita-comunidad-internacional-ante-los-graves-sucesos-honduras/>

https://elpais.com/elpais/2017/12/05/3500_millones/1512473524_501894.html

<https://www.thenation.com/article/the-honduran-government-is-trying-to-steal-an-election/>

Global Witness criticizes that the US certifies Honduras at a moment of deep crisis, with murdered protesters and the suspension of constitutional rights. Global Witness rightly calls it "absurd" and a "complete farce" with devastating consequences.

And just to bring the point home of the absurdity, just days after praising Honduras for its human rights track-record (praise that was very welcome to JOH) by certifying it, the US issued a travel warning to the US...

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/blog/ee-uu-se-mantiene-en-silencio-y-libera-millones-de-d%C3%B3lares-en-fondos-honduras-pesar-de-muertes-de-manifestantes-y-denuncias-de-fraude-en-la-represi%C3%B3n-electoral/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/06/embajada-los-estados-unidos-recomienda-ciudadanos-no-viajar-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/pn-satisfecho-por-certificacion-de-eeuu-por-lucha-contra-corrupcion-y-proteccion-de-ddhh-en-honduras.html>

The director of the Cobras special forces has been replaced just days after they announced that they won't repress their own people anymore.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/asume-nuevo-director-de-los-cobras.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/06/nombran-jefe-de-fuerzas-especiales-a-oficial-que-medio-con-policias-sublevados/>

Honduran doctors have announced a new strike for today, as the situation in the public health sector continues to deteriorate.

<http://tiempo.hn/medicos-del-ihss-la-granja-se-van-paro-laboral/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/06/medicos-del-ihss-paralizan-labores-porque-interventora-no-quiere-aumentarles-sueldo/>

<http://tiempo.hn/detienen-agente-de-la-atic-bolo/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/06/arrestan-agente-de-la-atic-por-conducir-ebrio-y-violar-el-toque-de-queda/>

08/12/17

(Re)Elections - Protests, TSE, EU, Liberal Party, MACCIH, National Party, US, Canada, Analysis, Int. Coverage; ZEDEs; National Police; US; HRDs; Public Health; and the Two Honduras

Radio Progreso tells the story of Erick Montoya Cruz, who was murdered by the Military Police on December 3.

CONADEH demands an investigation of all deaths that occurred during the protests.

Defensores en Línea reports how the 20-year old Jimmy Hernán Mendoza lost sight in one eye when he was hit by a bullet by the Military Police shooting on protesters. Jimmy Hernán Mendoza didn't even participate at the protests, but just sat outside a store eating with friends.

According to his father, the agents then came to collect their bullet shells to not leave traces, but someone still found one.

In San Pedro Sula, young men denounce having been tortured in military detention on December 1. They were all arrested as part of criminalizing the nationwide protests.

Giorgio Trucchi reports on Wednesday's press conference at COFADEH where the report on the human rights violations in the post-electoral period was presented.

"The CETIM is alarmed by the current political crisis in Honduras, a crisis characterized by an increasing militarization of State institutions and government disregard of its human rights obligations. This situation puts in jeopardy the fundamental standards of democracy and the Honduran people's full enjoyment of their human rights."

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4066-erick-montoya-otra-v%C3%ADctima-de-la-brutalidad-de-la-polic%C3%ADa-militar-en-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/ombudsman-hondureno-pide-al-mp-investigar-muerte-de-manifestantes.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/por-una-esquirla-de-proyectil-disparada-por-la-pmop-joven-pierde-un-ojo/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4068-denuncian-torturas-a-j%C3%B3venes-detenido-por-militares-en-san-pedro-sula>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-elecciones-y-la-sangre-inocente-derramada/>

<https://www.cetim.ch/democracy-and-human-rights-at-stake-in-honduras/>

Javier Suazo thinks about the two possible ways out of the current crisis: a recount of all votes or new elections. He concludes that the former becomes ever more unlikely to be a valid solution.

Rodolfo Cortés Calderón agrees, saying that too much damage has been inflicted on the public trust in the electoral results and he proposes a second round election, i.e. between JOH and Salvador Nasralla, for January. The Alignment against Continuity jointly with the Opposition Alliance demanded the annunciation of the elections and asked for new elections under international supervision.

The TSE, meanwhile, unconvincingly tries to get away with only re-counting the votes of part of the 18'003 tallies. After about a dozen countries, the EU, both the OAS and EU electoral observation mission and hundreds of national and international NGOs demanded a full re-count under international supervision, it seems a reasonable question why the TSE thinks it can get away with this.

One explanation may be that the currently highest US representative in the Honduras, Heidi Fulton, immediately greeted the TSE's decision...

Manuel Zelaya, the coordinator of the Opposition Alliance, criticizes the US for this. In the same article citing Zelaya, Proceso tries to present the TSE's decision as a legitimate interpretation of the OAS' and the Alliance's demands. This can be seen as part of a wider campaign by the main media to misinform the public.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189709>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189688>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alianza-y-convergencia-demanda-anulacion-de-las-elecciones/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/07/tse-anuncia-contaran-voto-voto-las-4753-actas-pedia-la-alianza-oposicion/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-decide-contar-voto-actas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ee-uu-avala-recuento-de-votos-de-mas-de-cuatro-mil-actas-anunciado-por-el-tse.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1133114-508/encargada-de-negocios-de-estados-unidos-avala-conteo-de-voto-por-voto>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/zelaya-rechaza-conteo-de-votos-y-lamenta-interferencia-de-ee-uu-y-oea.html>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/07/la-escena-del-crimen-estan-manoseando-actas-votos-mel-zelaya-tse/>

The electoral observation mission of the EU held another press conference yesterday, reminding the TSE of its recommendations and emphasizing that they stay in the country until the crisis is resolved.

<http://tiempo.hn/union-europea-observara-resultados-las-elecciones-final/>

The Liberal Party has handed over its tallies to the OAS in order for them to be compared with the ones by the TSE. According to them, they possess 80% of all tallies and Salvador Nasralla is the winner when counting them.

<http://tiempo.hn/luis-zelaya-entrega-actas-del-partido-liberal-la-oea/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/07/luis-zelaya-entrega-copia-digital-de-sus-actas-a-la-oea/>

MADJ, the Coalition against Impunity and the National Human Rights Roundtable presented a joint complaint at the MACCIH for "crimes against the Honduran democracy, public corruption, the impersonation of the popular will, electoral fraud and the violation of the human right to life". They demanded an investigation by the MACCIH.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/12/07/Organizaciones-ciudadanas-presentan-ante-la-MACCIH-UFECIC-denuncia-por-crimen-contra-la-democracia-hondure%C3%B1a>

In an attempted show of force, the National Party took to the streets yesterday. One of their themes was peace. ContraCorriente critical inquires what the National Party understands as peace.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/07/paz-se-habla-cuando-se-habla-la-paz/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/07/camisas-blancas-nacionalistas-salen-a-las-calles-a-pedir-cuatro-anos-mas-para-joh/>

Sarah Kinosian covers for The Guardian the post-electoral crisis in Honduras with a special focus on the role of the US in Honduras since 2009.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/07/crisis-of-honduras-democracy-has-roots-in-us-tacit-support-for-2009-coup?CMP=share_btn_tw

A similar approach is chosen by Ricochet with a focus on Canada.

<https://ricochet.media/en/2059/is-another-coup-underway-in-honduras>

Carlos Iaquinandi Castro wrote an analysis for SERPAL about the situation in Honduras, which could be succinctly summarized by its title: "Once more fraud and repression". But the analysis doesn't fail to mention the hope in the thousands of Hondurans going to the streets defending their vote and saying no to four more years of the same.

http://serpal.info/noticias/Informe-sobre-honduras-otra-vez-fraude-y-represiOn_520

NBC News cites Honduras expert and history professor Dana Frank on the democratic development in Honduras: "It's like democracy is not being

allowed because as the traditional two-party system is breaking down, President Juan Orlando Hernandez has taken over all the reins of power—including control of the Electoral Tribunal," said Frank. "It's like the fox taking over the chicken coop."

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/honduras-tense-time-elections-put-democracy-through-test-n827426>

The uncertainty caused by the Honduran elections translates also into an uncertainty about the ZEDEs. A new blog post by CIEL offers an overview of the current status of the ZEDEs project. CIEL, furthermore, published a more detailed report on the Inter-American Development Bank's contemplation to help implementing ZEDEs.

<http://www.ciel.org/honduran-special-economic-zones-legalize-secretive-corporate-rule-threaten-constitutional-rights/>

<http://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ZEDEanalysis.pdf>

Radio Progreso spoke with the retired police commissioner Aldo Oliva, who revealed that orders for murder came directly from the Casa Presidencial.

Reporteros de Investigación reports on various irregularities inside the National Police Force.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4067-%E2%80%9Cse%3%B1or-presidente-usted-saldr%C3%A1-por-la-puerta-de-atr%C3%A1s%E2%80%9D-comisionado-aldo-oliva>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/12/07/caceria-y-venganza-estatal-en-la-policia-nacional/>

The Washington Post reports on the surprise certification (sadly only the timing) by the US administration. The Post cites US Senator and vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations committee Patrick Leahy: "The certification just received, in the midst of an election debacle that has triggered a political crisis, requires careful scrutiny by the Congress." A union leader is cited saying: "They're practically giving carte blanche so that they can violate human rights in this country under the umbrella of the United States."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/trump-administration-praises-honduras-amid-election-crisis/2017/12/07/20f71200-db75-11e7-a241-0848315642d0_story.html

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/07/se-alinean-los-astros-joh-agradece-a-ee-uu-por-respaldo-implicito/>

The Nobel Women's Initiative published a short interview with human rights defender and journalist Dina Meza. Dina made this great comment about her recommendation to a young activist: "Everything changes. No evil lasts forever, so do not despair. Hold on to hope, hold on to your motivation to change the system. Those who are harming the world are fewer than those of us who are fighting to correct them. We need to remember, and focus on that."

<http://nobelwomensinitiative.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/FAEAD02040889FF82540EF23F30FEDED/54FA61A6989D96C34936C359EC0425C0>

Just as the political crisis has not been resolved yet, neither has the one in the public health sector.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/07/gobierno-busca-dividir-los-medicos-al-incumplir-acuerdo/>

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4065-dos-honduras-y-un-camino-07-diciembre-2017>

09/12/17

MADJ; (Re)Elections - HR, National Police, Journalists, Protests, Curfew, Results, Fraud, TSE, US, Liberal Party; Drug Trafficking; HRDs; Judicial Power; Firearms; and the Ball is Up in the Air

MADJ emitted an alert as state security forces are going after its general coordinator Martín Fernández. Martín is supposed to benefit from special protection measures granted by the IACHR in 2013. Already this August, he was attacked when accompanying the community of Pajuiles in their peaceful resistance against the hydroelectric company HIDROCEP.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/12/08/ALERTA-En-riesgo-Mart%C3%ADn-Fern%C3%A1ndez-y-liderazgos-del-Movimiento-Amplio-en-Atl%C3%A1ntida-por-persecuci%C3%B3n-y-hostigamiento-militar-y-policial>

Amnesty International visited Honduras and denounces the use of "dangerous and illegal tactics" to silence its people. They call for "[h]alting all use of illegitimate or excessive force against protesters by security forces, ending arbitrary detentions, and investigating all instances of human rights violations would be a good start to undo some of the many wrongs we have documented in recent days."

The report by COFADEH on the current crisis and its human rights impact has been translated to English.

A group of international civil society organizations "Call on the Honduran Government, International Community and U.S. Government to Act to Restore Faith in the Electoral Process and Protect the Rights of the Honduran People."

The Honduran Network of Unionists against Anti-Union Violence demand a halt to police and military repression against the Honduran population. They further demand a recount of all votes under international supervision. Radio Progreso also reports on the worrisome human rights situation which further deteriorated in the post-electoral period.

So does ContraCorriente with a special focus on the illegally detained protesters.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/12/honduras-government-deploys-dangerous-and-illegal-tactics-to-silence-population/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-post-election-political-crisis-and-its-impact-on-human-rights/>

http://lawg.org/storage/documents/Honduras_12.8.17_Statement_-_English.pdf

<http://labornotes.org/blogs/2017/12/honduran-unionists-back-presidential-election-recount>

<http://festagro.org/?p=5990>

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4073-crisis-post-electoral-preocupa-a-organizaciones-internacionales-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/08/pozo-ha-caido-honduras-tras-elecciones/>

Some days ago, the decision by the police to stop the repression of the protesters made headlines. They declared themselves as part of the people and stopped their work. Just a day later, they were in the streets again after some back-room deals. In an interview with Radio Progreso, the former police commissioner María Luisa Borjas says that 20 police officials were paid off with 20 million Lempiras to break the strike. She also warns of the violent potential of the division inside the state security forces as well as the armed forces.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4072-%E2%80%9Cdos-millones-de-lempiras-recibieron-20-oficiales-de-polic%C3%ADa-para-desmovilizar-protesta%E2%80%9D-comisionada-mar%C3%ADa-luisa-borjas>

The Inter-American Press Society (SIP) condemns that Honduras denied entry to three journalists and then expelled them.

ConexiHon published a video message by one of the them.
Radio Progreso reports on the concentration of the Honduran media landscape and its consequences on the elections and the reporting of the post-electoral crisis.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/honduras-condena-la-sip-expulsion-y-agresiones-contra-periodistas>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/elecciones-honduras-expulsados-tres-periodistas-del-pais>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4075-honduras-atrapada-entre-el-%E2%80%9Cfraude-electoral%E2%80%9D-la-protesta-social-y-el-cerco-medi%C3%A1tico-dice-analista>

Yesterday saw new protests in Honduras, which combined the Torch Marches and the post-electoral protests. The march ended in front of the US embassy denouncing the role of them in the electoral process.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/08/40049/>

<http://tiempo.hn/indignados-se-movilizan-en-contra-del-fraude-electoral/>

As the international pressure to lift the curfew and reinstate constitutional rights grows, Honduras announced its suspension in two more departments. The curfew still remains in Yoro, Colón and Atlántida (except in the tourism areas) as well as in the city of Siguatepeque. It also remains in Cortés, but not in its main city San Pedro Sula.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/08/suspenden-toque-queda-francisco-morazan-la-paz-los-municipios-san-pedro-sula-tela/>

<http://tiempo.hn/suspende-el-toque-de-queda-en-13-departamentos-de-honduras/>

The Opposition Alliance explains that it doesn't accompany the TSE in its partial re-count of the tallies as their demand is the complete re-count of all tallies under international supervision.

Both the Liberal Party as well as the Alliance official requested the results of the presidential election to be nullified.

At the same time, the TSE announces that it is not thinking about repeating the elections.

The Economist continues to cover the post-electoral crisis in Honduras, even in its print edition. They speculate about a possible deal between JOH and Nasralla which would allow the "Machiavellian president" to stay in power. While this is nothing more than speculation, it is worth highlighting how The Economist doesn't mince words when writing that JOH "controls all the Honduran institutions likely to render a verdict on the election, including the electoral commission and the supreme court. He may now be looking for a way to keep Mr Nasralla and his supporters quiet. If he finds one, he will be damaged but will survive in office. Hondurans' faith in democracy will be hard to repair." Is the US embassy listening?

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/08/alianza-oposicion-no-cree-conteo-las-4753-esta-tse/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-de-oposicion-y-partido-liberal-impugnarán-elecciones/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-repetir-elecciones-es-algo-que-no-contemplamos-ni-visualizamos/>

<https://www.economist.com/news/americas/21732117-dispute-over-presidential-election-will-probably-be-settled-negotiating>

Giorgio Trucchi speaks with Rodolfo Pastor, spokesperson of the Opposition Alliance, about the "path of the electoral fraud".

Hugo Noé Pino wrote a "chronology of the electoral fraud".

And Dick & Miriam Emanuelsson publish their report on it with a focus on the rural votes.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-ruta-del-fraude/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/08/cronologia-del-fraude-electoral-honduras/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/12/honduras-fue-en-estos-ocho.html>

The Opposition Alliance filed a complaint against TSE president David Matamoros. They accuse him of abuse of authority, falsification of public documents and breach of the duties of public servants. It is highly doubtful that the electoral process can re-gain any legitimacy with him (who run for Congress for the National Party some years ago and whose daughter works for the JOH administration) at the TSE's head. TSE deputy magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo denounces being marginalized inside the TSE. This is another worrying development, as he was the one voice from inside the TSE raising questions about the lack of transparency and demanding an independent investigation into the crashes of their systems. Furthermore, he stated on several occasions during the electoral process that the initial lead by Salvador Nasralla would continue as they had counted a representative sample. Furthermore, just yesterday he publicly state that it won't suffice just to recount 4735 tallies as the TSE is currently doing. According to them, this will take them 5 days. The TSE has received 47 challenges to the official result until the official deadline at 12pm yesterday. The TSE also published a technical support presenting their narrative of their system's breakdown.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/08/por-parcializarse-a-favor-de-joh-denuncian-a-presidente-del-tse-ante-ministerio-publico/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/08/marginan-magistrado-marco-ramiro-lobo-reuniones-del-pleno-del-tse/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/12/honduras-marco-ramiro-lobo-opina-que-no.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/en-cinco-dias-concluira-recuento-de-votos-de-4-mil-753-urnas-tse.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-ha-recibido-47-impugnaciones-en-su-mayoria-en-niveles-de-diputados-y-alcaldes.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/libre-presenta-impugnacion-a-nivel-de-diputados-y-alcaldias-en-francisco-morazan.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/caida-del-sistema-de-transmision-se-debio-a-asignacion-de-espacio-a-base-de-datos-informe-tecnico.html>

The AFL-CIO, representing some 12.5 million US workers, wrote an open letter to the US State Department denouncing the lack of transparency, delays and errors in vote-counting in the Honduran elections as well as the subsequent violent repression of the population. They demand that the US should suspend all military assistance as long as Honduras continues to violate human rights of association, peaceful assembly and expression.

Democracy Now! conducted an interview with former Honduran President Manuel Zelaya, who says U.S. actions led to the current political crisis in Honduras.

Javier Suzao agrees in a recently published analysis with Zelaya's statement.

<https://aflcio.org/statements/letter-expressing-concern-about-november-2017-honduras-elections>

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/12/8/no_democracy_here_ousted_honduran_pres

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189733>

The Liberal Party in the person of Luis Zelaya exposed itself by speaking out in favor of Salvador Nasralla and explaining how he won in the tallies that are in their possession. El Libertador and Criterio reports on the consequences of this public stand.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2575-la-obscuridad-contraataca-al-caballero-liberal>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/08/se-liberales-preferirian-dijera-gano-joh-luis-zelaya/>

The retired army captain Santos Rodríguez Orellana sought out the help of CONADEH fearing for his life. After he highlighted the involvement of JOH's brother, Antonio "Tony" Hernández, in drug trafficking, he was told by sources that the Armed Forces plan to attack him.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/08/capitan-santos-orellana-denuncia-ante-conadeh-las-ff-aa-lo-quieren-eliminar/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/08/capitan-que-revelo-persecucion-de-eeuu-contra-tony-hernandez-denuncia-amenazas/>

In a joint press release, the IACHR and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights express their preoccupation about the situation of human rights defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean. According to them, their situation has worsened and their work became extremely dangerous.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/08/cidh-onu-expresan-preocupacion-deterioro-la-situacion-las-personas-defensoras-america/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/latinoamerica-es-ineficaz-en-proteger-los-periodistas-dice-experto-en-ddhh>

The former member of the Judiciary Council Celino Aguilera presented an administrative complaint against the president of the Supreme Court Rolando Argueta for not re-integrating him as a judge in La Ceiba.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/08/exconcejal-de-la-judicatura-denuncia-al-presidente-del-poder-judicial-por-no-reintegrarlo-como-magistrado111/>

The prohibition to carry firearms will continue until January 1, 2018.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/08/prohibicion-portar-armas-se-extiende-1-enero-2018/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/amplian-prohibicion-para-portar-armas-hasta-el-1-de-enero-de-2018.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4070-la-pelota-est%C3%A1-en-el-aire-08-diciembre-2017>

10/12/17

MADJ; (Re)Elections - HR, Protests, TSE, Results, Opposition Alliance, Analysis, Bonsai Parties, Economics; and Latin America's Jurassic Park

The e-mail before still had yesterday's subject line.

The alert emitted by MADJ yesterday has been translated to English. State security forces went going after its general coordinator Martín Fernández. Martín is supposed to benefit from special protection measures granted by the IACHR in 2013. Already this August, he was attacked when accompanying the community of Pajuiles in their peaceful resistance against the hydroelectric company HIDROCEP.

See Attachment

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/09/policia-militar-hostiga-lideres-del-movimiento-amplio-departamento-atlantida/>

Today is the International Day of Human Rights and Pax Christi takes the occasion to denounce the situation in Honduras and call out to the Honduran government to respect human rights as well as calling out to

the UN, OAS, EU and others to work towards this.

<http://www.paxchristi.net/es/news/comunicado-ante-la-grave-crisis-en-honduras/6862#sthash.SH5KWoz8.T5v1WSXn.dpbs>

Defensores en Línea gives a face to another victim of state repression in Honduras: the 28-year old Eric Javier Montoya Cruz, who died at the hands of military police on December 3.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/balazos-mortales-causa-doble-luto-familiar/>

Honduras Culture and Politics takes a critical look at the audit of the elections by Auditoría Integral y Seguridad de Sistemas de Información (Audisis), the Colombian firm hired by the TSE on November 13. They conclude: "In many ways the report released by the TSE, supposedly compiled by Audisis, raises more questions than it answers. It provides an excuse for why the TSE systems went down for almost 10 hours, but the reason doesn't seem credible."

Aqui Abajo has a great summary of the last two days in Honduras. They highlights the role of the US to try to make the current partial re-count look transparent and legitimate. An important point is being made about the so-called "impugnaciones" presented against the election. Apparently they aren't direct calls for nullification (as I wrongly translated), but "presenting a legal motion like this is the first step of legally challenging the vote counting/procedure done to date by the TSE." The TSE had prolonged to period to present "impugnaciones" a bit until midnight on Friday and received in total 120.

BBC World interviewed the TSE deputy magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo who continues to highlight the many irregularities of the electoral process. He further explains why the measure to re-count only 4753 tallies, as the TSE currently does, won't suffice.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/12/auditing-failed-election.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/09/empresas-siede-audisis-ltda-no-se-altero-informacion/>

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2017/12/9/day-10-11-2017-electoral-crisis>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/09/diluvio-impugnaciones-las-elecciones-tse/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-recibio-120-impugnaciones-ante-vencerse-plazo/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/09/sin-recuento-total-votos-los-resultados-las-elecciones-honduras-seran-seguramente-dudosos-marco-ramiro-lobo/>

Ignoring everything mentioned above (as well as the analysis following further down), the TSE went on with the re-count of the 4753 tallies yesterday. Not surprisingly, they haven't found any problems after counting 3/4 of them and they announced to have a result by today. And neither is it surprising that JOH is leading in this questionable re-count.

<http://tiempo.hn/david-matamoros-estima-domingo-estaran-los-resultados-finales/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/09/ninguna-inconsistencia-3421-actas-escurtadas/>

Manuel Zelaya denounced yesterday evening that the OAS and the US embassy is trying to divide the Honduran opposition.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/09/mel-zelaya-denuncia-embajada-los-e-e-u-u-presiona-se-desvincule-nasralla/>

<http://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-da-libertad-nasralla-seguir-la-alianza/>

In a column entitled "The Honduran Problem" Manuel Hinds explains how the main problem with the Honduran election is how JOH went on to run again and through this has manifested his power over the TSE - the same institution which should now independently decide over the veracity of the electoral results.

Dana Frank, a historian at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and an expert on Honduras spoke with Jacobin about the Honduran elections. Given what has happened in Honduras since the election, she now also speaks out for the need "to support the call now emerging for an entirely new election, overseen by international bodies, without interference from the Honduran government or the United States." Another important analysis comes from Matt Ginsberg-Jaeckle who was in Honduras before and during the elections with the Chicago-based human rights group La Voz de Los de Abajo.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/09/el-problema-de-honduras/>

<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/12/honduras-elections-hernandez-fraud-state-department>

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/worldview/honduras-elections-from-an-ontheground-perspective/b9aa48ce-bf36-4929-8181-f934edc1e027>

Jefferson Maradiaga looks at a somehow overlooked topic these recent days, the role of so-called bonsai parties in the political system of Honduras. He highlights how they are a danger to Honduras' democracy.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/09/partidillos-peligro-la-democracia-hondurena/>

FOSDEH looks at the socio-economic costs of the post-electoral crisis. El Pulso published an analysis on the economic impact of the curfew on the small shop owners having open only during the night.

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/09/costo-socioeconomico-la-crisis-electoral-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/danos-irreparables-causaron-toques-de-queda-a-centros-nocturnos/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189722>

11/12/17

HRDs; (Re)Elections - TSE, Results, Protests, Opposition Alliance, Fraud, Mayors; US; Organized Crime; Homicide Rate; Remittances; and Confronting Reality

On the occasion of yesterday's International Human Rights Day, Defensores en Línea published an article on the work of human rights defenders in Honduras and the risks they face.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-y-las-defensoras-del-pais-mas-riesgoso-para-defender-ddhh/>

Heather Gies reports for Al Jazeera on the newest developments in the post-electoral conflict in Honduras. Her article also offers a good overview in English of the last two weeks.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/honduras-opposition-requests-election-results-annulment-171210125403676.html>

Honduras Culture and Politics added an update to their analysis of the report by the TSE regarding their system crash. They highlight new irregularities regarding both the events as well as the way the TSE reported on them.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/12/auditing-update.html>

The TSE ended its special recount of the 4753 tallies claiming that there is no proof of fraud. They announced to present their final report today. The National Party announced that they are expecting the official final results.

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-oficializa-el-final-del-escrutinio-especial-sin-evidencias-de-fraude/>

<http://tiempo.hn/tribunal-supremo-electoral-informe-final/>

<http://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-seguira-esperando-que-el-tse-de-los-resultados-finales/>

The political opposition took to the streets again yesterday denouncing the in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula that the presidential election is about to be stolen from them and that the OAS and the US seem to be fine with this.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/10/alianza-de-oposicion-denuncia-que-la-oea-y-ue-están-avalando-el-fraude-electoral/>

<http://criterio.hn/2017/12/10/youre-welcome-juan-orlando/>

Salvador Nasralla published an open letter in which he backs up the recent statement by Manuel Zelaya (see yesterday's e-mail). Nasralla calls for the continuous defense of their democratic victory and he urges the OAS, the EU as well as the US embassy to demand from the TSE to comply with the measures proposed by both them as well as the Opposition Alliance. If this won't be the case, he sees a repetition of the elections as the only way out.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/10/salvador-justifica-carta-de-zelaya-que-acusa-a-ee-uu-y-oea-de-presionarlos/>

Pasos de Animal Grande takes up the complain deposited at the MACCIH by several social movements. They demand that JOH and the National Party are being investigated for electoral fraud.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1976-joh-y-partido-nacional-deben-ser-acusados-por-asociacion-ilicita-demandan-organizaciones-ante-maccih>

El Pulso published a portrait of Francisco Roberto López, who with 77 won the mayoral race in Nueva Armenia, Francisco Morazán, for the fifth time in a row. Furthermore, he is the only mayor from the Christian Democrats Party (DC).

<http://elpulso.hn/el-invencible-alcalde-de-nueva-armenia-gana-su-quinto-periodo-con-la-democracia-cristiana/>

The decision by the US to certify Honduras during this violent post-electoral crisis continues to be denounced in Honduras. ConexiHon presents it as a way to legitimate the illegal reelection bid and the following electoral fraud by JOH.

The US, meanwhile, continues on this path, hijacking yesterday's International Human Rights Day to praise Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/para-certificar-reeleccion-de-joh-eeuu-aprueba-nuevos-fondos-al-margen-de-los-ddhh>

<http://tiempo.hn/estados-unidos-avala-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-pide-a-politicos-hondurenos-aceptar-resultados-electorales-en-forma-pacifica.html>

The brother of the notorious Nationalist mayor Arnaldo Urbina Soto was murdered this Sunday. According to the police, the brother was the head of a criminal group.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/10/ejecutan-al-hermano-del-exalcalde-nacionalista-arnaldo-urbina-soto/>

The MP claims in a new report that the homicide rate fell by 27% this year...

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-reporta-3-mil-473-homicidios-en-lo-que-va-de-ano-un-27-menos.html>

The amount of remittances this year has already overtaken the amount from the previous year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-remesas-ya-superan-cifras-de-2016.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/frente-a-la-realidad/>

12/12/17

IHHS; (Re)Elections - FoE, Protests, TSE, Results, Fraud, Canada, US, Campaign Funds; Journalists; Electric Energy; Migration;

Out of the blue and in the midst of a post-electoral crisis, the MACCIH announces the results of a joint investigation with the Special Unit against Impunity and Corruption (UFECIC) at the MP. Not just the timing is completely off, the presented results cause further doubts. They present a network of five congresswo/men who used a fake NGO to steal money from the public purse. Of the five, three are from the new party VAMOS, one from the Liberal Party and one from Libre. No one is from the National Party, even though JOH himself had in the past stated that they used money stolen from the IHSS for their electoral campaign in 2013. El Tiempo presents a short portrait of the five congresswo/men. None of them was reelected two weeks ago. There are three more people accused, all three of them are part of the fake NGO. A judge has already been nominated to oversee the case.

<http://tiempo.hn/maccih-cinco-diputados-apropiaron/>

<http://tiempo.hn/jimenez-mayor-diputados-implicados-esta-red-recibieron-15-cheques/>

<http://tiempo.hn/diputados-acusados-por-la-maccih-perfiles/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/diputados-senalados-por-la-maccih-no-salieron-reelectos-en-pasados-comicios.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/empleados-de-la-ong-diputados-corruptos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/11/la-magistrada-alma-consuelo-guzman-sera-la-jueza-natural-conocera-la-red-diputados/>

Aqui Abajo once more offers a great overview of the most recent events. They report on, among other things, a new wave of protests and road blocks that sprung up all over Honduras. A disturbing news concerns freedom of expression: "Radio Progreso reports that its antenna and tower has been sabotaged which takes its radio in Tegucigalpa off the air. Radio Progreso's station in Tegucigalpa also got a strange visit from the state telecommunications body, CONATEL, on Friday as well. And then on the weekend, they started experiencing strange interruptions and problems with their signal." ContraCorriente writes about a Honduras in "free fall", in which human rights once more lost any meaning for the current regime.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2017/12/11/day-12-13-morning-2017-election-crisis-update>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/10/honduras-caida-libre/>

ConexiHon denounces sabotage against Radio Progreso (see above) and UNE TV. The technical staff of the latter says that its optic fiber cable has been destroyed while it covered the protest marches this Sunday. Radio Progreso's director Padre Melo denounces the destruction of the

antenna needed to listen to them in Tegucigalpa.
The IACHR's Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression also denounces the attack and urges the Honduran government to investigate and sanction those responsible.
He holds the Honduran government responsible for the sabotage.
The Alignment against Continuity denounces the attacks against Radio Progreso in a public statement.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/une-tv-y-radio-progreso-denuncian-sabotaje-y-boicot-transmisiones>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/11/sabotean-radio-progreso-tegucigalpa/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4076-responsabilizan-a-gobierno-de-joh-por-sabotaje-contra-radio-progreso>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/condena-a-sabotaje-a-instalaciones-de-radio-progreso-y-atentado-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on an renewed increase of repression against peaceful protesters.
ConexiHon reports on the attack by the Military Police with live ammo on protesters in Choluteca. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but one bullet hit the car of the journalist Nilda Sosa.
Defensores en Línea reports that two protesters were detained in Choluteca.
In Nacaome, Valle, Defensores en Línea reports on 11 detained protesters, among them three minors.
A police sub commissioner harassed human rights defender belonging to the network DEOCODERH in La Labor, Ocotepeque.
Maybe missing the spotlight, former UNAH dean claims that the same people are behind these protests as were behind the protests at the UNAH.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/elecciones-en-honduras-2017/item/1977-policia-militar-incrementa-la-represion-contra-manifestantes-en-las-ultimas-horas-en-honduras>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/disparan-contra-manifestacion-pacifica-en-choluteca>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-choluteca-policia-militar-disparas-contra-protestantes-y-se-llevan-dos-detenidos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/capturas-y-golpes-en-agresivo-desalojo-militar-en-nacaome/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-amenaza-a-defensores-en-ocotepeque/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4079-honduras-vive-un-d%C3%ADa-m%C3%A1s-de-protestas-y-represi%C3%B3n-en-medio-de-la-crisis-pol%C3%ADtica>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/actores-de-actual-problematica-del-pais-son-los-mismos-de-crisis-en-unah-castellanos.html>

Radio Progreso speaks with the deputy magistrate at the TSE, Marco Ramiro Lobo. He talks about the night of the election, where he, the magistrate Erik Rodríguez and representatives of the OAS had to put pressure on TSE president David Matamoros Batson to publish the results which had Salvador Nasralla in the lead.
The TSE handed over a report to the OAS regarding its transmission system. The report has already been heavily criticized for obfuscating rather than enlightening the reasons of the system crash (see yesterday's e-mail). They also announced that beginning today, they will look into the "impugnaciones".

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4077-%E2%80%99Cles-dije-que-si-no-quer%C3%ADan-dar-los-resultados-yo-lo-har%C3%ADa-s%C3%B3lo%E2%80%9D-marco-ramiro-lobo-al-pleno-del-tse>

<http://tiempo.hn/matamoros-batson-informe-tse-a-oea/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tse-entrega-a-oea-informe-de-auditoria-forense-del-servidor-informatico.html>

The TSE announced that they will have declared the winner of the presidential race by December 23.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1134124-508/tse-declaratoria-de-nuevo-presidente-podr%C3%ADa-darse-a-m%C3%A1s-tardar-el-s%C3%A1bado>

The Opposition Alliance held a press conference yesterday presenting a report on the committed electoral fraud. NPR aired a short segment on Honduras post-electoral crisis. During the 4min, they also covered electoral fraud.

<http://tiempo.hn/dirigentes-alianza-de-oposicion-pruebas-fraude-electoral/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/partidoalianza/1134173-508/salvador-nasralla-denuncia-una-doble-impresi%C3%B3n-de-actas>

<https://www.npr.org/2017/12/11/569834124/still-no-clear-winner-in-honduras-election>

The Canadian Foreign Minister issued a statement on the situation in Honduras. They "We lament the deaths and injuries that have occurred as a result of violence following the election" and asked for those responsible to be held accountable. They also call out to the TSE "to implement all the recommendations of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission." Lastly, the "call upon the Honduran authorities to reinstate constitutional rights and guarantees without delay. Democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law must be upheld."

https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/12/statement_by_the_minister_of_foreign_affairs_on_the_situation_in_honduras.html

<http://www.rcinet.ca/en/2017/12/11/canada-calls-honduras-election-reinstate-constitutional-rights/>

Lauren Carasik has an OpEd on Al Jazeera on the "Honduran democracy on the brink". It offers a good overview on the role of the US and the international reactions.

Sandra Cuffe presents the crisis as one made in the USA. Local journalist and political analysts share this reading, as the article by Silvina Romano and Javier Calderón shows. As does the analysis by Javier Suazo. Another article with a US focus comes from the Miami Herald.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/171211085936062.html>

<https://towardfreedom.com/archives/americas/made-usa-honduran-political-crisis-rebooted/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189774>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189748>

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/article189097959.html>

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/Honduran-fiasco-12421567.php>

The political parties got a 10-days extension to present a report on their campaign expenditure.

<http://tiempo.hn/extienden-plazo-para-presentar-informes-sobre-gastos-de-campana/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the head of the preventive police for the south of Honduras, commissioner Eduardo Turcios, defies the protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists by denying to implement protection measures for the journalist Jairo López.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/1979-jefe-policial-desafia-al-mecanismo-de-proteccion-negandose-a-proteger-al-periodista-jairo-lopez>

Criterio reports that the Honduran government is trying to use the current turmoil to stealthily raise energy prices.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/11/medio-crisis-politica-gobierno-aumenta-precio-la-energia-electrica/>

The Pew Research Center published a report on Central American migration to the US.

http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2017/12/06170351/Pew-Research-Center_Central_American-migration-to-U.S._12.7.17.pdf

13/12/17

COPINH; (Re)Elections - Journalists, Repression, Protests, TSE, Fraud, LIBRE, Canada, Analysis; Journalists; MACCIH; Penitentiary System; Extradition; and If This is not a Dictatorship, What is?

COPINH denounces that they were detained by the military police close to Siguatepeque yesterday morning. They harassed them by stopping their buses, making them get off, taking pictures of people's ID cards.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2017/12/comunicado-12-de-diciembre-2017.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/12/denuncian-retencion-vehiculo-donde-se-conduce-hija-berta-caceres/>

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras expressed its "profound concern" about the act of sabotage against the antenna by Radio Progreso. They call out to the MP for a prompt, transparent and thorough investigation. Furthermore, they ask the Honduran government to implement measures guaranteeing the security of Radio Progreso and their freedom of expression. The journalist Josué Neptalí Rubí Corrales was detained by the armed forces while covering protests in Nacaome. The Journalists' Association Honduras (CPH) condemns the violence against journalists during the protests.

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/posts/2054024684838319>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/12/onu-exige-al-estado-hondureno-respetar-trabajo-de-radio-progreso/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/periodista-detenido-por-militares-durante-cobertura-informativa>

<http://tiempo.hn/cph-condena-agresiones-contra-periodistas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/cph-condena-agresiones-contra-periodistas-durante-movilizaciones-en-el-pais.html>

Radio Progreso offers a summary of yesterday's repression in Buena Vista on the highway which links El Progreso with Tela. They write of at least one hurt and ten detained protesters. The Military Police shot tear gas into the houses and they used live ammo.

C-Libre writes about various hurt protesters during the last two days of protests, among them Raúl Marcos Bonilla Vides (35) who suffered a gun wound. The article includes a video of violence by the police and the armed forces in Gracias Lempira.

Defensores en Línea spoke with the 24-year old Arnold Flores, who was shot at by the Military Police during a protest. The bullet went through both his legs. Recuperating in a care center, he demands justice.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4083-heridos-golpeados-y-10-detenidos-deja-violenta-represi%C3%B3n-al-norte-de-honduras>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/12/honduras-represion-policial-militar-en.html>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/represi%C3%B3n-militar-deja-varios-heridos-y-detenido-nivel-nacional>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/quiero-justicia/>

The UN spokesman for the Secretary-General expressed the concern of the Secretary-General about "the incidents of violence following the 26 November election and trusts that the authorities will uphold the rule of law and respect for human rights." Furthermore, he calls for a dialogue between the presidential candidates based on the Electoral Law. This somehow ignores the power relations in Honduras which are also ingrained in the law and state institutions.

Salvador Nasralla rejects the proposition to hold a dialogue with JOH. Human Rights Watch demands from the Honduran authorities to "take immediate action to ensure the credibility of the country's general elections on November 26, 2017, and [to] respect the right to peaceful protest." HRW US director José Miguel Vivanco further said: "There are strong indications of election fraud in Honduras, and the claims need to be investigated and the voter's will respected."

HRW's demand has made the round in Honduras and it was taken up even by Radio HRN.

"Nurse union leaders from 17 countries, organized with Global Nurses United, an international federation of nurses' unions, today denounced the "violent repression" being carried out on the Honduran people by the armed forces and military police following the November 26th presidential election in that country."

A further statement of support to the Honduran protesters comes from the Panamanian labor union FUCLAT.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2017-12-12/statement-attributable-spokesman-secretary-general-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/12/nasralla-rechaza-dialogo-planteado-la-onu/>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/12/11/honduras-guarantee-credibility-elections-protect-free-expression>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/hrw-honduras-debe-garantizar-la-credibilidad-de-las-elecciones-y-garantizar-la-libertad-de>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/human-rights-watch-pidio-investigar-indicios-de-fraude-electoral-en-honduras/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/hrw-pidi%C3%B3-investigar-indicios-de-fraude-electoral-en-honduras>

<https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/press/nurse-union-leaders-around-world-unite-condemn-repression-assault-democracy-honduras>

<https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/lideres-de-sindicatos-de-enfermeria-nivel-mundial-condenan-la-represion-y-el-asalto-la-democracia>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sindicatos-panamenos-se-solidarizan-con-el-pueblo-de-honduras/>

Radio Progreso presents the challenge for the annulment (impugnación sobre nulidad) of the elections by both the Liberal Party and the Opposition Alliance as the "litmus test" for the TSE.

CEPR translated an important interview with TSE deputy magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo from December 3.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4082-impugnaci%C3%B3n-sobre-nulidad-de-las-elecciones-prueba-de-fuego-para-el-tribunal-electoral>

<http://cepr.net/blogs/the-america-blog/senior-honduras-election-official-the-trend-reversed-following-a-system-failure>

The Opposition Alliance presented their report on electoral fraud as well as the altered tallies to the OAS and the EU.

Javier Suazo highlights in his newest article some mechanisms used for electoral fraud (e.g. the printing of two tallies of each ballot table with the Alliance winning the official one, but on the second one there votes have been given to the Liberal Party, so that the math still works, but takes away the votes to beat JOH). Furthermore, he concentrates on a point under-analyzed according to him: the role of "civil society" in legitimizing the electoral fraud. Here he mentions who the TSE and the US embassy used "civil society" partners to accompany the recount which do not represent the Honduran people. He mentions the business lobby COHEP, but also the evangelical churches and the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ).

Nacla published a report by five election observers and their experience of fraud during and after the electoral process.

El Libertador reports that based on an anonymous source, they found electoral material in an office in a mall rented by congressman and Vamos leader Augusto Cruz Asensio.

The TSE claims that they were only samples used during the trial runs.

<http://tiempo.hn/presuntas-actas-adulteradas-a-la-oea-y-ue/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/alianza-entrega-a-oea-y-ue-medios-de-prueba-de-lo-que-llaman-fraude-electoral.html>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189794>

<https://nacla.org/news/2017/12/12/honduras-holds-democracy-hostage>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2578-urgente-el-libertador-descubre-maletas-electorales-en-centro-comercial>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/12/maletas-electorales-descubiertas-centro-comercial-tegucigalpa/>

<http://tiempo.hn/maletas-electorales-eran-muestras/>

Libre calls out to the Honduran people to unite in their support of Salvador Nasralla and they announce a nationwide protest for this Friday.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/12/partido-libre-brinda-respaldo-irrestricto-salvador-nasralla-video/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/12/40220/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/12/12/we-reject-vehemently-the-shameful-intervention-of-the-north-american-embassy-in-honduras/>

MiningWatch Canada calls out to the Canadian government to "take a strong public stand and forcibly denounce evidence of electoral fraud and violent repression of public protests." Furthermore, it should "take steps to halt its support, political and economic, to the Hernández regime."

<https://miningwatch.ca/blog/2017/12/11/canada-must-stop-support-honduras-regime-following-botched-election>

Brecha published a great interview with the renowned Honduran historian Darío Euraque. He offers an analysis of the current situation intertwined with a much-needed historic perspective.

ContraCorriente presents the current moment in Honduras as one between interference and popular autonomy with an unknown outcome.

The director of Cáritas in San Pedro Sula, Carlos Paz, sees the current post-electoral crisis as the newest manifestation of a unjust system breaking down.

<https://brecha.com.uy/la-ingenieria-del-estado-sitio/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/12/honduras-la-injerencia-la-autonomia-popular/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4084-tesis-pol%C3%ADtica-no-es-por-la-p%C3%A9rdida-de-las-elecciones-sino-por-el-quebre-un-sistema-seg%C3%BAAn-c%C3%A1ritas>

C-Libre takes up the complaint by the journalist Jairo López that the National Police in the person of the sub-commissioner Eduardo Turcios suspended the protection mandated by the protection mechanism. Reporters without Borders denounces the situation and asks the Honduran government to reinstate much-needed protection mechanisms for Jairo López.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/polic%3%ADa-se-niega-brindarle-seguridad-periodista-otorgada-por-el-mecanismo>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1980-rsf-amenazas-contr-el-periodista-jairo-lopez-obstaculizan-su-trabajo>

The MACCIH urges the judge Alma Guzmán, who was handed the responsibility for the corruption case involving five congresswo/men, to release warrants for their arrest.

El Tiempo and Proceso Digital report that they will present themselves voluntarily to the court.

ConfidencialHN reports how the use of public funds channeled through NGOs to congresswo/men is a common practice by the JOH administration to buy votes.

This is confirmed by PINU congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez.

The MACCIH also comments on rumors of changes inside the MP voicing their support for the Attorney General Óscar Fernando Chinchilla.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/12/maccih-urge-orden-captura-diputados/>

<http://tiempo.hn/diputados-acusados-se-presentaran/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/defensor-de-imputados-en-caso-red-de-diputados-anuncia-presentacion-voluntaria-de-sus-clientes.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/12/la-ruta-del-delito-sepa-como-fue-disenada-la-arquitectura-para-controlar-parlamentarios-opositores/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/12/en-el-parlamento-de-honduras-se-compran-conciencias-a-cambio-de-dinero-y-viajes/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1134444-466/investigacion-a-m%C3%A1s-de-100-diputados-del-congreso-nacional-por-subsidiaz>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/si-tocan-al-fiscal-chinchilla-tocan-a-la-maccih-advierte-jimenez-mayor.html>

ConfidencialHN reports on a new case in which the wrong person appeared in front of a judge. In this case it is about a Mara member sentenced to more than 300 years in prison.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/12/donde-esta-jesus-armando-chevez-cruz-suplantando-a-pandillero-condenado-a-tres-siglos-de-carcel/>

Another supposed drug trafficker was extradited to the US.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/12/extraditan-a-supuesto-capo-el-tio/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4080-si-esto-no-es-una-dictadura-%C2%BFqu%C3%A9-es?-12-diciembre-2017>

14/12/17

(Re)Elections - HRDs, National Police, Repression, Protests, Results, Fraud, US, SICA; MACCIH; Corruption; Tasa de Seguridad; Public Health; and Paralyzed Institutions

Aqui Abajo published its newest crisis update summarizing the events from Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2017/12/13/day-13-afternoon-14-2017-election-crisis-update>

Amnesty International launched an urgent against denouncing that Honduran human rights defenders are at risk due to the violent state repression. They talk about four cases in particular: i) the raids of houses belonging to members of MADJ and the persecution of its general coordinator Martín Fernández Guzman; ii) break-ins at the offices of the LGBT organization Arcoiris; iii) the attacks against Radio Progreso; and iv) Tuesday's harassment and intimidation of COPINH.

Various Latin American organization also published an alert in the case of Radio Progreso.

So did CEJIL.

C-Libre presented an official complaint at the MP for the destruction of the antenna belonging to Radio Progreso.

Pablo Ruiz writes about the threats for journalists and alternative media outlets in this post-electoral crisis.

<https://ua.amnesty.ch/urgent-actions/2017/12/271-17>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4090-radialistas-y-defensores-condenan-sabotaje-contra-radio-progreso>

See Attachment

<http://www.eleconomistaamerica.com/politica-eAm/noticias/8808250/12/17/Cejil-denuncia-riesgo-para-los-medios-de-comunicacion-tras-las-elecciones-en-Honduras.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4089-presentan-denuncia-por-delitos-de-da%C3%B1os-contra-radio-progreso>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189823>

Sandra Cuffe investigates in a new article what is behind the strike of the COBRAS security forces in Honduras. She tracks their discontent back to the creation by JOH of the Military Police. "Throughout the Hernández administration, the government has supported, grown, and funded the military, and especially the military police, at the expense of the national police force, whose rank-and-file members are poorly paid and often operate in miserable working conditions. Anti-Hernández sentiment among the police has been growing for years." But she also cites Radio Progreso's Padre Melo with a voice of caution, that this does not automatically lead to a general uprising: "Rebellions among security forces are welcome, but they can't be relied upon, Moreno said. Cobras, Tigres, and national police—along with the armed forces, including the military police—have all been caught up in corruption and other scandals, and have been denounced by human rights and social movement organizations for involvement in a myriad of human rights violations over the years."

The north-western head of the COBRAS denied having been suspended and warns of persons trying to stir up internal disputes.

<https://nacla.org/news/2017/12/13/cobras-strike-honduras>

<http://tiempo.hn/jefe-de-la-unidad-especial-cobras-niega-suspension/>

The sociologist Víctor Meza fears for the days ahead due to the "almost insane will of the ruler to remain in power and increase his authoritarian and despotic rule."

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/13/la-violencia/>

The International Human Rights Federation (FIDH) published a new press release denouncing the ongoing violent repression in Honduras and calling out to the EU and the OAS to denounce the human rights violations and to urge the TSE allow the recount all tallies by an

independent international body or call for new elections.
On the ground, the protests continue.

https://www.fidh.org/es/region/americas/honduras/honduras-ante-permanencia-de-crisis-electoral-la-oea-y-la-union?var_mode=calcul

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/13/hondurenos-siguen-manifestandose-del-fraude-electoral/>

Radio Progreso talked to Salvador Nasralla after the Opposition Alliance handed in a report on electoral fraud as well as their copies of 80% of all tallies to the EU and the OAS. He highlights the fact that because the TSE has lost all credibility in the last two weeks, they must uphold some hope in the role of the international community.

Luis Zelaya reiterates that the winner of the elections on November 26 is Salvador Nasralla and he reassured them that he and his party will defend the will of the people.

The Spanish newspaper Publico interview the former TSE president Augusto Aguilar. According to him, Salvador Nasralla rightly questions the electoral procedures in Honduras. He demands the nullification of the elections followed by new ones.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4087-salvador-nasralla-pide-tener-confianza-en-organismos-internacionales-para-frenar-fraude-electoral>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/13/luis-zelaya-reitera-salvador-nasralla-gano-las-elecciones-asegura-papel-defender-la-voluntad-expresada-las-urnas/>

<http://www.publico.es/internacional/honduras-augusto-aguilar-hay-declarar-nulas-elecciones-convocar-nuevas.html>

El Libertador reports on new electoral fraud allegations. This time it directly involves the TSE magistrate Alejandro Martínez.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2581-fraude-honduras-secretario-general-de-elecciones-pidio-dinero-a-candidatos>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/13/funcionario-electoral-reusa-hablar-por-audio-comprometedor1/>

CESPAD published a seven-page analysis on the role of the US embassy in the post-electoral crisis. They find that both the EU and the OAS electoral observation mission played important roles backed up with concrete demands up until December 7, when they were supplanted by the currently highest US representative in Honduras, Heide Fulton.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189838>

SICA will hold a summit in Panama today, in which the Central American president will also discuss the situation in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/13/presidentes-centroamerica-abordaran-este-jueves-panama-la-crisis-politica-honduras/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/presidentes-centroamericanos-exigir%C3%A1n-respetar-voluntad-popular-en-honduras>

Radio Progreso finds the five accused congresswo/men to be rather weak players in Honduran politics. Furthermore, none of them was reelected. This raises the question if this represents another case where small fish is being served to the public to stop a real hunt for the sharks.

El Libertador also raises some questions around this newest case of MACCIH. The Judicial Power in the form of the Supreme Court emitted a press release condemning the pressure by MACCIH to release the arrest warrants against the five congresswo/men.

Meanwhile, MACCIH criticizes the decision by the judge to allow the five to voluntarily appear in front of the court.

The trial against the five is planned to start on December 28.

This late date is also being criticized by MACCIH.

According to El Heraldo, the MP is now thinking about investigating

various NGOs.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4086-de-las-sardinitas-a-la-caza-tiburones-13-diciembre-2017>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2580-enjuiciara-la-maccih-a-quien-ordenar-darle-dinero-a-diputados>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/13/poder-judicial-condena-presion-la-maccih-caso-diputados/>

<http://tiempo.hn/maccih-pide-celeridad-a-la-csj-en-caso-de-los-cinco-diputados/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/maccih-critica-decision-de-jueza-al-aceptar-presentacion-voluntaria-de-imputados-en-red-de-diputados.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/el-dia-de-los-inocentes-sera-la-audiencia-inicial-contra-cinco-diputados/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/13/maccih-cuestiona-alargamiento-de-juicio-contra-diputados-acusados-de-corrupcion/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1134841-466/la-unidad-fiscal-especial-contra-la-impunidad-de-la-corrupcion-%C3%B3n-tiene-en>

Both the case above as well as a new case of corruption against the former president's wife Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo, are seen by many as smoke screens to divert attention from the protests and the fraudulent elections. And what is certain, the main media almost completely stopped covering it two days ago.

It is symptomatic that the only article El Heraldo published today on the topic is trying to stir up internal division inside the Opposition Alliance by an argument already debunked in open letters by both Manuel Zelaya and Salvador Nasralla.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/13/cortina-humo-exprimera-dama-rosa-elena-lobo-llego-la-ufecic-negar-apropiacion-fondos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-confirma-acusacion-a-exprimera-dama-hondurena-por-presunta-apropiacion-fondos-publicos.html>

<http://tiempo.hn/cna-pide-resolver-caso-ex-primera-dama/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/partidoalianza/1134839-508/salvador-nasralla-conf-%C3%ADa-en-el-papel-de-estados-unidos-manuel-zelaya-no>

ConfidencialHN reports on the non-transparent use of tasa de seguridad money by the Honduran Catholic Church.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/13/iglesia-catolica-hace-negocios-milagrosos-con-los-recursos-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad-por-30-millones/>

The Honduran authorities still haven't resolved the demands by the protesting doctors.

Nevertheless, the IHSS' labor union agreed to return to work today. At the same time, nine doctors with administrative positions at the IHSS handed in their resignation for failing to come to an agreement with the IHSS intervention commission.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/leitzelar-no-hay-capacidad-para-incrementar-salarios-m%C3%A9dicos-del-seguro-social>

<http://tiempo.hn/trabajadores-ihss-vuelven-a-labores/>

<http://tiempo.hn/gerentes-medicos-del-ihss-renuncian/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/13/honduras-una-institucionalidad-paralizada/>

#HONDURASRESISTE

ALERTA

Radio Progreso es atacada



Pronunciamento en solidaridad con Radio Progreso

Desde la individualidades y colectividades, Comunicadores y comunicadores libres, independientes, comunitarios, autónomos, defensores y defensoras de los derechos humanos y los derechos de naturaleza del Abya Yala, expresamos nuestro máximo rechazo y repudio a las acciones que violentan contra el derecho y la libertad de expresión y comunicación, claramente visibles en el ataque cometido y denunciado públicamente del sabotaje de la antena de transmisión en el cerro Cantagallo en Tegucigalpa de Radio Progreso, la que fue sabotada por manos criminales.

Hacemos un llamado a la comunidad internacional a estar atenta a estas amenazas que se suman a todas las violaciones de derechos que están atravesando nuestros hermanos hondureños tras las denuncias de fraude electoral en las últimas elecciones.

Así mismo hacemos un llamado a todas las organizaciones y organismos encargados de la realización de relatorías sobre violaciones a la libertad de expresión a comunicarse y rechazar públicamente estos actos que atentan contra el libre ejercicio de la comunicación en sociedades que se dicen democráticas, así mismo a hacer seguimiento constante y urgir a los estados nacionales a que aseguren la vida, la integridad física de quienes están comunicando desde los distintos territorios.

Organizaciones firmantes:

Plataforma de comunicación Somos una Abya Yala

Movimiento Mesoamericano Alternativas Populares al Capitalismo (MAPCA)

Radio Adesalambrar

MEXICO:
Radio Zetena: Ciudad de México

COSTA RICA:

Ditsó
Coordinadora Norte Tierra y Libertad
Coordinadora de Lucha Sur Sur

PANAMÁ:

Movimiento Victoriano Lorenzo (MVL)
Observatorio Panameño de Ambiente y Sociedad

COLOMBIA:

Colombia Informa

15/12/17

HIDROCEP; (Re)Elections - Protests, Repression, Results, Fraud, TSE, Liberal Party, US, EU, IACTHR, SICA; MACCIH; US; Youth; Armed Forces; Penitentiary System; Corruption; Public Health; and Unacknowledged Victims

The Appeals Court in La Ceiba rejected an appeal by the MP and with this the court also rejected the criminalization of four human rights defenders belonging to MADJ who peacefully protested against the hydroelectric company HIDROCEP.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/12/14/Triunfo%20la-dignidad-Corte-de-Apelaciones-confirma-sobreseimiento-definitivo-defender-el-agua-No-es-un-delito>

A new wave of national protests has been announced for today. The Alignment against Continuity supports this call. Human rights organizations announced their accompaniment of the protests to offer protection.

Heather Gies spoke with 29-year-old Gabriela Blen, a founding leader of the Indignados movement and who ran for Congress with the Opposition Alliance, about the role of the youth in the post-electoral protests. In an OpEd for the LA Times, Steven Levitsky and Carlos Flores describe Honduras' democracy as under assault by a government which is "among the most authoritarian in the hemisphere. Its human rights record is deplorable." They call out to the international community to "press the Honduran government to agree to a full and transparent recount — and, if it becomes necessary, to a new election."

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4096-convocan-a-nueva-jornada-de-movilizacion-contra-fraude-electoral-en-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/todo-el-pueblo-a-movilizacion-nacional-y-total/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/14/organismos-derechos-humanos-se-preparan-movilizaciones-manana-viernes/>

<http://upsidedownworld.org/archives/honduras/honduran-youth-rally-fraud-dictatorship-interview/>

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-levitsky-honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez-election-protests-20171214-story.html>

The diocese in Colón rejects the militarization of the department and the resulting repression and it asks for forgiveness for not speaking out against it before.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/14/diocesis-colon-lamenta-militarizacion-del-departamento-pide-perdon-no-haber-levantado-voz/>

Radio Progreso speaks with political analyst Raúl Pineda, who offers post-electoral scenarios for Honduras, all based on the premise that the TSE will announce JOH the winner of the presidential election next Monday. According to him, there will be either continuous protest on the streets or the people give up and let JOH take control again. In the first case, all depends on the reaction of other actors, i.e. do the churches join in the protests, what will the Armed Forces do,...

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4095-raul-pineda-honduras-a-las-puertas-de-tres-escenarios-post-electorales>

In a new article, ContraCorriente sets itself the goal to decode the electoral fraud. The introductory paragraph says it well: "It just doesn't make sense. Any result coming from the TSE 17 days after the general elections is no longer reliable. A computer blackout, accusations of cloning tallies, a special scrutiny out of time, a count without observers of all different sectors, a tendency that changes against all mathematical theory. The votes were altered, it is no longer the will of the people that will dictate who is the president of Honduras."

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/14/descodificando-fraude-electoral/>

El Heraldo claims that the challenges/demands of nullification of the presidential elections will be declared null by the TSE.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1135118-508/sin-lugar-las-impugnaciones-sobre-el-nivel-presidencial-tras-elecciones-en-honduras>

ContraCorriente speaks with the president of the executive committee of the Liberal Party, Eduardo Martell. He speaks of one of the biggest electoral fraud in Honduran history taking place right now and he warns of years of conflict if JOH is allowed to stay in power. In the long interview, he also talks about the role of the Liberal Party in the years ahead.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/14/la-institucionalidad-no-existe-nunca-existio-pais-eduardo-martell-partido-liberal/>

US Senator Jack Reed release a statement on Honduras calling on the government to "exercise restraint and demonstrate a commitment to transparency and human rights."

Honduras was also a topic at the Department Press Briefing in Washington on December 13. The spokesperson didn't even know who the current highest representative of the US in Honduras is.

Meanwhile in Honduras, the National Human Rights Roundtable and the Coalition against Impunity wrote an open letter to exactly this representative, Heide Fulton, denouncing the evident electoral fraud as well as the systematic repression and human rights violations.

Elisabeth Malkin writes about a US at a crossroads challenged by the events in Honduras.

Marlin Oscar Ávila contemplates the possibility of a US-facilitated military solution for the departure of JOH.

Tracy Wilkinson and Kate Linthicum believe that the Trump administration sees JOH as the better ally in their priority areas, the war on drugs and immigration, and that, therefore, they won't intervene in favor of democracy and the Alliance.

<https://www.reed.senate.gov/news/releases/reed-statement-on-democracy-and-human-rights-concerns-in-honduras>

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2017/12/276591.htm#HONDURAS>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/14/departamento-de-estado-de-ee-uu-no-sabe-que-pasa-haciendo-su-representante-en-honduras/>

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/comunicados/carta-publica-ante-el-fraude-electoral-y-las-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-a-la-encargada-de-negocios-de-la-embajada-de-los-estados-unidos-de-america-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/14/defensores-dd-hh-piden-embajada-usa-honduras-ponga-clara-posicion-fraude-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/14/estados-unidos-una-encrucijada-al-enfrentar-la-agitacion-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/14/una-posible-salida-inmoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/14/guerra-las-drogas-e-inmigracion-supera-las-preocupaciones-trump-la-democracia-honduras/>

Five EU parliamentarians wrote an open letter to Honduras' ambassador in Belgium expressing their preoccupation about human rights violations, emphasizing the important work of HRDs and calling for the respect of human rights and the work of HRDs.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/14/diputados-europeos-preocupados-violaciones-derechos-humanos-honduras/>

As the TSE has lost any credibility inside the political opposition as well as the public at large, voices calling for an independent arbiter become stronger. One possibility is the Inter-American Court for Human Rights (IACtHR). El Pulso investigates this possibility.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-cidh-vs-la-reeleccion-presidencial-como-derecho-humano/>

Even though it was a main topic of the SICA summit, the eight countries failed to find clear words for what is happening in Honduras. JOH did not participate in the summit.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/14/40325/>

<http://tiempo.hn/realizan-cumbre-del-sica-ausencia-del-presidente-honduras/>

CIPRODEH accuses MACCIH to be used in a political game by raising the corruption charges against five congresswo/men at the moment it did. Radio Progreso wonders what happens to the big cases and fears that MACCIH will continue to go only after small fish. MACCIH, meanwhile, reacts to the accusations of itnerference by the Judicial Power. Its spokesperson Juan Jiménez Mayor underlines that MACCIH is not a neutral body, but that it respects judicial independence.

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/noticias/a-consideracion-del-centro-de-investigacion-y-promocion-de-los-derechos-humanos-ciprodeh-la-mision-de-apoyo-contra-la-corrupcion-y-la-impunidad-maccih-se-esta-prestando-a-un-juego-un-juego-polit/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4093-caso-%E2%80%99Cred-de-diputados%E2%80%99D-enfrenta-a-la-maccih-con-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/14/maccih-responde-al-poder-judicial-no-somos-neutrales/>

Reporteros de Investigación published an analysis of the US security assistance to Honduras.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/12/14/swat-sustituira-al-escuadron-3-16/>

According to Casa Alianza, 53 Hondurans under 30 violently lost their lives in November. 34 of them were younger than 23 and 13 were younger than 17.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/casa-alianza-reporta-que-53-jovenes-menores-de-30-anos-murieron-en-forma-violenta-en-noviembre.html>

La Prensa reports that a new head of the Armed Forces will be elected today.

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1135131-410/avanzan-movimientos-fuerzas_armadas-elegir-nuevo-jefe-militar

Six inmates fled from the prison El Porvenir in La Ceiba, two have been recaptured.

<http://tiempo.hn/se-fugan-6-presos-de-penal-la-ceiba/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-escapan-seis-reos-de-la-penitenciaria-de-el-porvenir-atlantida.html>

The Special Unit against Impunity and Corruption (Ufecic) at the MP opened a new line of investigation against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1135167-410/investigacion-rosa-elena-de-lobo-destino-millones-cooperacion-taiwan>

The public health crisis seems to worsen as the IHSS failed to comply with demands by the medical sector.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/14/interventores-del-ihss-niegan-la-salud-al-pueblo-colegio-medico/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/14/colegio-medico-hondureno-anuncia-ruptura-de-acuerdo-con-el-gobierno-por-terquedad-del-ihss/>

"The following report, based on a four-month investigation into judicial proceedings related to the alleged rape of indigenous girls, is the winning entry from the 2016 Escribir sin Miedo Prize for investigative/public interest journalism in Honduras. It should be noted that during the course of the investigation, authorities repeatedly denied access to and suppressed public information."

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/12/13/unacknowledged-victims/>

16/12/17

(Re)Elections - Protest, Repression, Results, Fraud, US, IACHR, Economy; Public Health; Social Housing; Drug Trafficking; and Radio Progreso - The Voice in the Middle of the Storm

The International Human Rights Federation (FIDH) wrote an open letter to the EU yesterday, calling for individual sanctions for those responsible for grave human rights violations.

The National Coalition of Environmental Networks and Organizations of Honduras (CONROA) calls out to all its members, the 150 municipalities in which they are active and the international community to defend the will of the people expressed in the elections of November 26.

The Honduran regime, meanwhile, claims that the political opposition uses Maras to extort the Honduran people and that they are financed by the FARC (probably Honduran officials were too busy plotting electoral fraud to follow the news on Colombia...) and Venezuela...

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-permanencia-de-crisis-electoral-sanciones-individuales/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-fidh-urge-sanciones-contra-honduras-por-violencia/>

See Attachment

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/15/mel-zelaya-nasralla-utilizan-los-mareros-extorsionar-las-manifestaciones-segun-gobierno/>

<http://tiempo.hn/gobierno-culpa-a-nasralla-y-mel-de-dirigir-a-maras-y-pandillas-en-protestas/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1135414-410/gobierno-acusa-zelaya-nasralla-maras-violencia-elecciones>

COFADEH now already counts 17 murders at the hand of state security forces since the general elections.

Defensores en Línea and Radio Progreso report on widespread repression against the nationwide protests taking place in Honduras yesterday.

El Libertador and Pasos de Animal Grande report on the different location of protests and occupation that sprung up throughout the country.

In Villanueva, Cortés, there were at least heavily four wounded protesters by the Military Police which once more used live ammo.

COPINH denounces that their protest between La Esperanza and Siguatepeque was violently repressed by the National Police and the military. Members of the general coordination of COPINH had to flee to the mountains followed by national security forces using tear gas, hitting people with batons, and throwing rocks.

Part of the repression are also campaigns of stigmatization of certain individuals. COFADEH denounces one such campaign against the student leader Eduardo Enrique Urbina, who is accused of burning down a truck by the Armed Forces yesterday. In reality, Eduardo Enrique Urbina had to flee the country one week ago after having been persecuted by the state

security forces

Former police commissioner María Luisa Borjas sees in the current repression a reinvention of the National Security Doctrine of the 80s. She further denounces the US for financing the repressive security forces.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/12/15/17-hondurenos-ejecutados-por-militares-y-paro-nacional-por-fraude-electoral/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/fuerte-represion-contra-manifestantes-que-participan-en-el-paro-nacional/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4099-honduras-vivi%C3%B3-nueva-jornada-entre-gas-lacrim%C3%B3geno-y-balas>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2584-resistencia-civil-paraliza-honduras-entre-balas-golpes-y-fuego>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1982-paro-nacional-contra-el-fraude-electoral-honduras-bajo-indignacion-y-fuego-militar>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-brutal-la-represion-en-dos-caminos-cortes-al-menos-cuatro-heridos-de-bala-por-militares/>

<https://copinhenglish.blogspot.co.uk/2017/12/copinh-communicates-following-about.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/basta-de-estigmatizacion-en-contra-de-los-defensores-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/15/hernandez-eeuu-crearon-escuadrones-la-muerte-honduras/>

Radio Progreso now also reports that the nullifications of / challenges against the presidential elections will be dismissed by the TSE and an final declaration is to be expected soon.

This coincides with a recent statement by TSE deputy magistrate Marco Ramiro Lobo.

Criterio results that the former security minister and then foreign secretary Arturo Corrales Álvarez urged OAS general secretary Luis Almagro to present their official report of the electoral process in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4101-pronostican-que-impugnaciones-presidenciales-no-prosperar%C3%A1n-se-acerca-declaratoria-final>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/despues-del-18-de-diciembre-se-conocera-la-declaratoria-oficial-del-tse-marco-ramiro-lobo.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/15/arturo-corrales-urge-amigo-luis-almagro-brinde-informe-proceso-electoral-honduras/>

<http://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-dice-ya-momento-conocer-los-resultados/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1135413-508/exigen-a-la-oea-que-se-pronuncie-ya-sobre-las-elecciones-del>

Honduras Culture and Politics continues to cover irregularities around the Honduran electoral process. "Thanks to the incredible people over at the Voto Social we now have another anomaly related to the Actas, that the timestamps added by the ATX system when it scanned the actas have been systematically removed from the images of all but 3,737 actas in the TSE system. (...) What does this mean? It means that there is undocumented either rescanning or editing of ATX scanned actas as part of TSE procedures, neither of which appears as part of the governing rules of the Sistema Integrado de Escrutinio y Divulgación Electoral (SIEDE), the composite TSE vote tallying system and software., for this election."

Javier Suazo dedicates another analysis to the electoral fraud, first concentrating on the different ways to justify and legalize it and then on the measures taken to divert public attention away from it.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/12/more-audit-irregularities.html>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189867>

Protests took place once more outside of the US embassy in Tegucigalpa. Defensores en Línea published the translated statement by US Senator Jack Reed.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/15/hondurenos-exigen-frente-embajada-ee-uu-respeto-decision-las-urnas/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/declaracion-de-senador-reed-sobre-preocupaciones-sobre-democracia-y-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

The IACHR announced that they will visit Honduras next year based on a previous invitation with or without the official electoral results.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/15/comision-de-ddhh-de-la-oea-visitara-honduras-en-2018-no-importa-quien-gane-las-elecciones1/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-cidh-visitara-honduras-en-2018-sea-cual-sea-el-desenlace-electoral.html>

The former president of the business lobby organization COHEP, Juliette Handal, takes problem with recent statements by its current leadership which denounced the protests. According to her, the people who currently try to stay in power hurt the economy much more in the long run than the protests.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/15/las-protestas-danan-la-economia-pero-al-final-la-dana-mas-el-continuisimo-juliette-handal1/>

The Medical Association Honduras (CMH) calls for a national strike next Monday.

<http://tiempo.hn/colegio-medico-de-honduras-5/>

In the middle of the crisis, JOH appeared in front of the media announcing that his government will build 40'000 new houses in the coming four years through cheaper loans. Even though clearly used as a tool to trying to create facts on the ground regarding his reelection bid, the plan has another flaw: more than 600'000 workers of the formal sectors in most need of housing wouldn't have access to the plan because they earn less than 12'091 Lempiras per month.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/15/los-ganan-minimo-no-tendran-acceso-plan-vivienda-joh/>

The Honduran businessman and politician Yani Rosenthal was sentenced to three years in prison in the US for money laundering related to drug trafficking.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/15/yani-roenthal-tras-recibir-sentencia-hoy-inicia-la-cuenta-regresiva-regresar-hogar/>

<http://tiempo.hn/yani-roenthal-cuenta-regresiva-regresar/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4100-radio-progreso-una-voz-en-medio-de-la-tempestad>

17/12/17

Berta -- Agua Zarca; (Re)Elections - Protests, Repression, TSE, Fraud, Proposals, National Party; Political Parties; Accidents; and Spying on Activists - Worldwide

ConfidencialHN reports that the MP demanded a preliminary trial against the municipality of San Francisco de Ojuera for having authorized the construction of Agua Zarca without consulting the Lenca people.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/16/piden-juicio-para-alcaldia-que-autorizo-ilegalmente-represa-agua-zarca/>

ContraCorriente has a new article on the protests in Honduras, where "no one believes the TSE anymore and the streets have become the only place where one's frustration can be expressed and where one's vote means something."

A group of Honduran intellectuals call for a united Honduras against the dictatorship.

The Honduran regime, meanwhile, continues to denigrate the protesters as part of an organized-crime campaign. The Security Secretariat published a report yesterday claiming exactly that...

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/16/la-llama-la-antorcha-la-llanta-conduce-la-crisis-post-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/16/proclama-una-honduras-unida-la-dictadura/>

<http://tiempo.hn/secretaria-seguridad-crimen-organizado-comanda-protestas/>

Criterio reports on the ongoing repression taking place in Honduras where "assassinations, beatings and human rights violations are the order of the day."

The repression claimed another victim. David Quiroz was hurt by the armed forces during the protests on Friday and died in the hospital yesterday.

ConfidencialHN reports on another murdered protector, Delmer Josué Medina. COFADEH now already counts 22 assassinations linked to the post-electoral protests.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/16/asesinatos-golpizas-violaciones-derechos-humanos-la-orden-del-dia-honduras/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/12/honduras-david-quiroz-herido-ayer-por.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/16/asesinan-a-manifestante-antigubernamental-en-el-norte-de-honduras/>

Honduras Culture and Politics explains what the TSE exactly does or rather what it is supposed to do when it processes voting tally sheets. They highlight two important things: "It is notable that the otherwise very specific rules from the TSE do a bunch of hand waving rather than documenting the scanning protocol at the INFOP warehouse. It is only by reading between the lines that we can infer that these scans replace the ATX transmitted scans in the TSE system. A proper software/procedural audit would have questioned why there were no protocols described for this process, but the TSE didn't ask its audit firm, Audisis, for a pre-election audit. (...) At no point does the TSE compare each of the scanned images with the paper original and the votes recorded in its computers to validate the results of the election. That simple procedure would detect some kinds of fraud that are suspected or rumored."

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/12/processing-acta-rules-and-procedures.html>

Here is another great article explaining why the lack of a timestamps on some tallies is another important indicator of electoral fraud and how it makes an audit almost impossible.

The Opposition Alliance held a press conference yesterday, in which it talked further about the electoral fraud as well as about the human rights violations committed by the JOH regime.

<http://tse- analisis.ghost.io/a-small-detail-of-the-general-elections-honduras-2017/>

https://www.facebook.com/unetvhn/videos/1423655597763150/?_fb_noscript=1

Radio Progreso published a seven-step proposal out of the "dead end" Honduras is currently in: i) the OAS invokes the Inter-American Democratic Charter accompanied by the UN and the EU leading to the annulment of the elections; ii) the three bodies work towards new elections; iii) before the elections, the OAS calls for a plebiscite on the possibility of a presidential reelection; iv) if the people say yes, JOH can run again, otherwise the National Party has to run with another candidate; v) the OAS together with the EU and the UN nominate a transition government taking over on January 27, 2018; vi) the transition government calls for new elections in the coming six months under the supervision of the three bodies and the elected government takes over 20 days after the elections; and vii) the new government has two years to call for a constitutional assembly to give Honduras the conditions to build a real democracy and guarantee the rule of law.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/elecciones/2017/12/16/hacia-un-escenario-de-transicion-posible-y-aceptable-nuestra-propuesta/>

ContraCorriente published a portrayal of one of the most contested persons (next to JOH) in the ranks of the National Party: Billy Joya. He is accused of being one of the "main executioner of kidnappings, torture and assassinations in Honduras during the 80s" as part of the Battalion 3-16. Nevertheless, he was able to run for Congress on November 26 and even though he did not get a place, more than 200'000 people voted for him.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/16/billy-joya-los-escuadrones-la-muerte-jugar-la-democracia/>

El Pulso contemplates the future of the six so-called "briefcase parties" which together not even reached 1% of the popular vote.

<http://elpulso.hn/partidos-pequenos-con-un-futuro-incierto/>

An army helicopter carrying six people crashed yesterday morning. All of them died in the accident and among them was Hilda Hernández, the former communications minister and JOH's sister.

<http://elpulso.hn/muere-hilda-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/16/fallece-hermana-del-presidente-hernandez-demas-ocupantes/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/16/fuerzas-armadas-honduras-lamenta-muerte-tripulantes-del-helicoptero/>

<http://tiempo.hn/comunidad-internacional-muestra-condolencia-a-juan-hernandez/>

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/12/surveillance-firms-spied-on-campaign-groups-for-big-companies-leak-shows?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

18/12/17

(Re)Elections - Result, Opposition Alliance, Liberal Party, Protests, Journalists, Repression, US; and an Award for C-Libre

As anticipated by many observers of the situation in Honduras, the TSE president declared JOH the winner of the presidential elections. In an interesting turn of events, the previously very critical EU electoral observation mission did not criticize this, but only said that it will continue to analyze appeals sent to the TSE or the Supreme Court. The OAS observation mission, meanwhile, reacted to the TSE's declaration by stating that "based on the presented Analyse [in the attached report] and the accumulation of observations in the preliminary report, the MOE [electoral observation mission] considers the elections of a low quality and can, therefore, not assert that the doubts have been allayed." ContraCorriente reports that the General Secretary of the OAS, Luis

Almargo, that only new elections could end the doubt about the electoral process.

The JOH regime was not happy about these comments and its coordinator of the Council of Ministers, Ebal Díaz, accused Almargo to violate the procedures of the electoral observation mission and the OAS in general. Reinaldo Sánchez, the president of the Central Committee of the National Party, even tries to stir up a conspiracy theory regarding a high official inside the OAS.

Honduras Culture and Politics overs a summary of all of yesterday's press conferences and they highlight an important new analysis in the report by the OAS "by Professor Irfan Nooruddin of Georgetown University addressing whether the sharp change in voting patterns noted after a break in counting could be explained in any innocent way. (...)

Professor Nooruddin uses additional techniques, and concludes "on the basis of this analysis, I would reject the proposition that the National Party won the election legitimately."

And once more I link to articles in the main media which try to manipulate the public. Even though in the text they mention that the OAS does not accept the results, they chose titles that lead to think otherwise.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/17/mediante-oscur-o-escrutinio-tse-oficializa-hernandez-ganador-los-comicios-del-26-noviembre/>

https://eeas.europa.eu/election-observation-missions/eom-honduras-2017_en/37539/EU%20EOM%20Honduras%202017:%20Statement%20following%20the%20declaration%20of%20provisional%20results%20of%20the%202017%20general%20elections

See Attachment

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/17/resultados-electorales-honduras-estan-llenos-dudas-oea/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/17/declaran-presidente-reelecto-honduras-inconstitucionalidad-dudas-fraude-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/17/oea-propone-nuevas-elecciones-garantizar-la-paz-la-conconrdia-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/17/ebal-diaz-acusa-luis-almagro-violar-los-procedimientos-la-oea/>

<http://tiempo.hn/pn-alto-funcionario-la-oea-pidio-declarar-ganador-nasralla/>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.co.uk/2017/12/oas-calls-for-new-elections-in-honduras.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/17/moe-oea-ratifica-actas-los-partidos-coinciden-las-del-tse/>

The Opposition Alliance denounced the declaration by the TSE immediately and they also criticize the position of the EU and demand more from the OAS. But they welcome the statement by Almargo. They announce new protests throughout the country.

Manuel Zelaya denounces that Salvador Nasralla was invited to Washington and on the way there exactly when the TSE made its declarations.

Nasralla sent a statement from Miami emphasizing that the results have no validity and that even the OAS does not stand behind them.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/17/mel-zelaya-convoca-movilizaciones-las-calles/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/17/enganaron-salvador-nasralla-lo-llevaron-washington/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/17/declaratoria-dada-tse-no-validez-no-aval-la-oea-nasralla-video/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-oposicion-rechaza-declaratoria-del-tse-llama-movilizacion/>

Luis Zelaya, presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, says that the TSE lost any credibility by announcing the final results at this moment.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/tse-pierde-credibilidad-al-dar-resultados-de-las-elecciones-generales-luis-zelaya.html>

El Tiempo reports on the first protests after the announcement by the TSE.

<http://tiempo.hn/se-reportan-primeras-protestas-declaratoria-del-tse/>

The head of the police in El Progreso, Yoro, threatened the two journalists Dunia Montoya and Lesly Banegas on December 12, when they covered the repression by state security forces of protesters.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/jefe-policial-de-el-progreso-amenaz%C3%B3-dos-periodistas>

C-Libre reports on the victims of Friday's repression.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/una-persona-muerta-varias-personas-heridas-en-protesta-contr-el-fraude>

Aqui Abajo translated the analysis by CESPAD on the role of the US in the post-electoral process in Honduras.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2017/12/17/cespad-report-the-decisive-role-of-the-united-states-in-the-official-results-of-the-november-elections>

C-Libre's director Edy Tábor was in Málaga, Spain to receive the Freedom of Expression Prize by UNESCO.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/luchando-contr-el-cerco-mediatico-c-libre-recibe-premio-la-libertad-de-expresion>

19/12/17

(Re)Elections - Protests, Repression, Journalists, Results, Fraud, US, JOH; National Party; and What Would Carías Do?

Aqui Abajo offers an important overview of Sunday's events in Honduras

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2017/12/18/day-19-2017-election-crisis-fraud-update>

ContraCorriente reports on yesterday's protests which took place all over Honduras.

COPINH and MADJ denounce the declaration by the TSE and calls for Hondurans to go to the streets.

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/18/una-lucha-desigual/>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2017/12/el-copinh-no-reconoce-resolucion-del.html>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/12/18/MADJ-Movilizaci%C3%B3n-y-gobernanza-popular-ante-el-fracaso-institucional>

According to El Libertador, the number of deaths by state security forces in the post-electoral crisis rose to 24.

ConfidencialHN reports on one of the two new assassinations.

Radio Progreso calls yesterday "Repression Monday".

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2596-emergencia-ya-van-24-hondurenos-asesinados-por-militares-en-crisis-electoral>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/18/joven-es-ultimado-mientras-protestaba-en-san-pedro-sula/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4105-una-declaratoria-que-desat%C3%B3-la-indignaci%C3%B3n-en-las-calles-hondure%C3%B1as>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces the arrest of journalist Josué Neptalí Rubí while covering a protest on Monday, December 11.

C-Libre reports that the harassment of Radio Progreso continues. After the blowing up of their antenna near Tegucigalpa two weeks ago, they now also have problems in other parts of the country with their signal.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/elecciones-en-honduras-2017/item/1984-en-cobertura-de-manifestacion-policias-detuvieron-a-periodista-a-pesar-que-les-informo-que-andaba-en-el-ejercicio-de-la-profesion>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/radio-jesuita-denuncia-boicot-informativo>

After a tweet by OAS General Secretary calling for a new election in Honduras (see yesterday), there is now also an official OAS press release calling for it.

This has been taken up by the international media and both the Guardian and the New York Times report on it. Both highlight the various irregularities that accompanied this electoral process (more on this below). Javier Suazo analyses the different reactions by the EU and OAS observation mission to the declarations. He highlights a particularity of the EU mission's statement regarding their analysis of the digital tallies received by the political parties which raises some questions. The EU mission reacted with a second press conference, this time by its mission leader and in Brussels. Marisa Matias emphasized that they have not validated the results presented by the TSE. And that their initial report has been misinterpreted. At the same time, she said that their mandate is different from the one of the OAS and she can't recommend new elections.

ContraCorriente spoke with human rights expert Joaquín Mejía about the feasibility of new elections. He emphasizes that the minimum requirement for it are a dialogue between the National Party and the Opposition Alliance. He also criticizes the first statement of the EU, which took place just hours before the declaration by the TSE and in absence of the head of its mission. Even if it wasn't their intention (as the statement above confirms), they should have anticipated that it would be seen by the National Party as a recognition of the TSE's work, legitimizing a fraudulent electoral process.

In a second interview with Radio Progreso, Mejía said something important. The fact that it took the TSE so long to declare JOH as the winner can be seen by a first victory of the Honduran people. Their insistence to defend their vote, gave them as well as the international community enough time to show that this electoral process in Honduras has no legitimacy left and new elections are called for.

Padre Melo calls what is happening in Honduras an "electoral coup d'état". As a way out, the Jesuit Conference from Latin America and the Caribbean reiterate in a public statement their five-step proposal (see Sunday's email).

Radio Progreso spoke with Padre Melo, one of the proponents of the proposal. The Honduran regime tries to ignore this debate and published their official result in La Gaceta.

And when they don't ignore it, they now attack the OAS.

http://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-092/17

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/18/honduras-election-president-juan-orlando-fernandez-declared-winner-amid-unrest>

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/17/world/americas/honduran-presidential-election.html?_r=0

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189944>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/18/union-europea-aclara-no-ha-avalado-resultados-electorales-honduras/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1136152-508/marisa-mat%C3%ADas-recomendar-repetir-las-elecciones-es-una-forma-de-injerencia>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/18/convocar-nuevas-elecciones-implicaria-partido-nacional-alianza-oposicion-negocien-joaquin-mejia/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4107-en-medio-de-la-represi%C3%B3n-e-incertidumbre-pueblo-hondure%C3%B1o-ve-primeras-victorias-en-crisis-post-electoral>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189906>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/189903>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4106-presentan-propuesta-para-buscar-salida-a-la-crisis-post-electoral-en-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/18/medio-crisis-politica-publican-resultados-electorales-la-gaceta/>

<http://tiempo.hn/publicada-la-gaceta-la-declaratoria-oficial-las-elecciones-generales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/18/luis-almagro-se-cree-rey-los-paises-la-oea-ricardo-alvarez/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2592-gobierno-hondureno-acusa-a-la-oea-de-robar-elecciones>

<http://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-no-acepta-las-palabras-del-secretario-general-la-oea/>

The OAS electoral observation mission had ordered an analysis of the electoral results by Georgetown University professor Irfan Nooruddin. He concludes that "the Honduran national election of 2017 experienced a dramatic vote swing away from the opposition alliance and towards the incumbent national party. This analysis raises doubts about the plausibility of such a reversal of fortunes. If one believes the vote tallies to be accurate, it is plausible to have a swing. But the pattern of votes particularly in turnout rates, is suspicious. As documented above, there's a marked break in the data set that is hard to explain as pure chance. On the basis of this analysis, I would reject the proposition that the National Party won the election legitimately." CEPR's co-director Mark Weisbrot agrees: "It is now clear to the experts who have looked at the results that there is no statistically plausible explanation for the sudden and drastic shift in the vote count that took place after the majority of votes were counted," Weisbrot said. "This election has little credibility, either among most Hondurans, or internationally at this point." Honduras Culture and Politics also continues reporting on the electoral fraud in Honduras comparing the analysis of the Economist and the one from Nooruddin, concluding that "there was something fishy that happened in the middle of vote counting."

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z66bryfi3orb8b6/Nooruddin-Analysis-for-OAS-Honduras-2017.pdf?dl=0>

<http://cepr.net/press-center/press-releases/honduras-electoral-authority-declares-incumbent-president-the-winner-of-elections-despite-statistical-near-impossibility-cepr-co-director-says>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/12/statistics-and-fraud.html>

Two US Senators immediately reacted to the TSE's declaration. Senator Patrick Leahy laments that it leaves too many questions unanswered and urges "the EU and the OAS to insist on whatever action - including a complete recount or a new election - is necessary to eliminate any reasonable suspicion of fraud that could have affected the result." Senator Ben Cardin supports "the steps by OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro to defuse political tensions and strengthen the credibility of democratic processes in Honduras, including the call for a new free, fair and transparent election."

The US State Department, meanwhile, only encourages political parties to use the five-day period to present challenges to the election result to raise any concerns they may have.

Democracy Now! analyzed the recent developments in Honduras with award-winning independent journalist Allan Nairn; Rodolfo Pastor, the spokesperson for the Alliance Against the Dictatorship; and Dana Frank, professor of history at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

A group of US intellectuals wrote an open letter to the highest US representative in Honduras, Heide Fulton, asking her to denounce the electoral fraud and supporting the OAS in their call for new elections. And in an OpEd for the New York Times, Silvio Carillo denounces "America's Blind Eye to Honduras's Tyrant".

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/leahy-reaction-to-the-tses-declaration-of-juan-orlando-hernandez-as-the-winner-in-the-honduran-election>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/18/hubo-multiples-oportunidades-fraude-senador-patrick-leahy/>

<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-expresses-concern-about-the-electoral-crisis-in-honduras->

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/18/la-oea-no-pueda-certificar-elecciones-honduras-sorprendente-senador-ben-cardin/>

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/12/276677.htm>

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/12/18/all_eyes_on_us_as_honduran

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/18/intelectuales-estadounidenses-istan-gobierno-apoyar-al-pueblo-hondureno/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/19/opinion/america-honduras-hernandez-trump.html>

Honduras' neighbors reacted differently to the declaration by the TSE. Guatemala congratulated JOH, while El Salvador said that it doesn't yet recognize the results.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/guatemala-felicita-hernandez-por-triunfo-ratificado-en-comicios-hondurenos.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/internacionales/2593-el-salvador-no-reconoce-a-joh-como-ganador-de-elecciones>

The Honduran press reports on "voluntary retirements" of police officials.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/varios-oficiales-de-la-policia-nacional-se-retiran-voluntariamente-de-la-institucion.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/depurador-rivera-informa-que-no-hay-desbandada-en-la-policia-se-trata-de-15-retiros-voluntarios.html>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/12/dictatorship-ghost-that-haunts-re.html>

20/12/17

(Re)Elections - Results, Fraud, Protests, Repression, Opposition Alliance, US, Media, Analysis, JOH; IACtHR; and the Moral Triumph of Honduras' Citizens

John Perry wrote a helpful summary in English on the last three weeks in Honduras.

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2017/12/19/john-perry/low-integrity/>

The National Human Rights Roundtable of the Coalition against Impunity denounces that the TSE declared JOH as the winner of the presidential elections, calling it an "affront to the sovereignty of our people". They call out to both CONADEH and international human rights institution to recognize the grave human rights situation Honduras is in - at least 23 extra-judicial killings since November 30 - and act accordingly. Radio Progreso speaks with political analyst and former president of the Honduran Central Bank, Hugo Noé about the post-electoral crisis, possible solutions to it and the responsibility of the international community.

The Judges for Democracy in Spain denounce the events in Honduras as a new coup d'état.

The IACHR supports the call for new elections in Honduras.

And so does WOLA, which also urges "the Honduran authorities to exercise restraint and uphold Hondurans' right to peacefully assemble and respect the human rights of the citizenry".

Meanwhile, the attacks against the OAS continues, trying to deviate attention away from the electoral fraud (see below).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/elecciones-en-honduras-2017/item/1986-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-pide-acciones-contundentes-del-conadeh-por-actos-represivos-de-los-cuerpos-armados-del-estado>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4111-organizaciones-exigen-al-conadeh-un-papel-beligerante-en-defensa-de-derechos-humanos>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/19/jueces-espanoles-denuncian-golpe-estado-perpetrado-honduras/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4110-nuevas-elecciones-es-la-salida-a-la-crisis-en-honduras-dice-analista>

<https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/943162321152733184>

<https://www.wola.org/2017/12/international-community-join-oas-calling-new-elections-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/theodoro-vale-vukanovich-es-una-situacion-demasiado-cargada-de-mentiras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/19/empresa-transmitio-resultados-electorales-honduras-califica-falaz-informe-la-oea/>

<http://tiempo.hn/dale-vucanovich-rechaza-informe-la-oea-dice-haber-recibido-amenazas/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2600-gobierno-de-honduras-exige-a-oea-investigar-a-luis-almagro>

Jonathan Blitzer published a new article in the New Yorker in which he cites an official working for a company hired by the government to tabulate the ballot data. He commented on the events of the election day: "We were in the control room at election headquarters during the day, and we could see on a screen that sixteen thousand polling places were online and ready." They grew increasingly uneasy as the results came in but the tribunal made no announcement. "We had the data, but the tribunal wasn't saying anything. We didn't know what was going on." The same official also debunks, as many before him, the rural narrative of the National Party. "[W]hen Nasralla had the lead on Sunday night, with nearly sixty per cent of the vote counted, the actas were being processed randomly, and projections made as part of a "quick count" were based on a sample size that drew, equally, from rural and urban areas. "There's no logical explanation to say that the votes processed on Sunday versus those processed on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday would flip like this".

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/in-honduras-calls-rise-for-new-presidential-elections>

The Platform of Social and Popular Movements Honduras (PMSPH) denounces the TSE for declaring JOH the winner of fraudulent presidential elections and calls for ongoing protests against it.

<http://movimientom4.org/2017/12/comunicado-ante-resolucion-del-tse-de-dar-como-ganador-a-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/elecciones-en-honduras-2017/item/1985-arrecian-protestas-por-declaratoria-de-joh-como-presidente-de-honduras>

La Prensa reports on the death of a girl between 14 and 16 years old who was protesting with other youths.

The Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams wrote an open letter to JOH denouncing the human rights violations taking place in Honduras. El Libertador wonders who will investigate the murders of the protesters, among them three minors.

http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1136481-410/joven-muerta-crimen-protestas-turbas-lopez_arellano-violencia-honduras

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/19/brutal-represion-en-honduras-muertos-y-heridos-dejan-protestas-anti-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/19/medidas-represivas-gobierno-violan-leyes-internacionales-dice-premio-nobel-la-paz-carta-joh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2601-honduras-quien-juzgara-muerte-de-menores-por-represion-militar>

The Opposition Alliance presented new proof of fraud in a press conference based on the analysis by the criminal lawyer and calligraphy expert from Barcelona, Víctor Manuel Mejía.

They also condemned the reaction by the US State Department to the TSE declaring JOH as the winner.

Salvador Nasralla held a press conference in DC after his short visit there. He calls for a peaceful solution, an end of state repression and emphasizes the importance to swiftly decide on the how and when of new elections.

Manuel Zelaya, meanwhile, states that rather than calling for new elections, they demand the recognition of Nasralla's victory by the international community.

Others also criticize the calls for dialogue, fearing that it only serves to demobilize the protesters and then force through a JOH victory more easily. Or in the words of Oscar Miguel Marroquín: "First they kill the protesters, then they invite them for a dialogue."

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/19/alianza-oposicion-muestra-mas-pruebas-del-fraude-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/19/alianza-oposicion-condena-postura-del-departamento-estado/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4113-estados-unidos-sostiene-triunfo-de-la-ilegal-reelecci%C3%B3n-en-honduras-en-un-proceso-electoral-fraudulento>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YCSagxJhmW20EShMrNyOjL1CZtSSfKsJ/view>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/19/ricardo-alvarez-ya-olvido-cuatro-anos-lloraba-nino-pidiendo-voto-voto-mel-zelaya/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/19/dialogo-veinticinco-muertos-la-mesa/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/19/advierten-que-dialogo-convocado-por-joh-terminara-en-rotundo-fracaso/>

The Liberal Party also supports the call for new elections, declaring it the only way out of the political crisis.

<http://elpulso.hn/luis-zelaya-el-unico-camino-posible-es-un-nuevo-llamado-a-elecciones/>

<http://tiempo.hn/partido-liberal-demanda-la-nulidad-elecciones-pide-se-repitan/>

US Congressman Eliot L. Engel, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, supports the call by the OAS for the TSE to hold a new presidential election in early 2018.

In a joint statement, US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission) and US Senator Jeff Merkley (member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee) "join OAS officials in calling for a new election, one that must be free, fair and transparent. We continue to support the peaceful protests of the Honduran people and urge Honduran security forces to refrain from violence and respect the people's right to make their voices heard."

La Tribuna, as the only main media so far, took up their press release, but chose the title "Us Senator: Protests should be peaceful" (!!!)

US Senator Tim Kaine, a further member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, supports "their [OAS] call for a new general election. I

also remain concerned by widespread reports of violence and human rights abuses in the wake of the election, and call on the government to investigate and address these claims."

Three US human rights organizations call on "the US Congress and the State Department to halt military aid to Honduras, and not recognize the announced results until a credible, independent investigation into the election has been conducted which addresses all claims of fraud and political violence."

<https://engel.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=24&itemid=5040>

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/press-releases/merkley-schakowsky-join-calls-for-new-election-in-honduras2/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/19/senador-eeuu-las-protestas-deben-pacificas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/19/senador-merkley-congresista-schakowsky-se-unen-convocatoria-nuevas-elecciones-honduras/>

<https://www.kaine.senate.gov/press-releases/kaine-statement-on-the-electoral-crisis-in-honduras>

<https://grassrootsonline.org/press-releases/honduras-us-rights-groups-condemn-election-result-as-not-credible/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the dire role the main media played in the post-electoral crisis.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/medios-de-comunicacion-cajas-de-resonancia-de-las-ffaa/>

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) found Honduras guilty for the lack of a diligent investigation into the murder of the then Nationalist candidate for Congress Ángel Pacheco León on November 23, 2001.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/5357-2/>

Patricio Zamorano published his analysis of the situation in Honduras under the title "The Silent Cry of Honduras".

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/19/grito-silencioso-honduras/>

Israel congratulated JOH.
So does Mexico.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1136437-410/gobierno-de-israel-felicita-a-joh-por-su-nuevo-mandato>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/19/reuters-mexico-se-apresta-reconocer-a-joh-como-presidente-reelecto-de-honduras/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4109-los-triunfos-morales-de-la-ciudadan%C3%ADa-19-diciembre-2017>

21/12/17

HRDs; MADJ; (Re)Elections - Protests, Repression, Journalists, Results, OAS, Opposition Alliance, US, EU, IMF, JOH; Armed Forces; and the Extraditions Continue

Last August, a group of international human rights organizations organized a three-day "learning community" (comunidad de aprendizaje común) in Honduras for human rights defenders on psychosocial support. Some video impression of the three days have now been published (with English subtitles) and should remind us about the different dimension of protection for human rights defenders, who now once more in Honduras are

confronted with increasing repression.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj2DO6wKJuw&list=PL1jYJqC_-b0AG6au20oR48qBT6ERbfZ4

MADJ emitted an alert after renewed attacks against its leadership as part of the widespread repression against protesters.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/12/20/ALERTA-Contin%C3%BAa-la-persecuci%C3%B3n-militar-y-policial-en-contra-de-l%C3%ADderes-del-MADJ-y-manifestantes-en-Atl%C3%A1ntida>

ConexiHon presents the female perspective on the post-electoral crisis. Sandra Cuffe catches the "voices from the barricades" while reporting on the protests in Honduras.

Radio Progreso speaks with the university professor and psychologist Faustino Martínez on the psychological effects of the protests and their repression.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/dolor-represion-barbarie-resultado-post-electoral-para-mujeres-hondurenas>

<https://towardfreedom.com/archives/americas/voices-barricades-protests-election-fraud-intensify-honduras/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4115-faustino-mart%C3%ADnez-la-ciudadan%C3%ADa-est%C3%A1-venciendo-el-miedo-est%C3%A1-resistiendo>

Amnesty International launches the second urgent action in a short time as the "violence against protesters escalates" in Honduras.

The Episcopal Conference of Honduras denounces the excessive use of force by the state security forces against protesters.

As a possible way out of this crisis, they propose a national constitutional assembly.

Special Rapporteurs of the UN and the IACHR condemned in a joint press release the repression against protesters in Honduras. Furthermore, they denounce the attack against journalists and the media, highlighting the case of Radio Progreso.

On a national level, the ineffectiveness of the human rights ombudsman CONADEH raises more and more criticism.

ContraCorriente expresses fear of the post-electoral crisis turning into a civil war.

Meanwhile, the Security Minister, Julián Pacheco Tinoco, continues to blame organized crime for the protests and the Vice-Minister of Defense, Fredy Santiago Díaz Zelaya, denies that they are using force to repress protesters and he denies that protesters died at the hand of state security forces.

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-violence-against-protestors-escalates-honduras-ua-264-17/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/asesinatos-y-abuso-militar-contra-manifestaciones-ciudadanas-en-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/20/cuerpos-seguridad-se-sobrepasado-uso-la-fuerza-conferencia-episcopal-honduras/>

<http://tiempo.hn/conferencia-episcopal-propone-la-posibilidad-una-asamblea-nacional-constituyente/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/20/iglesia-catolica-esta-preocupada-por-violencia-generalizada-tras-elecciones/>

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/expresion/showarticle.asp?artID=1085&IID=2>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/expertos-onu-y-cidh-condenan-asesinatos-durante-represion-de-manifestaciones.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/defensores-de-ddhh-piden-el-cierre-del-conadeh/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/20/esta-honduras-al-borde-una-guerra-civil/>

<http://tiempo.hn/seguridad-pide-videos-comprobar-militares-disparan-bala-limpia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/20/secretario-de-seguridad-declara-a-la-institucion-victima-por-campana-de-desinformacion/>

Radio Progreso reports on how the armed forces and the Military Police are impeding journalists from conducting their work covering the post-electoral crisis. C-Libre has already documented some 50 attacks against journalists.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4118-en-proceso-y-crisis-electoral-militares-principal-obst%C3%A1culo-para-periodistas>

Radio Progreso speaks with the former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana about the situation in Honduras. He speaks of a country "turned into hell and the only one responsible is Juan Orlando Hernández, the president of the Republic who intends to impose a dictatorship through electoral fraud..." He believes that the other parties should participate in the proposed dialogue, but with just one item on the agenda - new elections. But it rather seems that JOH only wants to have a dialogue with his civil society organizations.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4117-si-fuera-fiscal-general-ya-los-hubiera-procesado-y-metido-presos-a-los-del-tse-dice-edmundo-orellana>

<http://tiempo.hn/hernandez-anuncia-las-primeras-bases-iniciar-dialogo-nacional/>

OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro reiterates that new elections are needed in Honduras.

<http://tiempo.hn/almagro-ratifica-resultados-las-elecciones-no-dan-certidumbre/>

In a new protest by the Opposition Alliance yesterday, Manuel Zelaya called out to the Armed Forces to join the Honduran people. This was the first of three protests called for by them. The next is planned for today at 3pm and another one for tomorrow at 6am. Salvador Nasralla holds the Honduras business sector partly responsible for the events in Honduras for not speaking out against the human rights violations.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/20/mel-zelaya-llama-las-fuerzas-armadas-reivindicarse-la-patria-pueblo/>

<http://tiempo.hn/oposicion-manda-carta-abierta-fuerzas-armadas-pide-parar-los-asesinatos/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/12/convocatoria-actividades-de-protesta-de.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/20/nasralla-acusa-los-empresarios-complices-dictador/>

US Senator Patrick Leahy published an open letter to President Trump listing three reasons why the US should support new elections. This view was also expressed by the Editorial Board of Bloomberg. Radio Progreso explains how all national institutional pathways to solve the post-electoral crisis have been shut down and it holds the US government responsible to stop the 'bloodshed' by accepting the proposal by the OAS for new elections. This seems not to be the case, as the Trump administration apparently backed out from its initial statement to await the full report by the OAS and now has sided with the TSE on backing JOH.

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/leahy-statement-in-support-of-democracy-in-honduras>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-12-20/the-u-s-should-back-new-elections-in-honduras>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4114-a-o%C3%ADdos-del-gobierno-de-los-estados-unidos-20-diciembre-2017>

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-fg-us-honduras-20171220-story.html>

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-honduras-election-usa/u-s-follows-mexico-in-backing-disputed-honduran-vote-result-idUKKBN1EE2E3>

German and Austrian human rights organizations published an open letter in solidarity with the Honduran people protesting against the TSE's declaration. They demand an end to the state repression and denounce that the EU's electoral observation mission (MOE-UE) hides behind technicalities instead of following the lead of the OAS in calling for new elections. Friends of the Earth also criticizes the position of the MOE-UE.

See attachment

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/12/pronunciamiento-la-opinion-publica.html>

Here is a link to JOH's "acceptance" speech translated to English by one of Honduras' PR firms. He does not mention once the death of the 26 people, 23 of them through state violence, since the protests began on November 27.

Beatriz Colmenares reports on how Guatemala congratulated JOH for the second time in three weeks on "winning" the Honduran elections.

It seems Spain also accepts the fraudulent elections in Honduras, or at least Proceso Digital presents it like that.

And so does South Korea.

The UK, meanwhile, does not and asks for a common understanding to solve the crisis.

Israel, which also had congratulated JOH, now is confronted with local activists asking its government to stop exporting arms to Honduras.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/honduran-president-addresses-the-nation-as-official-winner-of-2017-election-300573626.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/20/las-felicitaciones-arrebatadas-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/espana-pide-a-las-fuerzas-politicas-de-honduras-que-llamen-a-la-tranquilidad.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/presidente-de-corea-se-suma-a-las-felicitaciones-por-triunfo-de-juan-orlando-hernandez.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/reino-unido-pide-a-politicos-hondurenos-un-entendimiento-comun-ante-tesis.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/20/activistas-piden-israel-detenga-la-venta-armas-honduras/>

Javier Suazo presents an additional perspective on the current post-electoral crisis in Honduras: the failed structural adjustment program by the IMF after the coup during the Lobo administration, as well as the following policies promoted by the IMF since then.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/190007>

In the midst of turmoil, general René Orlando Ponce Fonseca became the new head of the Armed Forces. Human rights organizations denounce that he has a past in the Battalion 3-16, which is known as a death squad in Honduras.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1136614-466/amplia-trayectoria-del-nuevo-jefe-de-las-fuerzas-armadas-ren%C3%A9-orlando-ponce>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/20/nombran-a-dos-militares-de-linea-dura-al-frente-de-las-ffaa-de-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/estamos-haciendo-lo-justo-lo-legal-y-lo-correcto-dice-nuevo-jefe-castrense-ponce-fonseca.html>

Another Honduran accused of drug trafficking was extradited to the US.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/20/extraditan-al-hondureno-roberto-de-jesus-soto-garcia/>

22/12/17

(Re)Elections- Protests, Repression, Journalists, Results, Fraud, Opposition Alliance, US, EU, Church, Armed Forces, Analysis, JOH; Corruption; Armed Forces; MP; and a Paradise - at least for Taxes

Honduras Resist translated an interview with the Honduran journalist Sandra Maribel Sánchez on the protests or in her words, the "insurrection".

<https://hondurasresists.blogspot.ch/2017/12/this-is-insurrection-honduran.html>

Aqui Abajo offers another summary of the most recent events in Honduras (Wednesday, December 22): "The human rights situation in northern Honduras is so dire that its hard to describe with words. Northwestern cities including Choloma, San Pedro Sula, Villanueva, El Progreso, and the small communities between or around those areas are literally living in a war zone. There are countless videos circulating that show the terror tactics being used by state security forces particularly the Military Police against anti-fraud protesters and the general population. The state is getting increasingly violent around the country but particularly in that area because the resistance is, arguably, one of the strongest."

Radio Progreso writes of an escalation in state violence.

COFADEH counted 20 assassinations with a political background up to the November elections and since then 29 more occurred.

They denounce that worse may come as many political leaders are receiving death threats, many involving the Military Police.

The National Human Rights Roundtable demands "though action" by CONADEH regarding state violence.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2017/12/21/day-22-2017-election-crisis-fraud-update>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4121-gobierno-arrecia-represi%C3%B3n-contra-protestas-contra-fraude-electoral>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-matria-se-desangra/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/siguen-las-amenazas-a-muerte-a-lideres-politicos/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/elecciones-en-honduras-2017/item/1986-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-pide-acciones-contundentes-del-conadeh-por-actos-represivos-de-los-cuerpos-armados-del-estado>

Journalists called out to the main Honduran press to stop the "media blackout" (cerco mediático) on the post-electoral crisis.

As an example of how the main media reports (or in this instance, lies) on the current situation in Honduras, I link to a Radio HRN article.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4123-periodistas-piden-a-prensa-tradicional-hondure%C3%B1a-compromiso-con-la-verdad>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/21/40764/>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/m%C3%A1s-pa%C3%ADses-se-suman-en-respaldo-al-presidente-hern%C3%A1ndez>

Stating that no solution to the current crisis will come from the main cause of it, i.e. JOH, Radio Progreso explains why it believes that the

only viable solution is to join in the OAS's demand of a new election. The political analyst Efraín Díaz Arrivillaga explains why JOH has no legitimacy to call for a dialogue.

This can also be seen in the statement by Luis Zelaya, who says that a real dialogue would be alright, but not a JOH monologue.

Not being bothered by this, JOH continues his dialogue with handpicked representatives of civil society.

There are also voices that don't just see a problem with the superficial calls for dialogue, but with the OAS proposal for a new election. They fear that it is a trap to divide the people instead of uniting them behind the defense of the Nasralla victory. Given Honduras' past experience with the OAS in 2009, there is something to this as well.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4119-sumemos-voces-en-demandar-nuevas-elecciones-21-diciembre-2017>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4122-joh-no-es-actor-leg%C3%ADtimo-para-convocar-a-di%C3%A1logo-dicen-analistas>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/21/acepto-el-dialogo-pero-no-el-monologo-de-joh-luis-zelaya/>

<http://tiempo.hn/luis-zelaya-no-participar-en-dialogo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-el-dialogo-debe-discutirse-nuevo-sistema-electoral-reconoce-presidente-hernandez.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1137097-508/universidades-y-ong-se-suman-a-predic%C3%A1logo-nacional>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/21/nuevas-elecciones-caballo-troya-la-oea-dividir-al-pueblo/>

A report by GANAS detects proof of fraud in the Honduran elections. As a result of the electoral fraud, the Honduran scientist Salvador Moncada renounced from his position as the ambassador of the PR-campaign 'Marca País'.

<https://www.yumpu.com/document/view/59624288/honduras-elections-2017-technical-report>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/21/sir-salvador-moncada-renuncia-embajador-marca-pais/>

In a protest in front of the US embassy, Manuel Zelaya read aloud a letter to the US.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/21/senores-del-gobierno-estados-unidos-respeten-derecho-los-hondurenos-elegir-gobierno-mel-zelaya/>

See attachment for the English translation

<http://tiempo.hn/protesta-frente-a-la-embajada-americana/>

No less than 26 congresswomen co-signed a letter by Congressman Keith Ellison to the US president to join the OAS's call for new elections and to call on the Honduran government to stop the violence. The letter further highlights the illegality of JOH's reelection bid.

In a second letter by Congresswoman Norma J. Torres, she and 19 Democratic Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee wrote to Secretary Tillerson denouncing the "pathetic" response by the Trump administration to the situation. They demand that they support the call for new elections.

<https://ellison.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/letter-on-honduras-elections>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/carta-de-representante-ellison-con-27-firmantes/>

<https://torres.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-torres-leads-house-democrats-object-trump-administration-response>

<http://tiempo.hn/congresistas-eua-nuevas-elecciones-hn/>

The EU continues to send mixed signals. On Sunday they held a press conference before the TSE's declaration which could have been interpreted as a support of the TSE, then on Monday in a press conference in Brussel they somehow corrected this false view. Now they emitted another press release which calls the TSE's declaration a "significant step in a complex and uncertain process"...

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/37779/Statement%20by%20the%20Spokesperson%20following%20the%20announcement%20by%20the%20Honduran%20Supreme%20Electoral%20Court

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/la-ue-dice-que-anuncio-de-resultados-en-honduras-es-un-paso-significativo.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1137095-508/uni%C3%B3n-europea-alienta-a-superar-la-crisis-a-trav%C3%A9s-del-di%C3%A1logo-inclusivo>

MADJ and the Alignment against Continuity wrote open letters to the Catholic and evangelical churches in Honduras calling on them to support the calls from the street and to denounce the state violence against protesters.

See Attachment

Embedded in a history analysis, El Libertador's director Jhonny Lagos explains the role of the Armed Forces in today's Honduras and how the reelection bid may have been their coup d' grace.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2606-reeleccion-tiro-de-gracia-a-ff-aa-de-honduras>

Víctor Meza explains how the current post-electoral crisis was, sadly, to be expected.

Edith Sánchez highlights the Honduran curiosity of a country throwing resources at security but being an authoritarian state, it only creates chaos.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/21/se-veia-venir/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/21/honduras-espejo-invisible/>

The Uruguayan party FAPER asked its government not to recognize the Honduran elections.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/21/partido-faper-uruguay-pide-gobierno-no-reconocer-joh/>

El Libertador reprints an article by the Italian newspaper L'Espresso on corruption in the Honduran Catholic church.

This confirms previous investigations by ConfidencialHN.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2604-estalla-en-el-vaticano-horrorosa-corrupcion-del-cardenal-rodriquez>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/21/reportaje-sobre-recursos-recibidos-por-cardenal-reafirma-investigacion-de-confidencialhn/>

ConfidencialHN reports that in 2013 the new deputy head of the Armed Forces, Reinel Enrique Fúnez Ponce, was accused of concealing information in the murder case of the 12-year old Ebel Yánez in May 2012.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/21/nuevo-subjefe-de-las-ffaa-fue-procesado-por-encubrir-asesinos-de-ebed-jasiel-yanez/>

The head of forensic medicine laments the lack of funding she receives

from the MP.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/21/jefa-forense-pedira-ayuda-internacional-porque-fiscal-general-no-quiere-darle-dinero/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/190023>

23/12/17

(Re)Elections - Protests, Repression, Journalists, Results, Fraud, Opposition Alliance, US, Analysis, JOH; Natural Resources; Corruption; and the US Ghost of Honduras' Past

The IACHR "urges the State of Honduras to respect and guarantee the human rights of the population and sectors that demand respect for the popular will in the context of uncertainty about the outcome of the presidential elections of November 26, 2017. The Inter-American Commission requests the consent of the State of Honduras to send an urgent mission to the country in order to assess the human rights situation in the current context."

The UN Human Rights Office "expresses serious concern about the post-electoral violence."

MADJ reports from protests in San Pedro Sula.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2017/217.asp>

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/posts/2058750634365724>

<http://tiempo.hn/oacnudh-condena-expresiones-violentas/>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/12/22/Pitazo-contra-el-fraude-en-SPS-Desde-la-indignaci%C3%B3n-y-en-memoria-de-los-y-las-m%C3%A1rtires>

Radio Progreso reports on the illegal arrest of protesters, highlighting two particular cases.

Honduras Tierra Libre published some pictures on the use of armed forces to evict protesters.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4127-justicia-se-ensa%C3%B1a-con-j%C3%B3venes-detenido-en-brutal-represi%C3%B3n>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/12/mas-de-500-militares-armados-para-una.html>

ConexiHon reports on more repression against journalist who do not accept the main agenda to whitewash the electoral fraud.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/prensa-sufre-represalias-del-poder-al-no-aceptar-agenda-que-legitima-fraude-electoral>

Luis Zelaya officially presented a challenge to the presidential election at the TSE.

Javier Suazo dissects the calls for dialogue and explains why in the current setting it would only serve to legalize an electoral fraud. ContraCorriente comes to the same conclusion.

Luis Zelaya, meanwhile, proposes a dialogue not hijacked by JOH, but rather led by the UN and with José Pepe Mujica as a mediator.

Padre Melo explains how with the official recognition by the US of the fraudulent elections (see further down), now the whitewashing of the fraud starts on all levels. He highlights different fronts where it plays out: i) the international community, where some countries already recognized it and now the struggle about the recognition of the UN and the OAS will start; ii) the internal front, which should be brought behind the fraudulent election through a superficial dialogue.

OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro warns that the recognition of JOH as the winner creates a "dangerous precedent" for the coming electoral year in Latin America.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/22/luis-zelaya-formaliza-impugnacion-contraproceso-electoral/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/190055>

<https://contracorriente.red/2017/12/21/dialogo-hernandez-intenta-blanquear-represion-agudizada-honduras/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4128-justicia-se-ensa%C3%B1a-con-j%C3%B3venes-detenido-en-brutal-represi%C3%B3n>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/22/partido-liberal-honduras-pide-la-onu-lidere-dialogo-arbitraje-pepe-mujica/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4125-gobierno-inicia-blanqueo-del-fraude-electoral-se-instaura-la-dictadura>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/almagro-advierte-que-reconocer-a-hernandez-crea-un-antecedente-peligroso.html>

Congresswoman Fátima Mena and congressman Anibal Calix highlight five "unlikely coincidences" that happened during the electoral process: i) the premature closure of voting booths; ii) the unexplained delay in reporting the first results; iii) the breakdown of the computer system at the TSE; iv) the unusually large number of voting centers which were not able to digitally transmit the voting tallies; and v) that these tallies favored JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/22/la-solucion-preguntarle-alicia/>

Salvador Nasralla held a personal press conference yesterday in which he announced the end of the Opposition Alliance or rather his candidacy in the alliance, as it was meant as a presidential alliance. Nevertheless, he also said that he would continue if the people want him to and he clearly emphasized that the struggle is not over. He still has hopes for the OAS and for new elections.

The Opposition Alliance followed up with their own press conference. They lament the Nasralla's "unilateral decision", but they respect it. They continue to emphasize that this was a personal opinion and that the Alliance is not a contract between private individuals but rather a commitment with the Honduran people which won't stop until the injustice they suffer and the dictator who oppresses them stops. They also denounce the US recognition of the fraudulent election results.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/22/salvador-nasralla-tira-la-toalla-espera-milagro-la-oea/>

<https://www.facebook.com/unetvhn/videos/1430981773697199> (min -34 to -13)

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/22/nasralla-dice-no-se-esta-retirando-la-lucha-llama-al-pueblo-seguir-luchando-la-dictadura/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/22/lamentamos-respetamos-la-salida-salvador-nasralla-la-alianza-oposicion-mel-zelaya/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2610-en-honduras-vamos-a-navidad-en-resistencia-mel-zelaya>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2608-honduras-prensa-tradicional-hace-el-ridiculo-anunciando-fin-de-alianza-opositora>

Ignoring the protests of the Honduran people and the one coming from US member of Congress, the US State Department "congratulate[s] President Juan Orlando Hernandez on his victory in the November 26 presidential elections, as declared by the Honduran Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE)." Similar comments were made by its representative in Honduras, Heide Fulton. Joaquín Mejía Rivera explains what this recognition reveals, e.g. that

if there is no follow-up to the OAS's report, their electoral observation mission have to be deemed useless and that the US once more loses any moral high ground to criticize other elections in the region. The Latin America Working Group (LAWG) "Condemns the State Department's Decision to Recognize Juan Orlando Hernández as the Victor of the Honduran Elections Amidst Widespread Allegations of Electoral Fraud". US Congressman Jim McGovern reacted with a press release, saying: "I am angry and deeply disturbed by the State Department's announcement today congratulating Juan Orlando Hernandez on his successful re-election as President of Honduras. The recent elections in Honduras were deeply flawed, chaotic and marred by numerous irregularities."

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/statement-heather-nauert-spokesperson-presidential-elections-honduras/>

<http://tiempo.hn/heidi-fulton-desecha-nuevas-elecciones/>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-honduras-election-usa/u-s-says-backs-re-election-of-honduras-president-despite-dispute-idUSKBN1EG1MP>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/22/reconocimiento-del-gobierno-estados-unidos-juan-orlando-hernandez-presidente-demuestra-varias-cosas/>

<http://www.lawg.org/component/content/article/98/1972>

<https://mcgovern.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=397162>

Radio Progreso presents some of the post-electoral positions of key players.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4124-tomas-de-postura-post-electorales-22-diciembre-2017>

Canada also congratulated JOH. And even though a proper analysis shows that a dialogue in the current situation won't help (see above), Canada and other countries continue to propose it...

Panama and Argentina joined the list of countries recognizing JOH as the Honduran president.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/canada-reconoce-victoria-del-presidente-hernandez-e-insta-a-un-dialogo-politico-en-paz.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/partido-nacional-agradece-reconocimiento-de-eeuu-y-canada.html>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1137199-410/canad%C3%A1-y-panam%C3%A1-reconocen-a-joh-como-nuevo-gobernante-de-honduras>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/22/argentina-reconoce-triunfo-juan-orlando-destaca-resultados-del-tse/>

Avispa Media published a report on the use and misuse of ILO 169 in Latin America.

<http://movimientom4.org/2017/12/reportaje-consulta-indigena-legaliza-el-despojo-de-los-pueblos/>

The Honduran Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga reacts to the corruption investigation by a newspaper (see yesterday) which found that he monthly receives several 10'000 Euros from the Catholic University Honduras. He claims that they are meant for the parishes. Pope Francis ordered an investigation.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/22/cardenal-rodriguez-admite-recibir-fondos-dice-gastos-sacerdotes/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/22/francisco-ordeno-investigacion-por-irregularidades-en-iglesia-hondurena/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/22/documentos-revelan-apoyo-estados-unidos-operaciones-militares-asesinatos/>

24/12/17

(Re)Elections - Protests, Repression, Results, US, JOH, Economy; Corruption; Poverty; Public Health; and Family Visits

The coordination of the popular movement in Colón announced in a public statement that their protest continues.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/23/departamento-colon-se-mantiene-pie-lucha-la-dictadura/>

El Pulso gives a face to one of the victims of state repression in the post-electoral crisis - the 28-year old student Erick Cruz who was about to get his law degree.

<http://elpulso.hn/asesinato-erick-cruz/>

The TSE informed that challenges to the electoral results on any of the three levels can still be submitted until Tuesday at midnight. The main medial, meanwhile, continues to build up a narrative of a split opposition. They even pretend that things are going back to normal in Honduras. Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle has a different interpretation and as a Christmas presence, he imagines what a resignation letter by JOH would look like.

<http://tiempo.hn/tse-martes-plazo-impugnar-elecciones/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mel-ataca-a-nasralla-y-lo-llama-imitador-de-joh-por-convocar-a-dialogo-nacional.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tranquilidad-vuelve-poco-a-poco-a-honduras-tras-protestas-por-elecciones.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/23/regalo-navidad-honduras/https://criterio.hn/2017/12/23/la-traicion-nasralla-la-politica-del-imperio/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network of North America "reject[s] the deceitful and arrogant position of the US government which ignores the clamor of the Honduran people for democracy and the ongoing deadly violence by the Honduran government against the people."

WOLA agrees with Luis Almargo (see yesterday) that the US is setting a damaging precedent. "By averting its eyes from what happened in Honduras, the Trump administration is signaling to the region that it is willing to overlook threats to the democratic process when dealing with an ally".

Danielle Marie Mackey presents the historic roots of the US support of the electoral fraud with a special focus on Olancho - the "Wild West" of Honduras.

Allan Nairn highlights how the US "has been working behind the scenes for weeks urging the Honduran opposition to shut down protests calling for a full recount or a new election."

BBC links Honduras' siding with the US in the Jerusalem debate in the UN with the latter's approval of the JOH regime.

<http://taskforceamericas.org/statement-honduras-solidarity-network-of-north-america/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-l7HICdEM8&t=15s>

<https://www.wola.org/2017/12/trump-administration-response-honduras-political-crisis-sets-damaging-precedent/>

<https://theintercept.com/2017/12/23/honduras-election-fraud-drugs-jose-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/23/fraude-electivo-honduras-sigue-decadas-corrupcion-financiadas-la-guerra-los-ee-uu-las-drogas/>

<https://theintercept.com/2017/12/22/honduras-us-pressure-opposition-nasralla/>

<http://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-42458083>

El Libertador writes of JOH's betrayal of Honduras' Palestinian community (see above) and that this could come with a price. Costa Rica and Argentine recognized JOH as the winner of the Honduran elections. In the case of Costa Rica, they highlighted that they also support the work of the electoral observation mission by the EU and the OAS, while not going as far as to call for new elections.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2614-juan-orlando-hernandez-traiciono-a-los-palestinos>

<http://tiempo.hn/costa-rica-reconoce-a-juan-hernandez/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1137545-410/argentina-costa_rica-felicitan-juan_orlando_hernandez-presidente-electo

MADJ and the San Pedro Sula chapter of the Alignment against Continuity wrote an open letter to the COHEP president Luis Larach. They criticize his reductionist view of the protests and the superficial demand for a dialogue. They hold the business sector partly responsible for the crisis Honduras is in.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2017/12/23/MADJ-Carta-p%C3%BAblica-a-los-empresarios-de-Honduras>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/1989-madj-a-empresarios-perdidas-economicas-por-las-tomas-no-pueden-ser-justificacion-para-asesinar-mas-de-20-personas>

Honduras Culture and Politics has a great summary on the most recent corruption case involving Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga and the Honduran Catholic church.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/12/pope-to-investigate-honduran-church.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2613-cardenal-hondureno-asegura-tener-poder-para-vender-universidad-catolica>

According to FOSDEH and based on official statistics, 2017 put almost 400'000 Hondurans newly in poverty.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/23/mas-de-300-mil-personas-se-convirtieron-en-nuevos-pobres-durante-2017/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/23/honduras-gobierno-reconoce-2017-deja-mas-370-mil-nuevos-pobres/>

The Medical Association Honduras (CMH), the IHSS Intervention Committee and the Labor Secretariat came to an agreement.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/23/acuerdo-pone-fin-al-paro-de-labores-de-medicos-del-seguro-social/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/23/presos-recibiran-visitas-especiales-durante-fiestas-decembrinas/>

<http://tiempo.hn/presos-recibiran-visitas-sin-carnet/>

25/12/17

(Re)Elections - Protests, Results, Analysis, US; Penitentiary System;

El Tiempo reports on protests against the TSE and its declaration of JOH as the winner in New York.

Oscar Miguel Marroquín sees more protests in the days to come and he believes that Hondurans have a right to do so based on Article 3 of the Constitution: "No one owes obedience to a usurping government or to those who assume public functions or jobs by force of arms or using means or procedures that violate or ignore what this Constitution and the laws establish. (...)"

<http://tiempo.hn/hondurenos-en-nueva-york-protestas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/24/gobernando-medio-del-infierno/>

The TSE continues to praise itself for "transparent" elections and they reject the declarations by the OAS electoral mission.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/24/tse-dice-elecciones-fueron-transparentes-rechaza-senalamientos-la-oea/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ente-electoral-hondureno-considera-subjetivo-informe-oea-sobre-presidenciales.html>

Sociologist Leticia Salomón sees in the current protests a possible turning point for the Honduran people to stop accepting "absurd dialogues and elections that in which one already knows beforehand who will win".

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/24/manipulacion-ideologica-cinismo-complicidad/>

Tomas Andino Mencía finds critical words towards Nasralla's unilateral decision to withdraw from the Alliance and he sees its origin in US-dictated politics.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/23/la-traicion-nasralla-la-politica-del-imperio/>

ConfidencialHN reports on a surprise prisoners transfer from El Porvenir to El Pozo yesterday.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/24/honduras-realizan-traslado-sorpresivo-de-reos-a-carcel-el-pozo/>

26/12/17

(Re)Elections - Journalists, Results, Protests, Analysis; and the Death of Poetry

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the increasing pressure on independent journalists in this post-electoral crisis. They list campaigns against four journalists just in the recent days, all of them intended to denigrate them.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1991-campanas-de-desprestigio-contra-periodistas-no-controlados-por-el-gobierno>

The Latin American and Caribbean Jesuits Conference (CPAL) wrote an open letter to the heads of the OAS, UN and the EU demanding that they declare the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and based on this have the current government annul the fraudulent elections. To follow up, a grand national agreement is needed joint with a transition government to conduct a primary constituent assembly is needed to decide about the possibility of presidential reelections. Finally, new elections under international supervision should be held. Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle has some further thoughts about the setup of a

dialogue. Given the unequal power distribution in Honduras, he is more than critical of the general idea of a dialogue, but if there should be one, its agenda should only include three points: i) the way to new elections; ii) the way to a constitutional assembly; and iii) the guarantees needed for both sides to participate.

<https://jesuitas.lat/es/noticias/318-carta-pedido-de-la-cpal-a-la-oea-a-la-onu-y-a-la-ue-en-relacion-con-la-situacion-de-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/25/resistencia-navidad-frente-interno-dialogo/>

El Pulso writes about one particularity of the current protests - the blockade of streets all over the country.

<http://elpulso.hn/las-dinamicas-de-las-tomas/>

Honduras Culture and Politics analysis helps to understand the current state of party politics in Honduras and why the critique of the Zelaya-Nasralla-dynamic is wrong-headed.

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.ch/2017/12/party-politics-in-honduras-post-2017.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/25/adios-poeta-la-sabiduria-la-sencillez/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2017/12/grupo-coquimbo-union-de-escritores-y.html>

27/12/17

HRDs; (Re)Elections - Repression, Results, TSE, Analysis, Opposition Alliance, US, JOH; and Honduras Needs You

In September this year, the police brutally attacked human rights defenders on the UNAH campus trying to defend students from attacks. Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the MP has ever since evaded going after the police agents and their supervisors.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/1992-caso-defensores-de-ddhh-torturados-ministerio-publico-escamoteo-los-requerimientos-fiscales-para-jefes-de-policia>

Defensores en Línea and Radio Progreso report on the commemoration of the most recent victims of state repression in Honduras on December 24. Criterio published an updated list with 29 confirmed victims. At the same time, Radio Progreso denounces that there has been another increase in repression directed at human rights defenders and journalists. The OAS requested yesterday permission from the Honduran government to send a special delegate to investigate the human rights violations.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-pueblo-no-olvida-y-rinde-homenaje-a-sus-martires/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4133-celebracion-en-honor-a-m%C3%A1rtires-de-actual-crisis-post-electoral>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/26/conoce-los-nombres-los-hondurenos-perdido-la-vida-protestar-fraude/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4132-aumenta-persecuci%C3%B3n-estatal-contra-l%C3%ADderes-territoriales>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/26/almagro-solicita-al-gobierno-honduras-permiso-enviar-delegado-constate-violaciones-derechos-humanos/>

<http://tiempo.hn/oea-pide-recibir-a-delegado-asesinatos/>

The OAS met with Theodore Dale Vucanovich, the president of the company responsible for transmitting the electoral results.

<http://tiempo.hn/almagro-jefe-datos-elecciones/>

El Pulso interviews political analyst Jorge Yllescas about the way ahead, the challenges of a constituent assembly and the main problem to solving the current crisis in Honduras, JOH.

A further analysis comes from the lawyer and former judge Ramón Barrios, who believes that a national dialogue is only valid if it leads to a constituent assembly.

<http://elpulso.hn/jorge-yllescas-aqui-nosotros-sabemos-que-se-quiere-una-constituyente-pero-no-se-sabe-para-que/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4131-todos-los-caminos-conducen-a-una-asamblea-nacional-constituyente-opina-abogado-ram%C3%B3n-enrique-barrios>

The Opposition Alliance presented a challenge to the TSE requesting the nullification of the declaration of JOH as the president elect. Its general coordinator Manuel Zelaya addressed OAS' General Secretary Luis Almagro. He accuses him of deceiving them with the hope of new elections, when in reality he does not have the support for demanding it. Tomas Andino Mencia writes about the two Nasrallas, the one before and the one after the elections and why it is important that the Honduran people irrespective of this change continues to protest against the imposition of JOH.

Nasralla, meanwhile, called for the creation of a National Force which would then convoke a inclusive dialogue.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/26/alianza-oposicion-presentan-recurso-nulidad-declaratoria-del-tse-da-ganador-joh/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-de-oposicion-nulidad-elecciones/>

<http://tiempo.hn/alianza-de-oposicion-impugnara-las-elecciones/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/26/almagro-deje-enganar-honduras-usted-no-voto-repetir-elecciones-mel-zelaya/>

<http://elpulso.hn/nasralla-de-antes-y-de-ahora/>

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-salvador-nasralla-fuerza/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/26/nasralla-crea-fuerza-nacional-y-desmoviliza-de-forma-sutil-a-sus-parciales/>

Democracy Now! spoke with the award-winning investigative journalist Allan Nairn who spent the last weeks in Honduras. He offers an overview of the events with a special focus on the role of the US.

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/12/26/incumbent_honduras_president_declares_victory_in

JOH continues to invite the different sectors to a national dialogue

controlled by him.

And he still rejects some prerequisites for the dialogue.

According to Proceso Digital, France, Russia, Peru, Brazil, Taiwan and Japan now also recognize JOH as the winner of the fraudulent elections. In the case of France, their press release says that "France takes notice of the declaration by the TSE granting the victory to" JOH. Already in the next line they demand a stop to the violence and the installation of a "broad dialogue".

Brazil, on the other hand, directly congratulates JOH. It seems that the European countries still want to keep open some room for a change but that they are too timid to call out the fraudulent elections.

<http://tiempo.hn/hernandez-a-el-dialogo-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/26/padre-melo-condiciona-el-dialogo-si-el-gobierno-admite-que-cometio-fraude/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2017/1138116-508/juan-orlando-hernandez-no-tenemos-porque-ponerle-condiciones-al-dialogo>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/rusia-francia-y-peru-se-unen-a-reconocimiento-del-presidente-electo-juan-orlando-hernandez.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/japon-reconoce-a-juan-orlando-hernandez-como-presidente-electo-de-honduras.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/26/francia-aplaude-triunfo-juan-orlando-pasados-comicios/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/26/brasil-tambien-reconoce-triunfo-electoral-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-nos-necesita/>

28/12/17

(Re)Elections - Repression, Protests, Analysis, Opposition Alliance, Church; Budget; MACCIH; National Police; and a Ring of Murder

Three more protesters were assassinated on Tuesday. The 30-year old Héctor Napoleón Guevara was riding his bike with another young man Jesús de Otoro, Intibucá, when unknown assailants shot them.

On social media it says that Julio Funez Rodríguez was shot in La Ceiba. Sandra Cuffe highlights a devastating fact which helps to grasp what is currently taking place in Honduras: "Today [Dec 26] marks exactly one month since the Nov. 26 elections in #Honduras. In the past 30 days, more than 30 people have been killed in the context of the ongoing political crisis. In comparison, in the 30 days following the 2009 coup, there were 5 documented political killings."

Guadalupe Ruelas, director of Casa Alianza, speaks of a "systematic hunt" of protesters.

The Honduran representative at the OAS, meanwhile, rejects the request by OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro to send a special delegate to Honduras to investigate the human rights situation.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2618-alerta-asesinan-a-dos-manifestantes-en-honduras>

https://twitter.com/Sandra_Cuffe/status/945839558482104321

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2620-estado-de-honduras-ya-inicio-caceria-sistemica-contra-manifestantes>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/1993-gobierno-de-joh-se-opone-a-verificacion-de-la-oea-sobre-situacion-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2619-gobierno-de-honduras-niega-comision-de-derechos-humanos-a-oea>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2017/12/27/mision-hondurena-oea-responde-almagro-tweets-estimularon-polarizacion/>

Radio Progreso covers the ongoing protests throughout Honduras and it speaks with the historian Edgar Soriano about the changes through which the Honduran people went.

The state and its media allies continue to denigrate, criminalize and repress the protests. Radio HRN writes of "major losses" for the tourism sector; a judge sent protesters accused of burning down a police station to the recently built maximum security prison; and La Prensa writes about the supposed use of explosives by protesters.

According to ConfidencialHN, 300 protesters have been arrested in the recent days.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4139-en-crisis-post-electoral-ciudadano-C3%ADa-ha-rebasado-a-la-dirigencia-pol%C3%ADtica-edgar-soriano>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/p%C3%A9rida-millonaria-registra-el-sector-turismo-por-tomas-en-el-pa%C3%ADs>

<http://www.radiohrn.hn//noticias/env%C3%AD-el-pozo-supuestos-saqueadores-de-negocios>

<http://tiempo.hn/capturados-por-desnudar-policias-audiencia/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1138525-410/utilizan-explosivos-tomas-carreteras-alianza-oposicion>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/27/300-personas-fueron-arrestadas-por-la-policia-hondurena-por-supuesto-pillaje-en-protestas-poselectorales/>

Salvador Nasralla denounces the recognition by some countries of JOH as the winner in last months fraudulent elections.

Political analyst warns of over-interpreting the recognition. In most cases it was a diplomatic formality, which does not led to an automatic support of the regime.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2617-salvador-nasralla-cuestiona-reconcomiento-internacional-de-joh>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/27/reconocimientos-paises-resultados-del-tse-meramente-tramite-raul-pineda-alvarado/>

Salvador Nasralla met with the leadership of the Opposition Alliance for a reconciliatory meeting and they announced joint protests for the days ahead.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/nasralla-y-la-alianza-de-oposicion-se-reconcilian-y-anuncian-acciones-de-protesta.html>

El Pulso highlights the different roles played by the Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga and the evangelical priest Evelio Reyes now in comparison to 2009.

<http://elpulso.hn/cardenal-evelioreyes-crisis/>

It is doubtful that Congress will approve a budget for 2018 in the three remaining days of the old year. Radio Progreso spoke with economist and former Finance Minister Hugo Noé Pino about the consequences. One important one is that the funds will be distributed according to 2017's budget, which was heavily focused on security policies.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4141-%E2%80%9Ctendremos-un-presupuesto-que-privilegia-compra-de-armas-y-el-militarismo%E2%80%9D-hugo-no%C3%A9-pino>

<http://tiempo.hn/hasta-enero-gobierno-ampliara-presupuesto-del-2017/>

The corruption trial against five former Congresswo/men will start today.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1138505-466/cinco-diputados-a-audiencia-inicial-este-jueves-por-malversaci%C3%B3n-de-caudales-p%C3%BAblicos>

<http://tiempo.hn/red-de-diputados-en-honduras/>

The National Police Force is looking for a director for its Police Disciplinary Matters Bureau (Didadpol).

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mediante-concurso-publico-se-seleccionara-primer-director-de-la-didadpol.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2017/12/27/depurador-policial-anuncia-concurso-para-nuevo-jefe-de-asuntos-internos-policiales1/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/12/27/anillos-de-muerte/>

29/12/17

(Re)Elections - Repression, Protests, OAS, TSE, Dialogue, Analysis; Extra-Judicial Killings; MACCIH; Penitentiary System; and the Year of the Fraud

Defensores en Línea comments on the rejection by the JOH regime to let an independent expert by the OAS investigate the human rights violations in Honduras. COFADEH's Berta Oliva is not surprised believing the strategy of the regime to be withholding information on all levels and obscuring what is happening in Honduras.

C-Libre denounces this decision and emphasized the need for international attention as the repression continuous to increase.

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro reacts with a tweet to the decision by the JOH regime.

COFADEH published a new report yesterday, in which they have already registered 30 assassination linked to the post-electoral crisis. 21 were conducted by the Military Police.

Oscar Miguel Marroquín inquires who gave the order for these killings, concluding that they came from JOH and that they mean not a beginning, but an end to his regime.

In a cynical reaction to the accusations of human rights violations, the Military Police were used by the JOH regime to hand out food to the poor.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/berta-oliva-matan-el-tigre-y-le-tiene-miedo-al-cuero/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/se-incrementan-violaciones-los-derechos-civiles-y-pol%C3%ADticos-de-manifestantes-en-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/oea-contesta-a-honduras-por-rechazo-a-solicitud-de-enviar-delegado-para-constatar-crisis-post-electoral.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/28/41067/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/28/quien-ordeno-asesinar-treinta-siete-hondurenos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/28/tras-acusados-crimenes-policias-militares-reparten-cafe-nacatamales-indigentes/>

Radio Progreso reports on how the various sectors continue to defend the vote of the Honduran people by keeping up different forms of protest.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4147-organizaciones-crear-acciones-para-continuar-rechazando-al-fraude-electoral>

The OAS published its final report on the Honduran elections. Luis Almagro, the Secretary General of the OAS, denounces that their electoral observation mission has suffered pressure from the JOH regime and that they even contemplated presenting the final report from Washington DC.

Almagro was also verbally attacked by JOH and some of his ministers for asking to have an expert investigate the human rights violations in Honduras (see above).

One example is the statement by the vice-president Ricardo Álvarez who almost comically accuses Almagro to be in cahoots with Manuel Zelaya. Even though there is some valid criticism (see below), Radio Progreso highlights some parts that clearly show the lack of transparency throughout the whole electoral process. One apparent lack is the failure to ask for new elections in the report, but Salvador Nasralla told Radio Progreso that Almagro promised him to go after new elections. And the report underlined once more the low quality of the elections and the resulting impossibility to call out a winner in the presidential race. Nevertheless, Manuel Zelaya speaks of "double talk" regarding the report and the OAS. The preliminary report recommended new elections, then Almagro did the same, but the final report not even mentions new elections. And it was to be expected that the main press jumps on that.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/28/almagro-denuncia-gobierno-honduras-ha-presionado-mision-observacion-electoral-la-oea/>

<http://tiempo.hn/luis-almagro-reacciona-rechazo/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2622-oea-ratifica-no-puede-determinarse-con-certeza-al-ganador-de-elecciones-en-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/almagro-lleva-la-contraria-a-mayoria-de-paises-miembros-de-oea-que-ya-reconocieron-a-hernandez-ricardo-alvarez.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4146-%E2%80%9Cplaneamos-volver-a-las-calles-mientras-consejo-permanente-de-la-oea-se-re%C3%BAne%E2%80%9D-salvador-nasralla>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/28/informe-final-oea-deja-dudas-resultados-electorales-honduras/>

<http://tiempo.hn/zelaya-informe-final-de-la-oea/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1138801-410/informe-oea-elecciones-honduras>

The TSE announced that they are investigating the challenges presented to them.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1138775-466/el-tribunal-supremo-electoral-de-honduras-contin%C3%BAa-resolviendo-las-12-impugnaciones>

Radio Progreso explains how dialogues in Honduras only scratch the surface of problems and that they accumulate as a consequence. The same is about to happen if one falls into the trap of the dialogue proposed by JOH.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4143-%C2%BFes-este-di%C3%A1logo-el-camino?-28-diciembre-2017>

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana Mercado interprets the recognition of the results in Honduras by some countries as an attempt to calm down the situation while at the same time using diplomatic language to highlight that "something was off" in the electoral process. Jorge G. Castañeda thinks about the regional repercussions of the electoral fraud and the resulting crisis in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/28/paises-reconocen-resultados-del-tse-estan-claros-algo-raro-paso-edmundo-orellana-mercado/>

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/28/las-repercusiones-regionales-la-desafortunada-eleccion-honduras/>

Reporteros de Investigación published the third article in its "Shadow Squats" series, in which it looks at the role of the state intelligence agencies in extra-judicial killings.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/12/28/espionaje-moderno/>

The five congresswo/men accused of corruption were suspended, but they can await trial outside a prison cell. One of the accused told Proceso Digital that he is confident that the presented proof won't stand in the coming trial.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/28/diputados-senalados-corrupcion-se-libran-ir-la-carcel/>

<http://tiempo.hn/maccih-seguimiento-caso-red-de-diputados/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/diputado-juarez-dice-que-sale-con-sonrisa-de-oreja-a-oreja-por-documentacion-presentada-en-audiencia.html>

Proceso Digital looks back at the events in the penitentiary system this year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sistema-penitenciario-el-2017-marca-traslado-masivo-de-reos-y-fugas-espectaculares.html>

Asked about how he perceives the year that is about to end, Padre Melo said that from a political perspective, he would call it the year of the fraud.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4148-desde-la-perspectiva-pol%C3%ADtica-el-2017-fue-un-fraude-seg%C3%BAAn-sacerdote-jesuita-ismael-moreno>

30/12/17

(Re)Elections - Repression, National Police, Protests, JOH, Migration; Extra-Judicial Killings; Basic Goods; Remittances; Deportations; and End of Year Contradictions

Defensores en Línea published an interview with COFADEH's general coordinator Bertha Oliva. She calls the post-electoral crisis a "human rights violation generating machine". CONADEH now also recognizes that the post-electoral crisis led to over 30 murders. In a new report, they list 31 deaths with a "possible link to the protests" and demand their investigation.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-crisis-post-electoral-es-una-maquina-productora-de-violaciones-a-los-ddhh/>

<http://tiempo.hn/conadeh-solicita-que-se-investigue/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/conadeh-pide-que-no-quede-en-impunidad-muerte-de-personas-en-crisis-post-electoral.html>

135 police agents were purged in the last 15 days. El Libertador reports that this measure especially affects COBRAS special forces which previously denied repressing the Honduran people. According to the article, no evidence of misconduct was presented to the purged agents.

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1139051-410/honduras-policias_cobras-demandas-salariales-cancelan-despiden-

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2623-alerta-despiden-cobras-que-se-negaron-a-reprimir-hondurenos>

Hondurans and people in solidarity protested in Washington DC in front of the State Department demanding that the US stop recognizing the "brutally repressive Honduran regime".

Karla Lara describes a situation of a people fed up with having their rights violated and their voices ignored. She is convinced that the protests will continue even though the power imbalance is great. She calls on all forces to unite behind the demand that JOH has to go.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/29/hondurenos-organizaciones-aliadas-piden-washington-no-se-reconozca-represivo-regimen-honduras/>

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/item/4150-cura-de-cacerolas>

The president of the Central Bank of Honduras decided, arbitrarily, that they no longer will accept Lempira bills containing the sentence "JOH Out" (fuera JOH) or similar statements. According to Criterio, this violates the law.

El Salvador announced that it will await the new year to decide on a position regarding the electoral process in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/29/bch-no-aceptara-billetes-frases-leyendas-precisamente-cuando-aflora-joh/>

<http://tiempo.hn/billetes-manchados-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-salvador-esperara-el-2018-para-tomar-posicion-sobre-triunfo-de-herandez.html>

The coordinator of the Pastoral Group on Human Mobility from the Catholic Church believes that the post-electoral crisis increases the amount of Hondurans seeking refuge in the US.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/crisis-post-elecciones-aumento-en-30-la-migracion-de-hondurenos-hacia-eeuu-pastoral-de-movilidad-humana.html>

Reporteros de Investigación ends its four-part series on extra-judicial killings in Tegucigalpa. In this last installment they focus on the purge or rather lack of purge of police agents involved in extra-judicial killings.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2017/12/29/casos-simbolicos-de-escuadrones-de-ejecucion/>

The amount of remittances sent to Honduras rose by another 13.1% this year.

<http://www.radiohrn.hn/l/noticias/un-aumento-del-131-en-envi%C3%B3-de-remesas-se-registrar%C3%A1-al-termino-de-2017>

Consumer protection organization fear another price increase for basic goods in January. Honduras already has the highest priced basic good basket in Latin America.

This year its price rose by 220 Lempiras.

<http://tiempo.hn/aumento-a-la-canasta-basica-hondurena/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1139042-466/canasta-b%C3%A1sica-en-honduras-subi%C3%B3-m%C3%A1s-de-l-22000-durante-2017>

This year 32% less Hondurans were deported, 47'000 in comparison to 69'000 in 2016.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/2017-cierra-con-mas-de-47-mil-hondurenos-deportados-un-32-menos-que-en-2016.html>

Radio Progreso presents some of the contradictions with which Honduras ends its year and presents the main task for 2018: "To build a country where transparency, peace and justice are above any dictatorship, power plays multilateral organizations and greed by those deciding over others."

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4149-las-contradicciones-de-fin-de-a%C3%B1o-29-diciembre-2017>

31/12/17

(Re)Elections - HRDs, Results, Opposition Alliance, US, National Police; ZEDES; MACCIH; Armed Forces; and Twelve Wishes for 2018

The Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Jesuits Provincials (CPAL) denounces a new attack criminalizing Padre Melo and other religious leaders and human rights defenders in Honduras. They are called the "Axis of Evil in the Perla de Ulúa" in a pamphlet making its round on social media. CPAL holds JOH responsible should anything happen to them.

See Attachment

The former Central Bank president and Economy Minister Hugo Noé Pino wonders about the apparent lack of knowledge by the international community regarding Honduras' institutions. Only by being misinformed about their inherent power dynamics and weakness, could the recommendation to the political opposition to seek solutions in Honduras' institution be a sensible one.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/30/las-instituciones-honduras-la-comunidad-internacional/>

Withstanding the strategy by the Honduran government and its allies to be divided, the Opposition Alliance announces that they will present their strategy on Tuesday.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/30/alianza-oposicion-asegura-haber-logrado-la-unidad-anunciara-estrategias-lucha-martes/>

<http://tiempo.hn/nasralla-protestas-pacificas-continuaran/>

Padre Melo dedicates a complete article to the role of the US State Department in the Honduran electoral process, or as he writes, in "a fraud which tastes like an electoral coup d'état". He ends his analysis by highlighting some scenarios for the Honduran people to "overthrow the dictatorship".

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/reportaje/item/4153-un-fraude-con-sabor-a-golpe-de-estado-con-modalidad-electoral>

The Security Secretariat denies that the COBRAS special forces and other police agents were purged for their protest on December 4. Apparently, they left the police force voluntarily...

<http://tiempo.hn/honduras-mas-de-130-agentes-de-la-dnfe-salieron-por-retiro-voluntario/>

Criterio reports that families living on the peninsula Zacate Grande in Amapala, Valle were informed that they have to leave their homes by January for the construction of a ZEDE.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/30/gobierno-honduras-emplaza-pobladores-la-zona-sur-construir-zedes/>

Claudia Mendoza published a critical and welcome comment on the recent start of the corruption trial against five congresswo/men. She rightly mentions that Honduran NGOs have for years highlighted the corruption taking place in Congress but to no avail.

<https://criterio.hn/2017/12/29/cinco-diputados-red-corrupcion-permitanme-me-ria/>

La Prensa published an interview with the new head of the Armed Forces,

René Orlando Ponce Fonseca.

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1139190-410/rene_orlando_ponce_fonseca-jefe_ffaa-militar-honduras-fuerzas_armadas-

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4152-nuestros-deseos-para-el-a%C3%B1o-2018-30-diciembre-2017>